

# Raven's Circle



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## ANCSA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), signed into law Dec. 18, 1971, settled Alaska Native peoples' aboriginal land claims and distributed 44 million acres of land and nearly \$1 billion to 12 land-based Alaska Native regional corporations—including CIRI—and more than 200 village corporations. It enabled economic development across the state, including construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. And it empowered some 80,000 Alaska Native people who enrolled as shareholders to improve their lives through the support of culture, economic, heritage, health care and stewardship of traditional lands.

### The Establishment of CIRI

One of the key mandates of ANCSA was the formation of 12 land-based, for-profit corporations that would represent 12 geographic regions of the state. ANCSA would provide seed capital and land to each corporation, and Alaska Native people born by the enactment date (Dec. 18, 1971) would enroll in regional and/or village corporations, receiving 100 shares of stock. With regional boundaries that roughly follow the traditional Dena'ina territory of southcentral Alaska, CIRI was one of those 12 original regional corporations, incorporated June 8, 1972.

### Our Shareholders

CIRI is known as the “melting pot” of Alaska Native regional corporations, and virtually every Alaska Native group is featured among our more than 9,100 shareholders—Aleut/Unangax, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq, Athabascan, Haida, Inupiat, Tlingit,

Tsimshian and Yup'ik. The diversity of CIRI's shareholders is a key to the company's success.

While a significant percentage of CIRI's original shareholders were of Dena'ina and Ahtna Athabascan descent, CIRI is the corporation of Alaska's urban center, where many Alaska Native people relocated from other regions and subsequently enrolled with CIRI. Presently, approximately 40% of CIRI shareholders live outside Alaska.

### Socially Driven Enterprises: CIRI's Tribally Designated Organizations and Affiliated Community Nonprofits

Distributions alone cannot fulfill CIRI's mission of promoting the social well-being and Alaska Native heritage of our shareholders. Since its inception, CIRI has provided financial support and worked with community partners to create and build a family of tribally designated organizations and affiliated community nonprofits that serve the needs of shareholders, descendants and other Alaskans, providing needed services and education programs that reflect traditional Alaska Native values.

- **Service Providers:**  
**Tribally Designated Organizations**  
CIRI is recognized as a tribal entity under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 and delegates its tribal authority to three organizations that serve more than 60,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people in the Cook Inlet region, regardless of their affiliation with CIRI: Cook Inlet Housing

Authority, Cook Inlet Tribal Council and Southcentral Foundation.

- **Community Nonprofits**  
CIRI helped establish and continues to support a family of nonprofit organizations that serves our community, providing cultural education and outreach, Native-focused media, and scholarships and career development: Alaska Native Heritage Center, Koahnic Broadcast Corporation and The CIRI Foundation.

ANCSA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 03

## 2022 BOARD RECRUITMENT

The CIRI Nominating Committee is seeking CIRI shareholders interested in nomination to the 2022 CIRI Board of Directors' candidate slate.

Among other eligibility requirements, candidates must be a voting CIRI shareholder at least 18 years of age. Additionally, in selecting the Board-recommended slate, the CIRI Board looks for demonstrated decision-making, leadership and communication skills, as well as individuals committed to preserving and perpetuating Alaska Native culture and heritage, and protecting and maintaining CIRI-owned land and resources.

Applicants should have a strong understanding of business and basic financial knowledge, along with a college degree or equivalent business experience. In addition, an applicant should exhibit professionalism, sound judgment, levelheadedness and integrity. Familiarity with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and involvement in the Alaska Native/American Indian community are also essential.

CIRI's primary business segments include energy and infrastructure, financial investments, government services, land and natural resources, and real estate. Shareholders with relevant industry experience in one or more of these segments are encouraged to apply. Candidate nominee applications are due Jan. 10, 2022. For more information and an application, visit [ciri.com/board-election](http://ciri.com/board-election).



# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sophie Minich, CIRI President and Chief Executive Officer

Every Alaska Native person with a living memory of the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) has a story to tell.

Some remember gathering their birth certificate and Certificate Degree of Indian Blood document and enrolling with an Alaska Native corporation. Others recall the act ushering in an exciting time of growth and development for the state of Alaska, from the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System to the creation of the Alaska Permanent Fund a few years later. For some, the memories are personal. CIRI Board Assistant Secretary Katrina (Dolchok) Jacuk was a young girl when ANCSA passed, and she remembers using her first CIRI dividend check to purchase a new bicycle.

To tell my story, I must go back in time long before ANCSA passed.

My mother was an Alaska Native person of Gwich'in Athabascan descent, born and raised in Fort Yukon, Alaska. Her mother died of tuberculosis when she was 13, after which time she was taken from her village and enrolled in the Eklutna Boarding School.

We've all heard stories of the neglect and abuse that took place at Alaska Native boarding schools. The removal of generations of Indigenous children created intergenerational trauma that continues to impact Alaska Native and American Indian people today. For my mother, her way of life was basically erased. She couldn't wear her traditional clothing; she was punished if she spoke her native language. Her pride in being an Alaska Native person was stripped away.

Fast-forward to my childhood, and I didn't know I was an Alaska Native person. We lived in Kodiak, Alaska, when I was a young child, and heritage and culture

were not discussed. I was 5 years old when my family moved in 1970 from Kodiak to Glenrock, Wyoming. I vividly remember the day my mom said, "There's something going on in Alaska. I'm not sure what it all means yet, but it concerns Alaska Native people and we need to be a part of it."

Since my mother was from Fort Yukon, we enrolled with Doyon, Limited, the Alaska Native regional corporation of Alaska's Interior. Shortly thereafter we started receiving checks, but I was still a child and didn't understand the implications of ANCSA or what it all meant.

We moved back to Alaska several years later and settled in Seward. In a tragic repeat of history, just as my grandmother had passed away when my mother was 13, I, too, lost my mother when I was 13.

It wasn't until high school that a guidance counselor encouraged me to enroll in a leadership program for Alaska Native students. That's when the tide began to turn for me—not only acknowledging my Alaska Native heritage but beginning to take pride in it.

