

NNA Community Newsletter

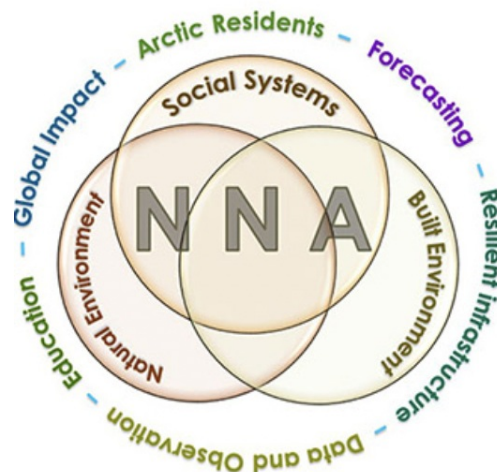
May 2021 Issue

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2021 Annual NNA Community Meeting

The 2021 Annual NNA Community Meeting for investigators and partners will be held on November 8-10, 2021. Please mark your calendars. This meeting, held in cooperation between the NNA-CO and the National Science Foundation's (NSF) NNA Working Group, will provide an important opportunity for NNA project teams, Arctic community members, Indigenous and Traditional knowledge holders, decision makers and other experts to gather to discuss and highlight progress, opportunities, and challenges across the NNA initiative.

This meeting will be held virtually, though future Annual NNA Community Meetings will use a hybrid format, with both in-person and virtual meeting options. The [meeting website](#) will soon share more information



as planning progresses.

Graphic to the right: National Science Foundation.

NNA-CO Indigenous Advisory Board



Photo credit: Wendi Pillars (PolarTREC 2018), Courtesy of ARCUS.

The NNA-CO Indigenous Advisory Board (IAB) was formed and held their first meeting on April 28, 2021 to learn more about and discuss the NNA-CO and the NNA initiative in general. First term members of the board include: Malinda Chase (Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center), Mellisa “Maktuayaq” Johnson (Bering Sea Elders Group), Liza Mack (Aleut International Association), Gunn-Britt Retter (Saami Council), and Jaylene Wheeler (Kawerak, Inc). The IAB will advise on how the NNA-CO is partnering with Indigenous communities and institutions to ensure that we are addressing issues of mutual concern, that Indigenous Peoples have a voice in NNA research planning and implementation, and that Indigenous knowledge and data sovereignty is upheld. Board members will serve two-years terms. More information about the board and its current members [can be found here](#).

NSF Dear Colleague Letter on Inclusion of Local & Indigenous Voices in Arctic Research



Photo credit: M. Druckenmiller

On May 4, the National Science Foundation (NSF) released an update on their steps to support Indigenous individuals and organizations to become more engaged in NSF's funding process; to improve the relationship among the agency, NSF-funded Principal Investigators (PIs), and local and Indigenous peoples living in the Arctic; and to improve the ability for NSF-funded investigators to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into their projects. This Dear Colleague Letter is [available here](#).

This letter follows on NSF's recent launch of their [Arctic Community Engagement \(ACE\) website](#) earlier this spring.

Videos and Resources available from Recent NNA Events on Research during COVID Pandemic

