



Juneau Arts and Humanities Council – Juneau School District  
**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**

## **2014-2015 TEACHING ARTIST PROFILE and APPLICATION**

Name Rudolph (Rudy) M. Isturis Jr.

Address: 4533 Sawa Circle  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Phone Number: 907.723.2173

Email Address: keelesdad@yahoo.com

**Preferred Method for contact?** telephone 907.723.2173

### **I am available to work/teach**

1 - 2 week residency period only.  I am flexible, could work different times  
 can work 1 day/week for a month or more  could work part days, different times

### **Arts Education and/or Arts Background**

Began arts learning from Tlingit grandmother and uncles as I grew. Won high school art contests, my copy of the Alaska State Seal won high school award. Attended college arts classes, Sheldon Jackson College, Sitka. Began selling carvings and jewelry in college to support myself. Have been working for years with master carvers Richard and Michael Beasley in discussing and contributing techniques, tools and ideas for each other's works. Now working several days a month with them, learning techniques, collaborating to build new skills. Began my business, Alaska Native Arts LLC, in 2011. Offer jewelry, carvings, drums, sculpture in modern, culturally accurate interpretations of Tlingit motifs. Perform, self-taught on Native flutes. Recent successes include very strong sales at June-2014 Celebration, also being asked to teach lapidary classes at UA-Fairbanks.

### **ART FORM(s) and AGE OF STUDENTS you are interested in working with**

- Carving ivory\* - any age
- Drawing, both techniques and styles\*. For instance, the Tlingit ovoid, a basic of Tlingit cultural drawings, carvings – Any age
- Native flutes? – teaching about how flute music passes along Native history and culture. Playing my 13 flutes, and showing the mechanics of how they work. In-class demonstrations and mini-concerts – Any age
- Lapidary\* - demonstrate how to carve Alaskan (and other) stones – Any age
- Storytelling – usually with flute music, more an in-class activity than class of its own – Any age
- Teaching carving metal and rock and wood. Sculpturing same. Teach to draw and interpret cultural designs descended from our Elders, to both Native and non-Native students. All ages.

### **What themes, concepts, and experiences do you want to share with students?**

I want to teach Native cultural practices, histories of Alaskan Natives, how our culture is reflected and transmitted through our art, and how they are already part of that. I'd like to teach pride in our culture, and explain how it works in our lives today. I want to teach this knowledge also to non-Native children, enriching them in the heritage they live in, whether they are part of it or not. I want to teach experiences in wildlife culture, Native living in Alaska, understanding the life you see around you

### **Prior Teaching Experiences**

I taught a flute class/demonstration at a local live-in school for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up. I was in the Juneau Teaching Artists workshop and as part of that taught a series of courses, working with Ms Ridgeway at TMHS in 2012.

### **Why do you want to teach the arts in Juneau schools?**

I think Native arts are especially important to students in the Juneau area, and see little current curriculum in that area.

**Past Experience with Artist in the Schools residencies:** None.

**Have you been part of the Juneau Teaching Artist workshop series?**

Yes, whole series  Yes, some of the workshops  No, not yet

### **3 REFERENCES**

- Master Carver Michael Beasley, Juneau AK, 907.209.7999; [silvereye@gci.net](mailto:silvereye@gci.net)
- Master Carver Richard Beasley, Juneau AK, 907.209.7400; [j99801@gci.net](mailto:j99801@gci.net)
- Kirsten Krone, Juneau AK, 907.463.4461; [iblafin@msn.com](mailto:iblafin@msn.com)

**Other comments or additions that help illuminate your work or life as an artist?**

In the morning, I get up and continue carving a marble frog from rock I gathered at Prince of Wales Island. When my spirit moves me, I go into my workshop and smooth an Alaskan jade raven I began a week or month or year ago. The perhaps some wood working on a bent-wood drum I'm making, like steaming the wood or sketching the designs I will paint on it. Or I may sew a seal gut drum I acquired for resale. Or, I work on the online part of the business I'm building. Then I might pick up a necklace I've started, and string it with mammoth or fossilized coral beads. Or begin designing a pair of Sterling Silver earrings to match it. I end many work days by playing my flutes at our nearby pond, a conversation to my grandmother, or to a tree, or to God and his creatures in general. Sometimes I go to the glacier and talk with them there.