



MEILANI SCHIJVENS

Economic Development Specialist
Rain Coast Data

Professional Background

Ms. Schijvens is the owner and Director of Rain Coast Data, a Juneau-based research and consulting firm specializing in Alaska economic analysis, publications, socioeconomic impact studies, survey research, and public outreach. Ms. Schijvens is a lifelong Alaskan and has dedicated her professional career to Alaska economic development. Her work has been cited by many national organizations. Ms. Schijvens has authored hundreds of Alaska economic development planning and economic analysis publications and has been conducting public and community surveys across Alaska since the 1990s. In 2019 alone, Rain Coast Data worked in the communities of Ketchikan, Craig, Cordova, Kasaan, Klawock, Saxman, Hollis, Angoon, Juneau, Kake, Petersburg, Skagway, Cordova, Valdez, Wrangell, and Yakutat telling their economic stories, and providing clients with digestible but very effective documents they can then use to advocate and plan for their community, tribe, project or organization.

Relevant Experience

Southeast Alaska Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: 2020 & 2025

Rain Coast Data developed the 2020 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Southeast Alaska on behalf of Southeast Conference, and is currently developing the region's 2025 economic strategy. The planning process integrated economic analysis, stakeholder input, priority objective development, resilience, and an evaluation framework. The 2020 plan was called one of the best CEDS in the country by the US EDA. Ms. Schijvens is currently working on the 2025 CEDS for the region. Ms. Schijvens has been responsible for this economic plan since 2000.

Southeast Regional Tribal Housing Survey Analysis and Plan, 2019

On behalf to the Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority, Ms. Schijvens developed and conducted a tribal housing needs assessment in twelve tribal partner communities. The web-based survey was primarily administered electronically. Nearly half of the 2,600 households completed the survey. The survey results provided valuable information that was to develop unique and comprehensive long-term housing plans for each community.

Wrangell Alaska Economic Conditions Report 2020

This document provides a baseline summary of the economy of Wrangell prior to the 2020 pandemic event, to provide an economic planning tool for stabilizing and re-growing the economy moving forward.

Other Key Projects

- Southeast Alaska Resiliency Mapping Plan
- Wrangell Tribal Citizen Housing Assessment
- Kake Tribal Corporation 5-Year Strategic Plan 2018
- Sitka Economic Development Association 5-Year Strategic Plan
- Petersburg Tribal Citizen Housing Survey
- Benefit-Cost Analysis of the Juneau Fisheries Terminal Completion Project 2020
- Cost Benefit Analysis of Proposed City and Borough of Juneau City Hall, 2019
- Cost Benefit Analysis of the Proposed New Juneau Glory Hall Homeless Shelter Facility,
- The Current Status of Childcare in Juneau; and Juneau Child Care by the Numbers, 2013-2016
- Southeast Alaska Health Care Workforce Analysis 2020
- Sealaska Heritage Institute Educational Programs
- Juneau Housing Needs Assessment
- The Arts Economy of Southeast Alaska
- The Inter-Island Ferry Authority by the Numbers
- The Economic Impact of Shipbuilding in Ketchikan
- The Haines Mining Sector
- The Value of Alaska's Marine Highway in 25 Stories
- Southeast Alaska Business Climate and Private Investment Survey 2018
- Southeast Alaska by the Numbers 2019

Education

Master of Science, University of Oregon, 1999. Masters Thesis, "A Town Forged By Gold" describes the original development of downtown Juneau.

Bachelor of Arts, History, Colby College, 1995

References

Richard Caulfield, PhD
Chancellor, University of Alaska

Carol Rushmore, Economic Development
Director City and Borough of Wrangell,

Alec Mesdag, Director of Energy Services
AEL&P. Current President of Southeast
Conference and JEDC

Volunteer Work

Mayor's Juneau Visitor Industry Task
Force member: Oct. 2019 to current

Juneau Blueprint Downtown Steering
Committee member: 2018-2019

Flats Families Neighborhood Association
Founder and Leader: 2014 to current

State Northern Opportunity Strategy
Committee member: 2016-2019

Marine Transportation Advisory Board
Committee member: 2003-2004

Award

National Association of Development
Organizations 2018 Innovation Award for
the Southeast Alaska 2020 CEDS