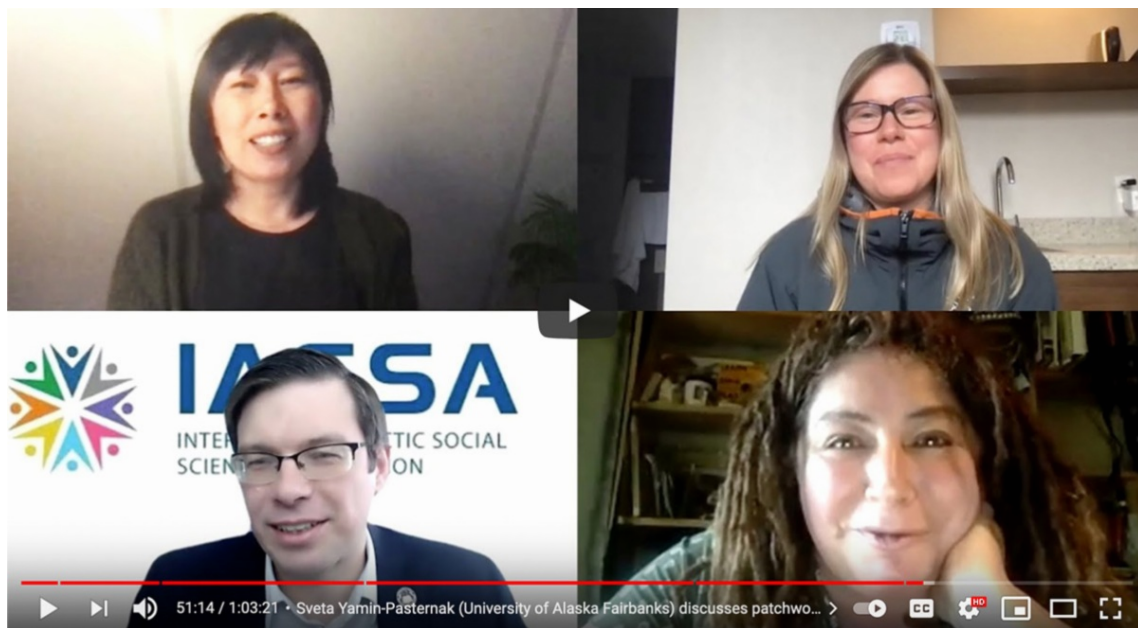


Photo credit: Navigating the New Arctic Community Office.

On April 29 and May 4, the NNA-CO held two events focused on sharing information and perspectives regarding field and community-based research during the COVID pandemic. The first event highlighted practical guidance and information for travel to Arctic communities and field locations, while the second focused more on ideas for new

opportunities and approaches for effective collaboration between communities and researchers. Both events' plenary presentations were recorded and are [available on our website](#), along with related information.

Provide Feedback on Draft Arctic Research Plan by June 11

In March 2021, the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) released a draft of the next Arctic Research Plan (2022-2026). This draft plan is intended to address the most pressing Arctic research needs that require a collaborative approach and that can advance understanding of the Arctic, inform policy and planning decisions, and promote the well-being of Arctic and global communities. **Public comment is requested by June 11, 2021.** Input from the NNA research community will be important. [Learn more about the plan and how to provide feedback here.](#)

Graphic to the right: Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee.



NNA Project Highlight: Project Unangam Ulaa



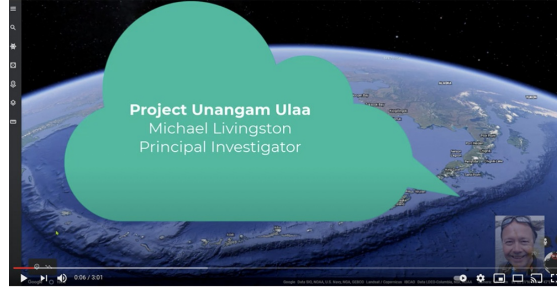
Photo credit: Adobe Stock.

We will feature different NNA projects in each newsletter.

Can the 10,000 year old design of Aleutian sod houses be integrated into modern materials to build an energy efficient dwelling for the SubArctic and Arctic? [Find out more through this video!](#)

Project Unangam Ulaa focuses regionally on the Aleutian Islands, the Pribilof Islands, the Shumagin Islands, and the west end of

the Alaska Peninsula but due to the pandemic current work is happening in Anchorage. The team works with the villages of Akutan, Atka, Belkofski, Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, Saint George, Saint Paul, Pauloff Harbor, Sand Point, Unalaska, and Unga.



Project partners include: University of Alaska Anchorage Anthropology, Museum of the Aleutians, Bureau of Indian Affairs, University of Alaska Anchorage - Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, State of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, Partnow Consulting, University of Alaska Anchorage Engineering, McCool Carlson Green Architects, Arctic University of Norway, Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, Cook Inlet Native Head Start, Alaska Pacific University, and Aleutian Housing Authority.

Questions or comments - please contact [Michael Livingston](#) (PI).



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<https://www.nna-co.org>

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