



MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education & Early Development

Date: June 4, 2025

Thru: Deena M. Bishop, Ed. D., Commissioner

Telephone: (907) 465-8718

From: Amy Phillips-Chan, Ph.D., Director
Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums

Subject: 11B Division of
Libraries, Archives & Museums
Standing Report

ALASKA STATE
LIBRARIES
ARCHIVES
& MUSEUMS

DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

The Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums (LAM) provides and coordinates library services in Alaska, preserves government records, and collects, cares for, and exhibits the cultural and natural heritage of our state. The Division has five main budget components: Library Operations, Archives, Museum Operations, Online with Libraries, and Andrew P. Kashevaroff Facilities Maintenance. The Division supports approx. 50 full-time team members who work at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka.



Alaskan families listen to Miranda Kaagwéil Rose Worl read her book *How Devil's Club Came to Be* in the Alaska State Library reading room during a youth activity workshop organized by the Children's Exploration Center in March 2025.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS



Slinkies and the Window Frame opened at the Alaska State Museum on February 7. The solo artist exhibition by **Tamara Wilson** of Fairbanks featured studio work and a site-specific installation created out of a variety of ingredients including remnant tile, truck bed liner, imitation bubble gum, oak, felt, and expanding foam. The exhibit ran through April 12, 2025.



Iditarod and the 1925 Serum Run. The Alaska State Library Historical Collections created an exhibit on the Iditarod and the 1925 Serum Run to Nome featuring original materials including color slides from the early Iditarod and the 1925 certificate issued to Serum Run musher Mike Nicolai. The exhibit opened in March and is on display in the Alaska State Library Reading Room.



50 Years of Limited Entry. Alaska State Museum **Grant-in-Aid** recipient **Kodiak Maritime Museum** used their GIA award to collect oral histories for the exhibit *50 Years of Limited Entry: The Closing of Alaska's Salmon Commons*. The exhibit opened at the Kodiak History Museum in January 2025 with a traveling version installed in March at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau.



In a Time of Change: Boreal Forest Stories opened at the Alaska State Museum on May 2. *Boreal Forest Stories* is a cross-disciplinary, collaborative project examining change in the boreal forest. For over a year and a half, 44 creators, including artists, writers, environmental educators, and humanities scholars, exchanged knowledge, explored narratives, and created visual art about the boreal forest. The exhibit will be on display through October 11, 2025.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH



February 7: Artist **Tamara Wilson** gave a **public talk** in the APK lecture hall to accompany the opening of her exhibit *Slinkies and the Window Frame* at the Alaska State Museum. The talk was recorded by KTOO and is available to watch at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQuW_jFmc28

FREE YOUTH ACTIVITY FOR STUDENTS AGES 10-19

Forever Plants

Saturday, April 5, 10:30 am -12:30 pm, Alaska State Museum

Another opportunity to join Fairbanks multimedia artist Tamara Wilson and bring your Forever Plant to life. From cactus to monstera: with the use of felt fabric, sewing, a little hot glue, a repurposed container, and your imagination, if you can cut it out we can grow your Forever Plant.

Sign up at lam.alaska.gov/youthart

395 WHITTIER ST • 907-465-4837



February 8 and April 5: Special exhibit artist **Tamara Wilson** led two **youth activities** for students titled *Forever Plants*. Young artists used felt fabric, thread, hot glue, and repurposed containers to make their own forever plants to take home.



February 14: The Alaska State Museum hosted a **free screening** of the **short film** *The River That Untangles One's Mind* at the APK. Filmmakers participated in a Q+A with the packed audience following the screening. The presentation was part of the Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Program, which advances public awareness of Alaska's significant maritime resources, collections, and traditional knowledge and skills.



February 19: Artist **Lou Logan** has been partnering with museum exhibit team members **Jackie Manning** and **Aaron Elmore** to steam bend ribs for a qayaq that Logan is building inside the gallery of the Alaska State Museum.



February 28: The Division welcomed homeschool students and their families to a **Homeschool Day** at the APK. Students “excavated” dinosaur skeletons from the tundra, helped “clean up” Alaskan waters, and measured the distance the Mendenhall Glacier has retreated over the years.



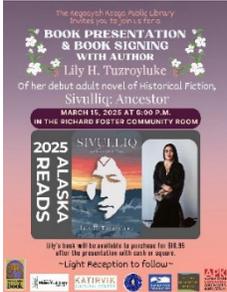
March 1: The Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums (**FoSLAM**) held their **Annual Membership Meeting** at the APK. After the business meeting, members looked over circulating STEAM kits and a bentwood chest by David Boxley made available with financial support from FoSLAM.



March 7: The Alaska State Museum organized a **free concert** on the Kimball Organ in the State Office Building with guest organist **Jonas Nordwall** followed by a **public lecture** at the APK with museum conservator **Ellen Carrlee** about the history of Juneau's theater organ.



