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## **Traditional Native canoe to be carved at South Lake Union**

Joint project with United Indians of All Tribes and The Center for Wooden Boats begins Feb. 9th

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*Seattle, WA- February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007-* In a new partnership, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation and The Center for Wooden Boats will begin on construction of a traditional dugout canoe with students from the Duwamish Tribe, IWASIL Native American Boys and Girls club, as well as school aged children from throughout the greater Seattle area.

This Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> there will be a celebration to commemorate the first day of the project. Representatives of the various organizations, youth and community members will be in attendance. The public is invited to be a part of the initial ceremony and can be a part of carving of the canoe.

The cedar log for the canoe is 4 feet in diameter, 50 feet long and over 600 years old. The log was donated to United Indians by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation nearly 30 years ago to be carved into a canoe for the Seattle community.

This canoe project is the fifth of its kind for CWB artist in residence Saaduuts, a Haida carver from Alaska. For the last seven years Saaduuts has carved canoes with school groups around Seattle, several have been gifted to Native communities. In 2004, Saaduuts and Alternative School #1 completed a 40-foot canoe, "The Spirit of Peace" that was given to a Native community in Alaska. Saaduuts is currently working on a smaller canoe, the 25' "Stephen Phillips" that will remain at the CWB.

The project is funded through the Native Youth and Culture Initiative of First Nations Development Institute.

TV /Photographers

Ceremonies for the canoe blessing will begin at 3pm on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup>.