My brother John was an original CIRI enrollee, and he urged me to apply for a job with CIRI after college. I started working for the company in 1993, and it was at that time I began to understand more fully the mission of Alaska Native corporations and the precedent ANCSA had set forth.

At the eve of the 50th anniversary of ANCSA, I am thankful. There is still work to be done, because there are still Alaska Native people like my mom who never knew pride in their heritage. If she were alive today, what would she think? Would she be proud to be an Alaska Native person? Would she tell her experiences, her stories, maybe even speak



her native language to her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren?

There's still opportunity to continue to tell the story, and that's why I say our work is not done. Our young shareholders and descendants have stories to tell too, and one day this company will be theirs. We want them to be part of it. While I have an immediate family, our CIRI family is part of my family as well, and I cherish and welcome all members of this special family.

Warm regards,

*Sophie Minich*

## BOARD CORNER

A Message from CIRI Director Tom Huhndorf

My name is Tom Huhndorf. I am Yup'ik and an original CIRI enrollee. It has been my honor to serve on the CIRI Board of Directors since 2004.

I was born in Anchorage and raised in Nikiski, Alaska. I grew up in a commercial-fishing family that proudly relied on subsistence to bring in both food and income. I was a young teen when the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was signed into law in 1971, settling Alaska Native peoples' aboriginal land claims and leading to the creation of 12 land-based Alaska Native regional corporations and more than 200 village corporations. I am a shareholder, tribal member and former chair of Salamatof Native Association (SNA). It was during my time on the SNA board that I became interested in CIRI.

As we celebrate ANCSA's 50th anniversary this year and reflect upon our journey so far, I am reminded of what we can accomplish when we work together. The positive impact Alaska Native corporations (ANCs) have had on Alaska Native people and all Alaskans is immeasurable.

With the allocation of 44 million acres of land, ANCSA ensured that Alaska Native people retain valuable and significant properties throughout Alaska. These lands are sacred to us all, and we have a great responsibility to ensure they remain viable for future generations. ANCSA ensures that Alaska Native people get to decide—collectively, through their respective ANCs—how best to manage, protect and develop our lands.

ANCs have sustainably enhanced the quality of life of tens of thousands of Alaska Native people; income levels, graduation rates, employment, and health and wellness for Alaska Native people have continually improved over the last 50 years. The passage of ANCSA



also had effects that reached far beyond Alaska Native people: by creating Alaska Native-owned, for-profit corporations, ANCSA brought additional economic diversity to the state that has benefited all Alaskans, both directly and indirectly.

ANCSA is the success story it is today because Alaska Native people collectively worked for what was rightfully ours. It is a remarkable agreement that continues to empower Alaska Native people.

I hope you will join me in celebrating the successes of the past 50 years of ANCSA while looking to the future, engaging and collectively working toward a future where Alaska Native people thrive. 🍷

## SHAREHOLDERS SPOTLIGHT

REBECCA LOUIE

For CIRI shareholder Rebecca Louie (Tlingit/Aleut), working in affordable housing is more than just a job—it's a way of combating "the injustice that comes from being low income and doing what I can to help," she said.



Rebecca grew up in Anchorage the youngest of six children. While she enjoyed a middle-class upbringing, attending college out of state opened her eyes to issues of social injustice facing our communities. "I've always had an interest in community development, trying to figure out ways to improve communities, especially for people who are low income," Rebecca said. "I've just always had that goal."

She earned a bachelor's degree in urban studies and planning from the University of California San Diego, followed by a master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of California Berkeley. "The CIRI Foundation was a huge help to me throughout college," Rebecca shared. "I received scholarships every year I attended school, and I always strived to keep my grades above a 3.5 GPA so I would be eligible for the Excellence Annual Scholarship. That was my motivator in college. It was an enormous help to have those scholarships coming in."

Rebecca is an original CIRI enrollee. Her mother's family hails from Southeast Alaska, primarily from the Juneau, Sitka and Tenakee Springs areas. Her father moved to Anchorage in the 1950s. Rebecca grew up with a "strong connection" to her Alaska Native heritage, attending CIRI's Friendship Potlatches and spending time with her Alaska Native relatives. "Traditional Alaska Native values—showing respect, sharing what you have, taking

SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED ON PAGE 03

## The Next 50 Years

ANCSA is a statute, not a treaty, and therefore establishes a balance between formalism and flexibility. ANCSA created self-sufficient Alaska Native corporations empowered to develop and utilize their resources to support current and future generations of shareholders' needs through corporate growth, dividend payments, job creation, and other social and cultural services. While recognizing the positive impacts we have seen from ANCSA over the past 50 years, the importance of the next 50 years is critical for ANCSA's continued success.

ANCSA has been adjusted over the years in certain ways, but its fundamental structure and vision have endured. No one person is responsible for ANCSA; rather, it was created by many acts of courage as people reached deep to accommodate these competing interests, and it is our collective responsibility to protect and continue to improve it. This remarkable agreement will continue to empower Alaska Native people by promoting health and wellness; instilling culture and heritage; aiding economic growth; respecting Alaska Native values; and balancing the needs of current and future generations of shareholders.

Alaska Native corporations will continue to have major cultural, economic and health impacts on Alaska. As we celebrate the passage of ANCSA on Dec. 18 and look ahead to CIRI's own 50th anniversary in 2022, we pay tribute to those who worked so hard to bring about the profound changes that came with the passage of ANCSA. Collectively, we must honor the legacy of ANCSA and train our focus ahead on providing cultural, economic, educational and social benefits to shareholders, descendants and all Alaskans for the next 50 years. 🏡

# CIRI *in the* COMMUNITY

## INDIGENOUS PLACE NAMES PROJECT



### Adapted from an article by the Anchorage Park Foundation

For more than a decade, CIRI shareholder Aaron Leggett (Dena'ina Athabascan) has been working to weave Dena'ina language into the fabric of Anchorage. Leggett, who serves as chair and CEO of the Native Village of Eklutna and as senior curator of Alaska history and Indigenous culture at the Anchorage Museum, reached out to the Anchorage Park Foundation to introduce placenames to parks and trails. In 2018, the Rasmuson Foundation donated a gift to get the project started.

