



MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education & Early Development
Date: July 28, 2021

Thru: Commissioner Michael Johnson
Telephone: (907) 465-2911

From: Patience Frederiksen
Division Director
Subject: Agenda Item: 5B
Division of Libraries, Archives and
Museums Updates

Staffing:

- **Jennifer Quinto** started as Education Associate II in the State Museum as of May 6.
- **Lisa Teas-Conway**, Museum Protection and Visitor Protection Assistant at the Sheldon Jackson Museum (SJM), resigned as of June 1.
- **Lisa Golisek-Nankervis**, Division Operations Manager, retired on June 30.
- **Jack Kovalski**, OWL Librarian, resigned his position effective July 23.

Division News:

May 8 – October 9 *The Spirit Wraps Around You: Northern Northwest Coast Native Textiles*
Organized by the State Museum, this exhibit traces the history of the sacred textiles known today as



“Ravens Tail” and “Chilkat” robes. Two dozen robes will carry the story of Native weaving among the Tsimshian, Haida, and Tlingit of Alaska and British Columbia, representing both ancient and modern ceremonial robes made by Alaska Natives and First Nations weavers.

Image of Chilkat robe on grey background

Woven from the plush white fur of mountain goats, these robes were seen by early Euro-American visitors to the northern Northwest Coast when they contacted First Nations and Alaska Native people. When used

during sacred ceremonies, dancers wear them to display the history and crests of their clans. The complexity of the work requires a lifelong commitment, and today, only a few weavers carry these unique traditions into the 21st century.

A curatorial team of internationally renowned weavers worked with the State Museum to develop this exhibit, including Evelyn Vanderhoop (Haida); Delores Churchill (Haida); Marie Oldfield (Tsimshian); and Lani Hotch (Tlingit). Local weavers also contributed to the curatorial team: Kay Parker; Marcia Stier; Lily Hope (Tlingit); and Janice Criswell (Haida).

Opening weekend events included: a pre-tour of the exhibit; the virtual dedication; youth art activities; and two public lectures. Attendance at these events totaled 121, with another 109 people touring the actual exhibit. These are healthy numbers as the Division emerges from COVID limitations. The livestream of the dedication and the Spirit Wraps Around You (SWAY) website racked up another 237 views on the opening weekend of the exhibit.



Picture of Museum staff mounting a Ravens Tail robe on loan from Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto on backing to stabilize it for display.



May 8 – Kay Parker taught children how to weave around yogurt cups. The event was held on the loading dock of the Andrew P. Kashevaroff (APK) Building on a cool, rainy morning to ensure social distancing .

Picture of young girl in mask, coat and hat showing the weaving she did at the workshop.

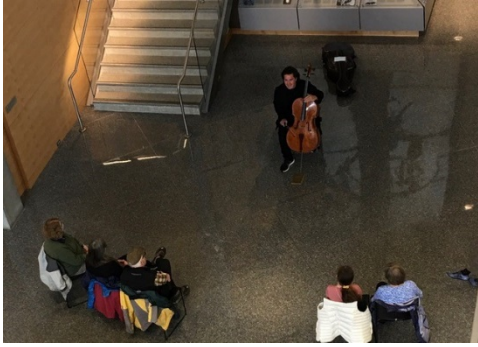
May 19 – The State Library contracts with the Utah State Library to provide talking book service to Alaskans with print disabilities. Recently, the Utah State Library began recording issues of the *Alaska Senior Voice Magazine* as a service to these patrons. Recording local magazine and books is a time-consuming service for Utah to provide, but is quite valuable to Alaska readers.

May 24 – Ten LAM staff provided a successful teacher in-service to more than 50 middle school teachers. The teachers enjoyed a tour of *The Spirit Wraps Around You* with Steve Hendrikson, weaver Della Cheney’s cultural perspective on weaving, Shgen George and Nancy Eddy’s presentation on weaving spinning wool and Chilkat designs into middle school curriculum, and Lani Hotch’s video on her work of being a weaver. Teachers learned about online resources available from LAM, including Chronicling America, Alaska’s Digital Archives, the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED), Live Homework Help, and online exhibits.

