



MEILANI SCHIJVENS

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 coastal Alaska economic development. Her work has been cited by many national organizations. Ms. Schijvens has authored hundreds of Southeast Alaska economic development planning and economic analysis publications and has been conducting public and community surveys across the region since the 1990s. Rain Coast Data has worked in nearly every Southeast community, telling their economic stories and providing clients with digestible but effective documents they can use to advocate and plan for their community, tribe, project, or organization.

Education

Master of Science, University of Oregon,
1999

Bachelor of Arts, History, Colby College,
1995

References

Jacqueline Kus.een Pata
President/CEO Tlingit Haida Regional
Housing Authority

Jared Kosin, President and CEO, Alaska
State Hospital and Nursing Association

Carol Rushmore, Economic Development
Director City and Borough of Wrangell

Volunteer Work

Southeast Constitutional Convention
Steering Committee: 2022

Mayor's Juneau Visitor Industry Task
Force member: 2019 to 2021

Juneau Blueprint Downtown Steering
Committee member: 2018-2019

State Northern Opportunity Strategy
Committee member: 2016-2019

Marine Transportation Advisory Board
Committee member: 2003-2004

Governor's Transition Team
Transportation Chair: 2002

Pro bono work for the Glory Hall

Award

National Association of Development
Organizations 2021 Impact Award for the
Southeast Alaska 2025 CEDS

Relevant Experience

Southeast Alaska Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2025

Rain Coast Data developed the 2025 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Southeast Alaska on behalf of Southeast Conference. The planning process integrated economic analysis, stakeholder input, priority objective development, resilience, and an evaluation framework. The 2025 plan was called one of the best CEDS in the country by the United States by the US Economic Development Administration, and received a national award from NADO. Report is updated annually to include Southeast Alaska by the Numbers, and regional Business Climate Survey results.

Skagway Alaska Creative Space Facility Feasibility Analysis, 2022

Rain Coast Data developed a 4-part feasibility analysis. In Part I: Potential Use Assessment, executive interviews were conducted with 30 Skagway artists and businesses to help understand how potential user groups or tenants might use a facility that combines elements of modern creative spaces with support for start-ups. In Part II: Skagway Alaska Creative Space Community Survey, an in-depth survey of 158 residents was developed to measure demand for a new creative space facility. Part III: Feasibility and Return-on-Investment Analysis drills down into long-term economic considerations and construction, operations and maintenance costs, and potential revenue. The Part IV: Creative Facility Dynamic Economic Modeling Tool is a dynamic Return on Investment (ROI) excel-based deliverable, so Skagway Development Corporation can experiment with inputting different variables to understand how building size and financing models could impact long-term ROI outcomes.

Southeast Regional Tribal Housing Survey Analysis and Plan

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 used to develop unique and comprehensive long-term housing plans for each community.

Alaska Health Care Workforce Analysis, 2022

The Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) commissioned Rain Coast Data, a Juneau-based research and consulting firm, to conduct a health care workforce statistical analysis, released in November 2021. The report includes data and analysis of Alaska health care jobs, earnings, and wages; growth projections; and workforce demographics.

Other Recent Projects

- Wrangell Marine Service Center 30-Year Cost-Benefit Analysis 2022
- Benefit-Cost Analysis of the Saxman Harbor Infrastructure Project, 2022
- Economic Analysis of Proposed City and Borough of Juneau City Hall, 2022
- Return-on-Investment Analysis of a New Valdez Fuel Dock, 2021
- The Inter-Island Ferry Authority by the Numbers
- Freight in Wrangell Analysis, 2022
- Benefit-Cost Analysis of City of Hoonah Marine Industrial Center Cargo Dock
- Economic Impact Summary of COVID-19 on the City of Ketchikan, 2022