The first signs have been installed at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park and Westchester Lagoon. The sign features artwork by CIRI descendant Melissa Shaginoff (Ahtna Athabascan). Her metal sculpture encircling the post is inspired by the dentalium bead pattern and the Dena'ina fire bag. Fire bags were used by the Dena'ina people to store and transport fire-making materials like tinder and embers; the bag represents living with the land. The "Chanshtnu" sign shares the Dena'ina place name for Chester Creek ("Chanshtnu" means "grass creek"). The sign also features Dena'ina

phrases: "You are walking on Dena'ina land" and "Living with the outdoors." Phrases were supplied by CIRI shareholder Joel Isaak (Dena'ina Athabascan), an artist and Dena'ina linguist.

### OPENING CEREMONY

More than 150 community members attended the opening ceremony of the Indigenous Place Making project Aug. 3 at Westchester Lagoon. The celebration was led by Leggett and featured performances by Dena'ina artists and speakers, including the Ida'ina K'el'eshna dance group led by CIRI shareholder Steven Holley (Dena'ina Athabascan).

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Anchorage Park Foundation is looking for organizations and individuals who want to support both the larger Indigenous Place Names movement and the specific Dena'ina signage project. CIRI is proud to be a contributor, and CIRI shareholder and employee Darla Graham (Yup'ik) serves on the Project's advisory committee. For more information or to get involved, visit [anchorageparkfoundation.org](http://anchorageparkfoundation.org) or email [beth@anchorageparkfoundation.org](mailto:beth@anchorageparkfoundation.org). 🏡

### SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 02

care of others—were absolutely instilled in us," she recalled. "Our house was always open to any relative who needed a meal or a place to stay."

Rebecca's mother worked as a midwife, attending to more than 1,000 births. "She never made a dime doing it; she called it—pun intended—her 'labor of love,'" Rebecca said. "She and my father both had a spirit of wanting to help people, and it was instilled in their children."

Rebecca parlayed the traditional Alaska Native values she grew up with into a career focused on the affordable housing industry. She spent six years working on housing and social-equity issues at the San Diego Association of Governments, followed by stints in fundraising and development for a San Diego nonprofit and at the United Indian Nations, where she coordinated the development of housing and cultural resources for Native American people living in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2008 she joined Wakeland Housing & Development Corporation (Wakeland), rising through the ranks to become the vice president and chief operating officer (COO).

Founded as a nonprofit in 1998, Wakeland works with municipalities, developers and redevelopment agencies throughout California to acquire, develop and rehabilitate affordable housing. Since its founding, the organization has created more than 7,500 affordable homes at 51 properties throughout the state.

"Wakeland focuses on housing for low-income families, low-income seniors, and recently we've been constructing housing for people who have experienced homelessness or people who've experienced homelessness who might also have a serious mental illness or another special need that might require assistance to live independently," Rebecca said. "In addition to housing, we also provide services to help our residents gain independence and meet their goals—after-school programs, financial-literacy classes, cooking classes."

As the COO, Rebecca assists in site selection, financing and overseeing housing development, and supervising the department that services and manages the department. While she admits her job is "pretty all-consuming," the rewards far outweigh the challenges. "I've gotten to see people move in literally off the street into our projects," she said. "I've seen people with serious disabilities who've been living on the street, in wheelchairs, in walkers—you see these people move in, and within days of having a door that closes and a bed they can sleep in and access to indoor plumbing, this extraordinary transformation starts to take place."

While COVID-19 has impacted almost all Americans in some way, those with the lowest incomes have been the hardest hit. High rates of unemployment, shelters that have closed or severely limited services, and an increase in the number of renters at risk for eviction have exacerbated the U.S. homelessness and affordable-housing crisis. In San Diego, where the median home value is \$829,000 and the unemployment rate is higher than the national average, more than 100,000 low-income renters do not have access to affordable housing.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Rebecca and her staff—who she describes as "the most mission-driven and hardest-working group of people you've ever seen"—shifted their focus from providing services like after-school programs and credit repair to meeting their residents' basic needs. "That was really the big shift," she said. "Trying to acquire the basics—food, masks, toilet paper—and then figuring out how to stave off isolation and engage our residents."

Outside of work, Rebecca is a busy wife and mother to two school-aged daughters. She has received an Innovations Award from the San Diego Housing Federation for her development of a training program for staff at supportive-housing communities, and she was named one of San Diego's Most Influential Women of 2019 by the San Diego Daily Transcript. 🏡

## INTOUCH

### Achievement

Congratulations to CIRI shareholder Peter DuBois, who recently became an adjunct instructor in Alaska Native Studies at the University of Alaska Anchorage. In addition to teaching, he is also working toward a Ph.D. in American Indian Studies at the University of Arizona. Peter's mother is original CIRI enrollee Katherine Ellen Larsen, and his grandparents are original CIRI enrollees Mabel and James Larsen. Congratulations, Peter!



### High-School Graduation

CIRI shareholder Katrina Leiva is pleased to announce the graduation of her daughter, Lili, from Huntington Beach High School Academy for the Performing Arts in Huntington Beach, Calif. Lili was awarded top female vocalist of the year in 2021 and plans to study communications at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, Calif. Lili is the granddaughter of the late Brenda Gregoire of Homer, Alaska, an original CIRI enrollee; and the great-granddaughter of Violet Blatchford of Kenai, Alaska. Congratulations, Lili!



## APPLY NOW: 2022 VIRTUAL

# CIRI NEXT GEN Day

Learn about CIRI and its family of companies, gain exposure to future career paths and participate in Alaska Native cultural activities—shareholders and descendants 10 years through high-school age are invited to apply to participate in CIRI's 2022 Next Gen Day, which will be held virtually!

Next Gen Day provides an inside look into the company and future opportunities available to CIRI youth. The event will be held Monday, Jan. 17, which coincides with Martin Luther King Jr. Day, an Anchorage School District holiday. The application deadline is Friday, Jan. 7. For more information and an application, visit [ciri.com/nextgen](http://ciri.com/nextgen). Eligible CIRI youth, no matter where in the world they live, are encouraged to apply! 📧



## NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Exploring the Heritage, Culture and Experience of America's Indigenous Peoples

Native American Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse ancestry, cultures, histories and traditions of Alaska Native/American Indian (AN/AI) peoples. According to the National Congress of American Indians, the month of November presents "an opportunity to educate our workforce, raise awareness about the uniqueness of Native people, and [honor] the myriad ways in which tribal citizens have conquered challenges to maintain voice and dignity and remain an influencing presence in a rapidly evolving nation."

