



# LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

To: Members of the State Board of Education & Early Development  
From: Amy Phillips-Chan, Ph.D., Director  
Date: June 4, 2026  
Item: 13B

## Standing General Report

The Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums (LAM) provides library services for Alaska, manages and 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 approximately 50 full-time team members who work at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka.



Alaska State Museum staff pose with fashion designer Dorothy Grant (center) during the exhibit opening on May 1 of *Dorothy Grant Retrospect: Raven Comes Full Circle*.

## TEAM TRANSITIONS

**Jon Henley** transitioned from the position of Special Collections Librarian with the Alaska State Library to the Electronic Records Archivist with the Alaska State Archives in February 2026.

**Barbara Ebona** joined the LAM team as the Administrative Assistant 2 in March 2026.

**Ginny Jacobs** retired as a Librarian 1 after 15 years of service with the Alaska State Library in March 2026.

**Nanette Taboada** retired as a Library Assistant 2 after 18 years of service with the Alaska State Library in April 2026.



Staff retirement party for Library Assistant Nanette Taboada after 18 years of service.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS



***Spirit of Independence: Kent Bicentennial Portfolio***, part of the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial celebration, features work from 12 American artists who were asked to create pieces that answered the question: "What does independence mean to you?" The thought-provoking display of prints opened at the Alaska State Museum in February and will be on view through 2026 in recognition of America 250.



***Sketching in the Museum: End of Season Display*** opened in the Atrium Mezzanine at the APK on April 20. The exhibit features sketches made by community members during the Sketching in the Museum series sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums from November 2025 to April 2026. The display will be on view to the public through June 7, 2026.



***Dorothy Grant Retrospect: Raven Comes Full Circle*** opened at the Alaska State Museum on May 1. The exhibit showcases Dorothy Grant's 40-year career in haute couture, from traditional regalia to contemporary fashion, and her critical role in bringing Indigenous fashion to a world stage. The exhibit was organized by the Haida Gwaii Museum and curated by Nika Collison. FoSLAM sponsored the loan of "Raven Takes the World" Haida wedding dress, headdress, and "Raven's Beak" shoes, courtesy of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. *Raven Comes Full Circle* will be on view through October 17, 2026. *Photo by Brian Wallace.*

## CHILDREN'S EXPLORATION CENTER



**March 16:** The Children's Exploration Center partnered with the Alaska State Museum for the **Curiosity Unleashed: A Community STEAM Event for K-6 Families** hosted by the Juneau STEAM Coalition. The team shared objects, photographs, videos, and materials related to Alaskan basketry and weaving. Youth participants were invited to explore objects and practice the over-and-under weaving technique with yarn on table looms.



**March 21:** The Children's Exploration Center offered a **storytelling workshop** in partnership with **Kylie Ferguson** of **Perseverance Theater**. Youth participants practiced warm up exercises, learned about elements of a story, made a set of story cubes illustrating characters, objects, and settings, and collaborated on creating and acting out their stories.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH



**Blue Star Museums:** The Alaska State Museum and Sheldon Jackson Museum renewed participation in **Blue Star Museums**, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of War and museums across America. Blue Star Museums offers free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve. In 2025, the Alaska State Museum welcomed 483 visitors, and the Sheldon Jackson Museum welcomed 94 visitors under the Blue Star Museums program.



**February 27:** Artist **Jennifer Younger Designs** (Tlingit) shared her "Milan Jewelry Week 2025 Experience" as a public presentation for the 2026 Share Your Culture/ Share Your Research winter presentation series sponsored by the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



**March 9:** The Alaska State Library and Alaska State Archives welcomed the 2026 finalists in **Alaska Poetry Out Loud** with hands-on research of primary source materials and online resources related to Alaska.



**March 11:** The Sheldon Jackson Museum offered a week of special **Iditarod-themed activities** including a dog sled search-and-find for young visitors to the museum.