The teachers had lots of ideas about integrating LAM content into their lessons, from a math teacher using advertisements in older newspapers to compare prices, using historic portraits and photos to better understand historical figures and contexts, and searching for racist articles in historic newspapers to explore how perceptions have changed over time.

May through September – Jackie Fernandez-Hamberg has coordinated another busy and exciting Summer Native Artist Residency Program at SJM. This summer’s six public programs include:

- Danielle Stickman, Koyukon and Dena’ina Athabascan beader, fish skin sewer, and mixed media artist, was in residency May 15-30 and presented a talk on *Dena’ina Dreams: Science, Art, Culture & Mindfulness* on May 30.
- Laine Rinehart, Tlingit Ravenstail and Chilkat weaver, was in residency June 4-20 and did a talk on: *Time Warp: An Exploration of Time in Chilkat Weaving* on June 20. She taught a class on *Ravenstail Pendant-Making* six times during June.
- Robert Hoffmann, Tlingit carver and painter, was in residency June 24 - July 10 and did a talk on *Where We Meet: How Cultural and Historical Context Helps Us Appreciate Objects More Fully* on July 3. He taught a class on *Block Print Making* five times during June.
- Rico Worl, Tlingit and Athabascan computer-aided designer and sculptor, was in residency July 11-26 and did a talk on *Forming Lines: From Star Wars to Formline* on July 24. She taught a class *Adobe for Formline* nine times in July.
- Neva Mathias, Cup’ik doll, grass basket, and dance fan maker, was in residency July 28 - August 12, with a talk on *Artist Residency Recap* followed by a class on *Grass Basket Making* offered five times in July and August.
- Chloe French, Tlingit textile artist, Chilkat Weaver and beader, will be in residency August 21 - September 5, with a talk *Growing Tradition: Working Traditionally and Using Tradition in New Ways*. She will teach a class on *Applique Octopus Bag Making* six times in August and September.



May 29 - Zuill Bailey, new director of Juneau Jazz and Classics, plays an impromptu cello concert with his commentary between each piece at APK. This event was advertised on social media just a few hours before and 70 people showed up.

Cellist plays before audience in atrium of Kashevaroff Building.

June – August - Miranda Worl, a First Alaskans Institute Intern assigned to the State Museum, is a Masters of Arts (MA) student at Brown University and has previously interned for Sealaska Heritage Institute. Her capstone project will be a code of ethics review, with an emphasis on addressing the intellectual property rights of Indigenous peoples.

CHILKAT TASSELS

A Youth Activity for ages 8-18 with Lily Hope



Tassels on Expanded Lightning Tunic by Kay Field Parker, ASM 2015-24-3. Photo by Brian Wallace.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

PICK A HALF-HOUR SESSION: 2:00-2:30, 2:30-3:00, 3:00-3:30, OR 3:30-4:00

Make a Chilkat tassel keychain or zipper pull with Lily Hope.

Lily is an artist, teacher, and a community facilitator. She intertwines Indigenous techniques and spiritual teachings with traditionally sturdy artist communities, supporting and enthusing Chilkat and Ravenstail weavers internationally.

This workshop is in-person at the APK and is recommended for ages 8 and up. Request a spot by filling out the [participation form](#). Advance signups will be given priority but drop-ins may be accommodated as space allows.

This program is partially funded by the citizens of the City and Borough of Juneau through sales tax revenues and is sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum.

lam.alaska.gov/youthart



BEADING WORKSHOP

A Youth Activity for ages 8-18
with Jill Kaasteen Meserve & Davina (Cole) Drones



SATURDAY, JUNE 26
10:00 AM - NOON

Bead a design inspired by Ravenstail robes and baskets with bead artists Jill and Davina. Jill Kaasteen Meserve is of the Chookaneidí (Eagle-Bear clan) from Xáay Hit (Yellow

Cedar House). She grew up in Hoonah and now resides in Juneau where she is a dedicated Tlingit language learner and artist. Jill learned how to bead from her aunts, during Tlingit language and culture classes in Hoonah. Her work can be found on her Instagram page @jill.kaasteen and on Facebook at Jill Kaasteen. Davina (Cole) Drones (Tlingit) is Yanyedí of the T'aaku Kwáan. She is an artist who works with fibers, skins, and other regalias to connect with her culture.