In 1986, Congress passed Pub. L. 99-471, which authorized and requested the president to proclaim the week of Nov. 23-30 as "American Indian Week."

Both the law and the proclamation recognized AN/AI peoples as the first inhabitants of the lands and honored their contributions to American society. This year's theme, "Resilient and Enduring: We Are Native People," reflects the determination and courage that Indigenous communities continue to exhibit.

For more information, visit [nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov](http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov). The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association has a list of ways to celebrate and commemorate Native American Heritage Month available at [aianata.org/NAHM](http://aianata.org/NAHM). For year-round exhibitions, events and educational resources, visit the Alaska Native Heritage Center at [alaskanative.net](http://alaskanative.net). 📧

## 2021 CIRI SHAREHOLDER, ELDER AND YOUTH AWARDS



**ELDER OF THE YEAR**  
**PENNY CARTY**  
Anchorage, Alaska

CIRI is pleased to posthumously honor original CIRI enrollee Penny Carty (Aleut) for her many accomplishments during her lifetime, especially for her fierce and thoughtful advocacy of the advancement of Alaska Native people, particularly among original Salamatof shareholders, the Salamatof Traditional Council, the Salamatof Native Association, and CIRI shareholders and descendants.

From 2005 to 2017, Carty served on the CIRI Board of Directors. In addition to her service on the CIRI Board, she was a long-time board member of Cook Inlet Housing Authority (2004-2021), most recently serving as its vice chair. Over the years she served on many other boards and committees, including Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Kenaitze/Salamatof Housing Authority, Salamatof Tribal Council and The CIRI Foundation.

Carty served on the board of Salamatof Native Association (SNA) prior to her tenure as its president and CEO, where she worked to ensure that the mission, vision and values of the original SNA board were the basis for operations. She was instrumental in ensuring that Salamatof became a federally recognized Tribe and that all 129 original Salamatof shareholders were allotted land selections.

Carty passed away April 14, 2021, in Anchorage at the age of 72.



**SHAREHOLDER OF THE YEAR**  
**IVAN ENCELEWSKI**  
Ninilchik, Alaska

CIRI shareholder Ivan Encelewski (Dena'ina Athabascan) currently serves as executive director of the Ninilchik Village Tribe/Ninilchik Traditional Council, overseeing the Tribe's operations, including its health clinic, environmental activities, housing programs, tribal services, resource-management activities and educational assistance. He has helped significantly grow the Tribe's membership, led community-improvement initiatives, spearheaded the opening of the Ninilchik Traditional Council Community Clinic and expanded housing resources.

A strong supporter of subsistence rights, Encelewski has fought for the rights of Alaska Native people to set a community gill net in the Kenai River and to self-regulate their own fisheries. He currently chairs the boards of both Cook Inlet Tribal Council and Get Out the Native Vote; serves on the board of the Alaska Native Justice Center; and acts as the Ninilchik village representative to the Cook Inlet Treaty Tribes.

Through years of dedicated leadership, Encelewski has positively affected his community and Alaska Native people. He has successfully brought communities together and fostered relationships between regional and village corporations, Tribes, and Native and non-Native communities.



**YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARD**  
**GRACE CARLSON**  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Grace Carlson (Athabascan, Inuit and Yup'ik) recently graduated from Northwest Career and Technical Academy in Las Vegas as her school's valedictorian with a 5.6 GPA. Her many extracurricular activities included speech and debate clubs, the Health Occupations Students of America Club, National Honor Society, the Distributive Education Clubs of America and serving as a peer tutor.

Carlson is connected to CIRI through her grandfather, original CIRI enrollee Otto Thiele Jr., and her great-grandparents, original CIRI enrollees Otto Thiele Sr. and Flora Meehan Thiele. She participated in the inaugural CIRI C3 Experience in 2018 and has received several CIRI Youth Educational Incentive awards.

Described by her teachers as intelligent, professional, dependable and mature, Carlson's career goals include becoming a veterinarian and serving Alaska Native communities.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 23-31, 2021	Winter holiday: CIRI closed
Dec. 31, 2021	Quarterly participation prize drawing deadlines: confirmed descendant, direct deposit, eNewsletter, Qenek, stock will (details at ciri.com)
Jan. 7, 2022	Deadline to apply for CIRI Virtual Next Gen Day
Jan. 10, 2022	CIRI Board slate application deadline: 3 p.m. AKST
Jan. 17, 2022	Martin Luther King Jr. Day; CIRI Virtual Next Gen Day
Jan. 31, 2022	CIRI Board write-in candidate information packets available no later than today; visit ciri.com for details // Youth Educational Incentive Drawing deadline: 3 p.m. AKST // IRS Forms 1099 mailed to shareholders no later than today (available in Qenek sooner)
Feb. 16, 2022	Elizabeth Peratrovich Day; CIRI Board write-in candidate packet deadline: 12 p.m. AKST
Feb. 18, 2022	Elizabeth Peratrovich Day observed: CIRI offices closed
March 1, 2022	CST Elders Distribution direct deposit deadline
March 3, 2022	CST Elders Distribution change of address deadline

## CIRI HOLIDAY CLOSURE

In observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, CIRI will be closed Dec. 23-31, 2021. Staff will be back to work at 8 a.m. on Jan. 3, 2022. During the closure, shareholders and descendants may continue to access the Qenek portal at [qenek.ciri.com](http://qenek.ciri.com). We wish all our shareholders, descendants and their families a safe and happy holiday season!

## 2021 YOUTH ART CONTEST WINNERS

### 'My favorite traditional food is...'

Thank you to our 2021 Youth Art Contest participants! What we eat matters as much today as it did to our Alaska Native ancestors. We appreciate the young artists who, through original works of art, shared their interpretations with us!