**March 13:** Artist **Ruth Hallows** (Tsimshian, Scottish) gave a public presentation “Coming Home Through Ceremonial Weaving” about the Chilkat dancing robe, *Nüüm Batsda Da Gyemsax*, and how the dance robe is fulfilling its name: *Carry Us Home*. The talk was part of the 2026 Share Your Culture/ Share Your Research winter presentation series sponsored by the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



**March 14:** The Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums (**FoSLAM**) partnered with LAM to hold their **2026 Annual Meeting** at the APK followed by a public concert featuring Con Brio in the atrium.



**April 10:** Artist **Laine Rinehart** (Tlingit/Teeyhítan/ Kagwaantaan/ Taos Pueblo) spoke on “Jaanwu a Reclamation of Process” and shared technical aspects of mountain goat processing through photographs – from the mountainside to the loom – and stories from mentors. The talk was part of the 2026 Share Your Culture/ Share Your Research winter series sponsored by the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



**April 24:** The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum (**FoSJM**) partnered with LAM to hold their **2026 Annual Meeting** at the Sheldon Jackson Museum with a special keynote by Dr. Michael Livingston titled “Benny Benson vs. the KKK: Alaska’s 7th Grade Super Hero.”



**May 2:** Fashion designer **Dorothy Grant** (Haida) gave a public presentation on the 17-year journey to the publication of her book *Dorothy Grant: An Endless Thread* in the APK Lecture Hall. The talk coincided with the opening of the artist’s special exhibit: *Dorothy Grant Retrospect: Raven Comes Full Circle* at the Alaska State Museum.



**May 2:** **Selina Alexander** (Koyukon Athabascan) began her three-week artist residency at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Selina is a beader and skin sewer who also practices caribou tufting and porcupine quillwork. She will be offering a caribou tufting class and giving an artist talk later this month.

## COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT



**Governor Records:** Alaska State Archivist **Karen Gray** has been reviewing boxes, indexing file folders, identifying confidential records, and working with archives staff to create catalogue records for the Governor’s Executive Office for Subject Files, Schedules, Press Records, Speeches, and Special Liaison and Chief of Staff Records. These records are being made available to researchers, as well as for use in exhibits, programs, and educational activities related to the Alaska State Governors.



**Museum Object Photography:** Alaska State Museum Visitor Services Assistant **Brian Wallace** has been taking photographs of hands-on collection objects in the Alaska State Museum. Images of objects will be made available online for educators to request during classroom visits to the museum.

## DIVISION TEAM BUILDING

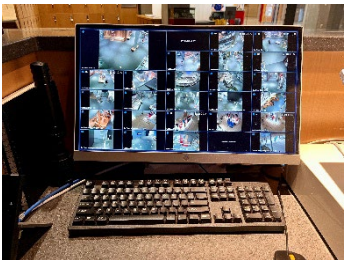


**January:** LAM Director **Amy Phillips-Chan** provided an intro to legislative session for the January 2026 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



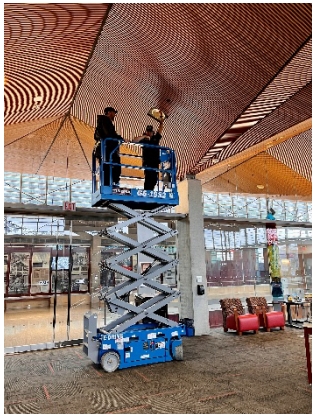
**February:** Operations Manager **Clint Farr**, with assistance from Building Maintenance Specialist **Mark Davis**, offered a presentation on maintenance activities at the Sheldon Jackson Museum and Stratton Building for the February 2026 LAM All-Staff Meeting.

## FACILITIES



**CCTV Cameras:** The server for the CCTV (closed circuit television) cameras at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building failed in December 2025. DEED staff stepped in to assist and identified a surplus server in Anchorage that staff helped to pick up and transport to air cargo for delivery to Juneau. Installation of the server and new software

in February 2026 brought the 85 security cameras back online at the APK and continued the critical protection for our visitors and collections.



**Lights:** The Alaska State Library Reading Room opened to the public in 2016 with LED ceiling lights that have burned bright. Several of the recessed lights have now burnt out and are a challenge to replace due to discontinued parts. Here, our partners with the Division of Facilities Services are strategizing on how to disengage the wiring and retrofit alternate components.