This workshop is in-person at the APK and is recommended for ages 8 and up. Space is limited. Request a spot by filling out the [participation form](#).

Photo: Detail of "tattoo" design on Raven's Tail Robe by Delores Churchill (Haida). On loan from the collection of Nancy Kovalic.

This program is partially funded by the citizens of the City and Borough of Juneau through sales tax revenues and is sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum.

lam.alaska.gov/youthart



Two marketing postcards describing youth art activities in which youth could create Chilkat tassels with artist Lily Hope or attend a beading workshop with Jill Kaasteen Meserve and Davina Drones.



Image from the exhibition, *The Spirit Wraps Around You*. Photograph by Brian Wallace.

July 9 - The State Library, Archives and Museums partnered with KTOO to film public programs at the APK Building. KTOO added five new shows to *At the APK* recently, based on State Museum exhibits held in the building. The series is posted on YouTube as *At the APK*.

[Illustrating Alaska with Sarah Asper-Smith and Jim Fowler](#) – An interview with Sarah and Jim about illustrating children’s books about Alaska.

[The Spirit Wraps Around You dedication](#) – Opening event for the SWAY exhibit livestreamed and filmed 100% remotely using robot cameras in the atrium and the galleries.

[Lani Hotch on Klukwan’s Legacy of Weaving](#) – Co-curator Lani attended the opening of SWAY and gave a great presentation on the history of weaving in her community.

[A History of Native Textiles on the Northern Northwest Coast](#) – Curator of Collections Steve Henrikson shared a big picture look at the history of Chilkat and Ravenstail weaving that gives good context for SWAY.

[Tour of The Spirit Wraps Around You](#) – Tour the exhibit with Steve Henrikson. Hear stories about individual robes and learn about the concepts behind the exhibit.



June 30 - Marsha Hotch Guneiwt'I demonstrated how to prepare mountain goat wool and Chilkat weaving techniques in the galleries featuring the SWAY exhibit at the State Museum.

Picture of Marsha Hotch Guneiwt'I with large bag of mountain goat wool.



July 8 – The State Museum’s traveling exhibit *Alaska’s Suffrage Star* made its way to the Clausen Museum in Petersburg, as was noted in an article on the KFSK web page. The exhibit, curated by Anjuli Grantham, honors the hard work of suffragettes from Alaska to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment so that women would be eligible to vote.

Picture of female mannequin in clothing from 1920s that was part of an exhibit in Petersburg.



July 16 – Addison Field, Chief Curator of the State Museums, hangs protective sheets over museum objects on the walls of the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Contractors are replacing the roof at the museum in Sitka the last two weeks of July.

Picture of chief curator on a lift hanging protective sheets over museum objects.

July 26 – LAM staff announced that Alaska libraries, archives and museums could start applying for American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act grants. A total of \$2.1 million is available to assist Alaska’s collecting institutions to respond to and recover from COVID-19. The Division is offering two types of grants:

- The Easy ARP Act grants are for making purchases of supplies and equipment needed to assist with maintaining sanitary facilities, encouraging social distancing and delivering programming. Easy ARP Act grants are for \$3,500; libraries are eligible to receive an additional \$2,500 to purchase materials for circulation.
- ARP Act Project grants are for larger programs or activities that help an institution meet needs within the community that have surfaced due to COVID-19. Project grants of up to \$40,000 are available for individual institutions; projects of regional or statewide reach are eligible for additional funding.



July 27 - Ellen Carrlee and her summer interns, Adrienne and Alyssa, spent a week re-mounting and re-hanging a Tlingit cedar bark mat, 2 Yup'ik grass mats, and 1 Alutiiq mat. Jackie Manning and Aaron Elmore assisted this work by mounting systems for these fragile objects.

Picture of cedar bark mat hung on backing.