#### CATEGORY: 9-12 YEARS OF AGE



##### FIRST PLACE: DYLAN HILL

Athabascan  
Child of Sarah Hill  
Marquette, Mich.



##### SECOND PLACE: ELISE LOUIE

Aleut and Tlingit  
Child of Rebecca Louie  
Cardiff, Calif.

#### CATEGORY: 5-8 YEARS OF AGE



##### FIRST PLACE: NOA BENKEN

Inupiat  
Child of Corinne Benken  
Glendora, Calif.



##### SECOND PLACE: ELISE KOENIGS

Alutiiq  
Child of Matthew Koenigs  
Arlington, Wash.

## RECIPE



### TURKEY POT PIE

Adapted from the recipe by Holly Nilsson, [spendwithpennies.com](http://spendwithpennies.com).

As the author wrote about this recipe, "*The perfect way to enjoy leftover roast turkey. A creamy filling loaded with turkey and veggies is tucked inside a flaky pie crust and baked until golden and bubbly.*"

**START TO FINISH:** 1 hour 20 minutes  
(20 minutes active)

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine
- 1 onion, diced
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon poultry seasoning
- 1/4 teaspoon thyme
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 2/3 cup milk or cream
- 1 potato, diced and cooked
- 1 1/2 cups frozen mixed vegetables, defrosted
- 2 cups leftover turkey, or substitute leftover rotisserie chicken
- 1 double pie crust (if crusts are frozen, let package stand at room temperature 60 to 90 minutes before unrolling)

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Whisk egg with 1 tablespoon water. Set aside.
2. Sauté onion in butter or margarine over medium-low heat until tender, about 5 minutes. Add flour, poultry seasoning, thyme, and salt and pepper. Cook 2 additional minutes.
3. Whisk in chicken broth and milk a little bit at a time, stirring after each addition. You may add a bit more broth if mixture is too thick. Bring to a boil over medium heat, simmer 1 minute and remove from heat. Stir in turkey and vegetables.
4. Line a 9-inch pie plate with one of the crusts. Fill with turkey filling. Brush edges of crust with egg wash and top with second crust. Pinch edges to seal and cut a few slits to vent pie. Brush with egg wash.
5. Bake 35-40 minutes or until lightly browned and filling is bubbly.
6. Cool for 10-15 minutes before serving.

The Raven's Circle would like to feature our readers' favorite recipes! To submit visit [www.ciri.com/recipe](http://www.ciri.com/recipe).

**Georgia Marie Bass, 92**

Georgia Marie Bass passed away June 12 at home in Anchorage. Ms. Bass was born Sept. 29, 1928, in Anchorage. She is survived by her children, Alana Fehrenbach, and Bruce and Kevin Brandon.

**Lance Scott Breeden, 35**

Lance Scott Breeden passed away Sept. 17 at home in South Beloit, Ill. Mr. Breeden was born April 26, 1986, in Wasau, Wis. He is survived by his siblings, Shannon Breeden (Rich Eoff) and Victor (Brent) Breeden; nieces, Madalyn and Leighton Eoff; nephews, Jensen and Landon Eoff; and girlfriend, Grace Falco.



**Ronald Wesley Carver, 50**

Ronald Wesley Carver passed away July 27 at home in Bartlesville, Okla. Mr. Carver was born Sept. 24, 1970, in Anchorage. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Carver; and siblings, Stephanie and Richard Carver.

**Navada "Japoy" Lee Escholt, 42**

Navada "Japoy" Lee Escholt passed away July 20 in Salt Lake City. Mr. Escholt was born Sept. 30, 1978, in Anchorage. He is survived by his wife, Connie Medina; son, Lazario Talaro; mother, Rhonda Escholt; sister, Natasha Escholt; brother, Dakota Benally; nieces, Zennya Reynolds, Mercedes and Cynthia Escholt, and Jazmine Harris; and nephew, Alejandro Valenzuela Escholt.



**Nancy S. Harper, 100**

Nancy S. Harper passed away June 6 at Baton Rouge General Hospital in Baton Rouge, La. Ms. Harper was born Dec. 8, 1920, in Dudley, Texas. After earning degrees in English and business and completing the Advanced Management Program at the University of Washington, she co-authored a self-instructional course that is now being used extensively throughout the U.S. and has gone through its third printing. She was a frequent guest lecturer at colleges and on radio and television. In 1981, Ms. Harper received a Special Achievement Award from the Seattle Office of Personnel Management. She was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard and a veteran of World War II. She is survived by her husband, Arra Richardson; and nieces, Nancy Howe Boler, Sally Howe Garwood, Mary Howe Hawkins and Alice Howe Norman.



**Patricia Ann Johns, 57**

Patricia Ann Johns passed away Aug. 28 at home in Indianapolis. Ms. Johns was born July 14, 1964, in Anchorage. Her family remembers her as someone who loved to spend time with her family and grandchildren and counted among her many hobbies crochet, cross-stitch, puzzles, and arts and crafts. She is survived by her children, Melissa (Jason) Brewster, Jennifer (Shawn Jett) Vega and Daniel (Stephany Eaton) Vega; siblings, Betsy (Nunnally) Busby and Howard Nunnally; and nine grandchildren.



**Edward Norman Kehl, 55**

Edward Norman Kehl passed away Aug. 17 in Willow, Alaska. Mr. Kehl was born Jan. 27, 1966, in Kodiak, Alaska. He is survived by Donna Kehl and Mary Morgan.

**Michael Fredrick Otte, 51**

Michael Fredrick Otte passed away June 19 in Phoenix. Mr. Otte was born July 13, 1969, in Anchorage. He is survived by his father, Ronald L. Otte; and stepmother, Vicki A. Otte.

**Rita Frances Lorraine Smagge, 77**

Rita Frances Lorraine Smagge passed away June 23 at home in Kenai, Alaska. Ms. Smagge was born Dec. 29, 1943, in Kenai. She dedicated her life to the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, serving in many capacities from secretary to executive director. She is survived by her brothers, Jim, Rick and Bill Segura; sister, Clare Swan; children, Todd, Lorne and James Smagge, and Suzanne (Paul) Jackson; grandchildren, Brandon, Trevor, Logan, Lorne and Trey Smagge, Slade Corrao, Justin Cox, Mandee Cogley (Jackson), and Tanar, Dylan and Rylee Jackson; and great-grandchildren, Joseph and Jacob Smagge.