March 12: Artist **Lou Logan** gave a **public talk** at the Sheldon Jackson Museum titled “Building the Inupiaq Qayaq.” Logan traveled to the Sheldon Jackson Museum through an Access to Collections Grant awarded to him by Museums Alaska. His research visit provided him with an opportunity to take measurements and photographs of historic qayaqs, consult object records, and find inspiration for his own work. The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum supported his public talk as part of the Share Your Culture/ Share Your Research Series.



March 15: The Alaska State Library is proud to be a supporter of **Alaska Center for the Book**. With financial support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Grants-to-States award, the Alaska Center for the Book purchases copies of an Alaskan adult book by an Alaskan author and distributes copies to public libraries across the state. This year, the **Kegoayah Kozga Public Library** in Nome offered a special presentation by 2025 author Lily H. Tuzrolyuke and her new book *Sivulliq: Ancestor*.



March 22: The Children’s Exploration Center offered an interactive **youth workshop** titled *Exploring Devil’s Club*. Young participants were able to hear author **Miranda Kaagwéil Rose Worl** read her book *How Devil’s Club Came to Be* in the Alaska State Library reading room, participated in a creative writing exercise, and made observational drawings with a variety of watercolor techniques led by CEC staff in the classroom.



April 2: Artist **Kaalootwurioo, Adrienne Fleek** (Tlingit) offered a free **beaded earrings tutorial** via Zoom covering materials needed to bead a pair of earrings and a demonstration on how to use needle and thread to bead around a “cabochon” or piece of abalone. She then demonstrated how to do the edge work when finishing a pair of earrings. The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum supported this presentation through the Share Your Culture/Share Your Research Series.



April 10: **Jan Steinbright** offered a **public talk** titled “The Forgotten Canoe” at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. The presentation shared the story of a canoe carved at the Cultural Center in Sitka several decades ago and what became of it. The talk was supported by the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum as part of the Share Your Culture/ Share Your Research Series.



April 16-17: The Alaska State Library offered an **OWL Virtual Technology Workshop** with diverse presentations and hands-on tutorials, from the OWL Zoom program and Niche Academy, to Counting Opinions and Digitization Projects. Over 30 Alaska library staff participated in the two-day workshop with recorded presentations made available online



April 30: Ursula Hudson (Tlingit) offered a **public presentation** via Zoom titled “Elevating Female-Gendered Art Practices for Collective Prosperity.” This was the final event in the 2025 Share Your Culture/Share Your Research presentation series supported by the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



May 2: *In a Time of Change* director **Mary Beth Leigh**, artist and poet **Susan Campbell**, and artist **Jennifer Moss** offered a free **public lecture** at the APK on the science and artistry behind the special exhibit *Boreal Forest Stories* now on view at the Alaska State Museum.

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM CLASS VISITS



Fourth Grade students from Xóots Elementary in Sitka explore cultural heritage items from the Alutiiq and Unanga̋ peoples. March 2025.



High School students from Kodiak visited the Sheldon Jackson Museum during a trip to Sitka to tour Outer Coast College. Students sketched objects and practiced Formline design in the museum gallery. April 2025.

DIVISION TEAM BUILDING



February: Alaska State Library Head of Information Services and Historical Collections **Freya Anderson** offered a presentation on the history of the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) and ideas for how the website can be used by state employees for the February 2025 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



March: LAM leadership including **Amy Phillips-Chan**, **Clint Farr**, **Kaye Roldan**, **Addison Field**, **Freya Anderson**, **Valarie Kingsland**, and **Chris Hieb** provided updates from across the division for the March 2025 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



InDEED: Children’s Exploration Center team members **Kaye Roldan** and **Kimberly Naylor** gave a presentation on educational programs and upcoming plans for the Children’s Exploration Center during the March 2025 InDEED meeting for all department staff.



Sheldon Jackson Museum: Division Director **Amy Phillips-Chan** traveled to Sitka March 19-20 to meet with staff, review facilities, and learn about the exciting range of educational programs happening at the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



April: Alaska State Library Documents Librarian **Katie Fearer** offered a presentation on website archaeology for the April 2025 LAM All-Staff Meeting. The presentation included a tutorial on using the Wayback Machine and Archive-it to locate past online resources. A highlight was locating home pages from the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums from the 1990s.

DIVISION TEAM AWARDS



U.S. Government Publishing Office presented the Alaska State Library with an award in recognition for 125 years as a Federal Depository Library. The Government Publishing Office has also designated the Alaska State Library as a prestigious Preservation Steward. Pictured here is Alaska State Library Continuing Resources Librarian / Federal Depository Coordinator **Daniel Cornwall** with the award.

FACILITIES



Sheldon Jackson Museum: The Sheldon Jackson Museum has public entrance **ADA Doors** for the first time in the history of the museum. Building Maintenance Specialist **Mark Davis** managed the installation of the actuators that are now fully functioning and ready to welcome summer cruise ship visitors to Sitka.



Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building: The APK received its annual strip and wax of the Terrazzo floors in preparation for the upcoming busy tourist season.