

David Robert Boxley is an esteemed Tsimshian artist from Metlakatla, Alaska. Born on July 27, 1981, David Robert is the eldest son of the renowned carver and culture bearer, David Albert Boxley.

From a very young age David Robert was passionate and proud of his culture. David Robert began carving under the instruction of his father at six years old, and around this same time he also began to travel around the United States to assist his father in raising totem poles and teaching people about Tsimshian culture.

As an adult, he has continued to express the love and respect he has for Tsimshian culture through his art, cultural performance, teaching, and focus on language revitalization. David Robert's elegant design style is drawn from a strong tradition of Tsimshian carving and design, and has been heavily influenced by the teachings of his father and the old masters.

David Robert has carved over 25 totem poles, making him one of the most prolific totem carvers of his generation. From 2009-2011, David Robert carved alongside famed Haida artist Robert Davidson, and with his guidance, David Robert has honed his craft to compare with the very best in Northwest Coast art.

In addition to his art, every year David Robert and his father lead their dance group, the Git-Hoan Dancers, in performances around North America and Europe. He has taught Northwest Coast Art in his hometown of Metlakatla, as well as in Anchorage, Juneau, Ketchikan, Klawock, Haines, Hoonah, and Seattle.

David Robert is well respected for his artistic abilities, and for being one of the most prominent Native leaders of his generation. In 1982, David Robert's father was the first man to hold a potlatch in his village of Metlakatla in modern times. At twenty years of age, David Robert followed in his father's footsteps by being the first of his generation to hold his own potlatch and has hosted many more since with his clan, the Laxgibuu.

In 2015, David Robert moved home to Metlakatla to study and learn Sm'alg̱ax, which is a critically endangered language, with less than 70 speakers in the world. He was fortunate enough to apprentice under the late fluent speaker, Mrs. Sarah Boot and fluent speaker, Theresa Lowther and has become an advanced learner of the language.

David was elected to the Council of the Metlakatla Indian Community in 2021.