# CIRI'S VIRTUAL MENTORING PROGRAM

**BY CIRI INTERN JORDYN RANSOM**

With the goal of providing professional and personal development for CIRI shareholders and descendants, CIRI's inaugural Virtual Mentoring Program kicked off Oct. 8. Mentor and mentee pairs will meet virtually and communicate regularly for the program's six-month duration.

Matches were chosen based on compatibility and personal and professional objectives, with participants spread across the country. Mentee interests include Alaska Native culture, architecture, education, health care and sports statistics, as well as developing skills like communication, leadership and professionalism. Both mentors and mentees will have a chance to learn about CIRI and its family of socially-driven enterprises, as well as Alaska Native culture and history.

CIRI hosted a kick-off orientation in early October and will facilitate monthly workshops. Orientation provided an opportunity for matches to meet via Zoom and for CIRI to explain the participation timeline and assist in creating a development plan.

Participants will have the opportunity to network, form lasting relationships, and take advantage of resources and information to benefit their personal and professional advancement.

Since the program takes place virtually, location is not a limiting factor; CIRI is pleased to offer this program to our shareholders and descendants wherever they may live. We look forward to sharing more about the CIRI Virtual Mentoring Program in the months ahead!

**HOW TO APPLY**

Applications for the CIRI Virtual Mentoring Program are accepted year-round. Participants must be 18+ and can live anywhere in the world. Mentee applicants should be CIRI shareholders or descendants; prospective mentors can come from the broader community.

The second cohort application deadline is April 30, 2022. Both mentees and mentors must commit to the program for six months. To apply, complete the online application form at [ciri.com/mentorship](http://ciri.com/mentorship).



**TIA HALE MENTOR**

Tia currently works as a labor and delivery nurse at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. She holds bachelor's degrees in both exercise and sports science and nursing. Tia and her family moved from Anchorage to Oregon in 1997, and she moved back to Alaska with her husband and children 20 years later. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in nursing at the University of Alaska Anchorage and working to balance a career, parenthood and graduate school. After she obtains her master's degree, Tia plans to become a commissioned corps officer with the U.S. Public Health Service.

**AT A GLANCE:**

- CIRI shareholder
- Labor and delivery nurse
- Currently pursuing a master's degree at the University of Alaska Anchorage



**ANNALISE SCHLAFER MENTEE**

Current graduate student and aspiring health-care worker Annalise is working toward a master's degree in nursing, with the long-term goal of becoming a nurse practitioner, doctor or advanced clinician. Her goal in joining CIRI's Virtual Mentoring Program is to find a mentor who works in health care and can offer advice and perspective. Annalise is also interested in learning more about CIRI and the Alaska Native community.

**AT A GLANCE:**

- CIRI descendant
- Student
- Currently pursuing a master's degree at the University of San Diego

**MAIN OBJECTIVES:**

- Personal and professional development
- Networking and relationship-building
- Improve stress-management and communication skills
- Learn about CIRI and Alaska Native culture; become more involved in her corporation and gain a deeper understanding of her heritage

**Jaison "Jake" Standifer, 63**

Jaison "Jake" Standifer passed away June 18 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Mr. Standifer was born Jan. 16, 1958, in Tyonek, Alaska. He is survived by his son, Jared E.J. Standifer; and stepsons, KC E.C. Chickalusion and Christopher E.C. Burnett.

**Vassa K. White, 85**

Vassa K. White passed away July 18 at home in San Antonio. Ms. White was born Jan. 22, 1936, in Kashega, Alaska. She is survived by Jerry C. White Sr., Jerry C. White Jr. and Michael E. White.

**Robert Eugene Wolfchief, 70**

Robert Eugene Wolfchief passed away July 11 in Layton, Utah. Mr. Wolfchief was born June 25, 1951, in Fort Ord, Calif. He is survived by Courtney Merino, Brittney Garza and Justin Wolfchief.

**Condolences**

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Arlene Corrine Anniskett, 87 | Anita Elaine Litchfield, 67 |
| Rose Marie Allen, 63         | Gregory James Lorenzo, 63   |
| Patricia Ann Gifford, 79     | Gary James Matthews, 62     |
| Thomas Edward Glazier, 78    | Peter H. McKinnon, 71       |
| Francis Boyd Haldane, 94     | Milton Ray Price III, 65    |
| James Robert Hill, 73        | Cora Ann Sacaloff, 58       |
| Floyd Siguilluk Kakaruk, 70  | Thomas Michael Stroman, 68  |
| Ella Lucille Kalmakoff, 58   | Bertha Tolbert, 96          |
| Maggie Kochutin, 80          | Joseph George Wilson, 87    |
| Jeffrey Reid Lamont, 66      | Sheila May Woods, 35        |

# FOURTH QUARTER DISTRIBUTIONS

Payment type	Direct deposit sign-up deadline: 3 p.m.	Address change and cancel direct deposit deadline: 3 p.m.	Distribution date
CST Distribution	MONDAY, NOV. 15	TUESDAY, NOV. 30	THURSDAY, DEC. 9
CST Elders Distribution	MONDAY, NOV. 15	TUESDAY, NOV. 30	FRIDAY, DEC. 10

## CST Distribution Fund

Fourth quarter payments from the CST Distribution Fund, in the amount of \$11.31 per share (or \$1,131 per 100 shares), will be mailed or directly deposited by 6 p.m. Alaska Standard Time on Thursday, Dec. 9 to all CST beneficiaries who own CIRC stock and have a valid mailing address on file with CIRC as of 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 30.

## CST Elders Distribution

Fourth quarter payments from the CIRC Settlement Trust (CST) Elders Distribution Fund will be mailed or directly deposited by 6 p.m. Alaska Standard Time on Friday, Dec. 10 to eligible Elders with a valid mailing address on file as of 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 30. CST beneficiaries who are original CIRC shareholders and are 65 years of age or older on the record date of Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, are eligible to receive the \$450 payment, providing they either own at least one share of CIRC stock or gifted all of their CIRC stock to family members prior to July 31, 2003.

