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## **CORDOVA CHAMBER RECIVES FUNDING FROM HURTIGRUTEN FOUNDATION TO LAUNCH REGENERATIVE IMPACT STUDIO**

**(CORDOVA, AK) June 12, 2023:** Joining a total of 14 projects in 9 countries, Cordova Chamber of Commerce was granted funds by [Hurtigruten Foundation](#), a non-profit organization committed to supporting sustainable exploration and research. The charitable arm of [Hurtigruten Group](#) – the undisputed global leader in sustainable, adventure travel – Hurtigruten Foundation seeks to fight climate change, strengthen local communities, and stop unsustainable mass tourism.

“We’re excited to work with Regenerative Tourism experts from Hawai’i to launch this new program, which will be the first of its kind in Alaska, and will include cultural and environmental training and mentorship as well as business plan and tour offering development. Not only will this increase capacity for fun, meaningful experiences in Cordova; it also has the ability to provide steady funding mechanisms for important work that protects the local ecosystem and enhances quality of life for residents,” said Cathy Renfeldt, executive director of Cordova Chamber of Commerce. The new funds will be allocated towards a six-week Regenerative Tourism Impact Studio providing direct support to local entrepreneurs, organizations, and community groups to develop visitor opportunities that promote cultural revitalization, environmental restoration, hyper-local spending, and grow regenerative industries.

In its quest to revolutionize the travel industry’s approach to sustainability, Hurtigruten Group established its Foundation in 2015. Since, the Foundation has supported more than 80 projects in 18 countries, granting over half a million dollars to various initiatives that protect and preserve unique natural environments and cultural heritage. Former supported projects include safeguarding nesting turtles in the Cape Verde islands, protecting coral reefs in Panama, and researching plastic ingestion by migrant birds on Alaska’s Copper River Delta.

“This year, we received a record number of grant applications, and ultimately selected 14 projects that will protect endangered species, battle marine litter, and support local communities in the areas Hurtigruten Group operates. We are honored to work with organizations at the forefront of protecting our planet,” said Henrik A. Lund, Managing Director of Hurtigruten Foundation.

To learn more about Cordova Chamber of Commerce, visit [cordovachamber.com](http://cordovachamber.com).

To learn more, visit Hurtigruten Foundation’s [website](#).

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### **About Cordova Chamber of Commerce**

*The Cordova Chamber of Commerce is governed by a 14-member board of directors and is comprised of a diverse group of business members. In addition to operating the Cordova Visitor Center, the Chamber’s work is divided into four main program areas: quality of life enhancement, economic development, destination marketing, and business support.*

### **About Hurtigruten Foundation**

*Hurtigruten Foundation provides grants and scientific support to projects across the globe. From local community initiatives to conservation and research programs, the Foundation is proud to positively impact the regions Hurtigruten explores. Since 2015, they have supported more than 80 projects in 18 countries.*