## Direct/Remote Deposit

CIRC urges shareholders who receive their distributions in check form to consider signing up for direct deposit or taking advantage of remote deposit. Both options are fast, easy and environmentally friendly. (Note: When remotely depositing a check, it's a good idea to make a note on the check so you don't attempt to cash it again. If a check is cashed twice, you are legally liable to repay the amount of the overpayment.)

## Shareholders who participate in direct deposit and have a current CIRC mailing address are also eligible to participate in quarterly prize drawings.

Direct deposit forms are available from Shareholder Relations and at [ciri.com](http://ciri.com). To cancel direct deposit, please submit a signed, written request prior to 3 p.m. on the specified deadline. If you have a Qenek account, you can cancel your existing direct deposit instruction online via the portal.

## Address Changes

Checks are mailed to the address CIRC has on record as of the specified deadline. If your address has changed, be sure to update your address with both CIRC and the U.S. Postal Service. These addresses must match or your CIRC mail may not reach you. When CIRC mail is undeliverable, distributions are held, and the shareholder does not qualify to participate

in any prize drawings until the address is updated. This is true even if a shareholder is signed up for direct deposit.

CIRC address changes may be submitted online via the Qenek portal. Alternatively, you may submit a completed CIRC address change form – available at [ciri.com](http://ciri.com) – or a signed, written request that includes a current telephone number. You may scan or take a photo of your completed form or request and email it to [shareholderrecords@ciri.com](mailto:shareholderrecords@ciri.com), mail it to CIRC at PO Box 93330, Anchorage, AK 99509, or fax it to (907) 263-5186. If faxed, please call Shareholder Relations as soon as possible to confirm receipt. Forms and information on changing your address or submitting a mail-forwarding request with the U.S. Postal Service are available at [usps.com](http://usps.com) or your local post office.

Please be aware that if you fail to notify CIRC of a new address before a specified deadline and your check is sent to your old address, CIRC cannot reissue that check to you unless it is either returned to us, or a minimum of 90 days has elapsed. A list of shareholders who do not have a current mailing address on record is continually updated and may be found on the CIRC website.

## Tax Reminder

Neither CIRC nor the CST withhold taxes from distributions; however, shareholders or beneficiaries who anticipate owing tax on their distributions have the option of making quarterly estimated tax payments directly to the IRS. To find out more about applicable federal and state tax requirements or making quarterly estimated tax payments, please consult with a tax advisor or contact the IRS directly. As a reminder, distributions made by the CST are expected to be tax-free to beneficiaries in most cases.

## Contacting Us

While the Fireweed Business Center remains closed to shareholders and visitors, the Shareholder Relations department can nonetheless be reached by phone at (907) 263-5191 / (800) 764-2474 and via email at [shareholderrecords@ciri.com](mailto:shareholderrecords@ciri.com) during normal business hours. Additionally, the Qenek portal provides access to a wealth of news and information and allows many tasks and record changes to be completed online, including generating payment confirmations and reprinting tax forms. 📧

# Intern-AL AFFAIRS



Hello everyone! My name is Jordyn Ransom, and I am thrilled to return for my second internship with CIRC.

I was raised in California's San Fernando Valley and Orange County. Though I love my home state and its many attractions, I found myself in search of something different. I recently graduated from California State University Fullerton with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and was looking to enter my next phase of life and build a career.

The transition into work evolved effortlessly through the resourcefulness of my mother, an original CIRC enrollee of Athabascan descent. I owe her credit for introducing me to the CIRC internship opportunity, which she first read about in the Raven's Circle newsletter. It was the perfect opportunity to try something new while also learning about my heritage. I first interned with CIRC during summer 2019, helping plan and execute the CIRC C3 Experience and assisting with Human Resources-related tasks.

Growing up outside of Alaska, I was far removed from my Alaska Native heritage and CIRC. The promise of meaningful work and gorgeous Alaska scenery was enough to convince me to return for a second internship. Driven by opportunity and the desire for self-discovery, I decided this summer to move the 3,000 miles to Alaska and establish some roots.

Working in CIRC's shareholder programs has been an exciting and educational endeavor, to say the least. I'm currently working on CIRC's Virtual Mentoring Program for shareholders and descendants. This project holds a lot of meaning for me because, as someone who grew up outside Alaska, I have the chance to reach out to others and help facilitate connections with their corporation and Alaska Native heritage.

The CIRC internship has enabled me to connect with Alaska Native culture, gain valuable work experience and enhance my personal development. The decision to move to Anchorage and pursue a career has created purpose in my life. I feel more confident taking the next steps in continuing my self-discovery and fulfilling my goal to help other shareholders and descendants realize their potential. 📧

Until next time,  
Jordyn Ransom

## 2021 VIRTUAL POTLATCH

### Again this year, CIRC's annual Friendship Potlatch is available virtually!

Log on from anywhere in the world to enjoy Alaska Native culture, a village visit to Ninilchik, a recipe demonstration and more! The recording is available on the Qenek portal at [qenek.ciri.com](http://qenek.ciri.com). 📧

## MISSING SHAREHOLDERS

The following CIRI shareholders do not have a current mailing address on record. **When CIRI mail is returned as undeliverable, the distributions are held and the shareholder does not qualify to participate in any prize drawings until the address is updated.**

Shareholders with **Qenek** portal accounts may update their addresses online. Alternatively, shareholders may visit CIRI's website or call Shareholder Relations at (907) 263-5191 or (800) 764-2474 for address change forms and information.

(As of 11/29/2021)

Nadia Erin Anderson  
Roseanna Alexandria Baehm  
Darrell John Baker  
Ann Elizabeth Baldwin  
Kristen Dawn Barnett  
Dorothea Marika Barron  
Thomas Michael Bellinger  
Gabriel Luke Benjamin  
Wanda Jo Benson  
Christopher James Black  
Kenneth Lawrence Boyle  
Nancy Betty-Lou Busbee  
Jeremy Leon Butrick  
David Cabanes  
Daniel Forrest Call  
Tamra Lee Cox  
Bryan Jack-Ross Crow  
Alyssa Joy Danner  
Kamakana Charles-Nukapigak Danner  
Christy Lynn Downs  
William D. Ferguson  
Reann Melody Gafford  
Olga Gallagher  
Matthew Louis Goodlataw  
Dahmir Lamarr Hale  
Jason David Harrington  
Samuel Clifford Hatfield  
James Douglas Hatten  
Hunter Kelli Hogan  
Matthew Michael Holmes  
Hannah Isaac  
Marcel Michael Isidore Sr.  
Travis Max Isidore  
Beverly Ruth James  
Bernard William Johnson Jr.  
Brittney Dorrika Johnson  
Rebecca Jayne Katchatag  
Courtney Deann Sophie Kayouktuk  
Matthew Scott Keech  
Michael Gene Larsen  
Paul Matthew Larson  
Elsie Theresa Luke

Maria Elizabeth Malven  
Michael West Mason  
John Kelly McConnell  
John Richard Miller  
Lucy Jean Mogg  
Shaun Michael Moore  
Forrest James Nayukok  
Royce Raymond Nickalaski  
Florence Helen Okpealuk  
Kellen St-Clair Okpealuk  
Lena Pauline  
Oksoktaruk-Wood  
Bryan Lee Outwater  
Gary Woodrow Petersen II  
Ronald Joseph Peterson  
Kaelob Matthew Phillips  
Presley Pruitt  
Charles L. Purvis  
Joanne Frances Ramos-Crow  
Cassie Marie Richards  
John Savok Riley  
Melanie Brook Ritter  
Vernon Lloyd Robinson  
Sean Eric Rodland  
Glenn Jonathan Ryan  
Charlein Terese Sanford  
Gregory Floyd Seeber  
Stephanie Sue Shanigan  
Glenn Ross Shook  
Tony James Smart Jr.  
James Earl Smith  
Jennifer Nicole Smith  
Viola M. Soxie  
Arnold Roger Standifer  
Alfred Henry Sweeney Jr.  
Veronica Ann Takeuchi  
David Elton Truitt  
Martin Sean Tucker  
Cyril M. Tyson  
Robert Paul Vlasoff Jr.  
Jenell Ski Westcoast  
James Christian White

## CIRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Douglas W. Fifer, *Tlingit*  
**Chair\***

Thomas P. Huhndorf, *Yup'ik*  
**Chair Emeritus\***

Roy M. Huhndorf, *Yup'ik*  
**Chair Emeritus**

Margaret L. Brown, *Yup'ik*  
**Vice Chair\***

Louis "Lou" Nagy Jr., *Yup'ik*  
**Secretary\***

Samuel G. Spangler, *Aleut*  
**Treasurer\***

Rolf A. Dagg, *Yup'ik*  
**Assistant Treasurer\***

Katrina M. (Dolchok) Jacuk, *Aleut*  
**Assistant Secretary\***

Hallie L. Bissett, *Athabascan*

Michael R. Boling, *Athabascan*

Robert E. Harris, *Inupiaq*

Jeffrey A. Gonnason, *Haida*

Michelle B. Lindersmith, *Inupiaq*

Cynthia L. Muller, *Haida*

Patrick M. Marrs, *Aleut*

\* Denotes a member of the Board of Trustees of the CIRI Settlement Trust



P.O. Box 93330  
Anchorage, Alaska 99509-3330

### CIRI CONTACT INFORMATION

#### CIRI Headquarters

725 E. Fireweed Lane, Suite 800  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Tel. (907) 274-8638  
[www.ciri.com](http://www.ciri.com)

#### Shareholder Relations

Tel. (907) 263-5191 or (800) 764-2474  
Fax (907) 263-5186



**Shareholder Participation Committees**  
[www.ciri.com/spc](http://www.ciri.com/spc)

**Submit ideas, stories & recipes to [info@ciri.com](mailto:info@ciri.com)**

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## WINNERS' CIRCLE

To increase participation in certain programs, CIRI holds periodic prize drawings from the names of those enrolled who meet certain criteria and have a current mailing address with CIRI. **If CIRI has returned mail, a different winner will be selected.** Visit the CIRI website or call (907) 263-5191 or (800) 764-2474 to learn more. The following shareholders have been selected as winners for the most recent CIRI drawings:

### STOCK WILL PARTICIPATION PRIZES

**\$200 Monthly Stock Will Prize:**

- July – Florence Wildman
- August – Kimberly Ayek
- September – Angela Waskey

**Third quarter drawing for Apple iPad Air:**

- Alice Umetsu

Must have a valid will on file that complies with CIRI's fractional share policy.

### DIRECT DEPOSIT DRAWING

**Third quarter drawing for \$500:**

- Gaynelle Gauthier

The direct deposit instruction must be current with CIRI to win.

### eNEWSLETTER DRAWING

**Third quarter drawing for an iPad or \$400 cash:**

- Jerry Sodemann

Shareholders enrolled in the eNewsletter program with a valid email address on file.

### CONFIRMED, REGISTERED DESCENDANT DRAWING

**Third quarter drawing for a Kindle Fire HD or Amazon gift card:**

- Amanda Paulson

Direct lineal descendants of CIRI shareholders who are not themselves shareholders, who have submitted legal documents substantiating descent and who have a valid email address on file.

### QENEK ACCOUNT DRAWING

**Third quarter drawing for a YETI cooler:**

- Todd King

Shareholders and confirmed descendants who have created a Qenek account or accessed an existing account during the preceding quarter.

### GREENLINK DRAWING

**Third quarter drawing \$500:**

- Jeffrey Walker

Shareholders who have a valid direct deposit instruction and email address on file and who have opted into electronic delivery of certain materials. 📧

2021

# CIRI Virtual HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR

CIRI's Virtual Holiday Craft Bazaar will be held Friday, Nov. 12 through Friday, Dec. 31. Shop one-of-a-kind Alaska Native arts and crafts from the comfort and safety of home! For your holiday gift-giving needs and to support shareholder and descendant artists at the same time, visit [ciri.com/bazaar](http://ciri.com/bazaar).