



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** State Board of Education & Early Development

**Date:** February 10, 2026

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

**Telephone:** (907) 465-8718

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

**Subject:** 21B 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.

## TEAM TRANSITIONS

**Demaris Oxman** joined the LAM team as the Museum Services Assistant at the Sheldon Jackson Museum in October 2025.

**Gina Morris** transitioned within LAM from the position of Administrative Assistant 2 to Records Analyst 1 with the Alaska State Archives in December 2025.



**Snowpocalypse 2025:** Juneau experienced a significant snow event in December 2025. LAM staff and partners with the Division of Facilities Services used a diversity of equipment to move snow and help keep the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building open to the public.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS



***Golga Oscar: Continuing My Grandma's Legacy*** was on special exhibit at the Alaska State Museum from November 7, 2025, to January 10, 2026. The exhibit featured self-portraits of the artist wearing parkas, mukluks, and masks from the museum's collection, Yup'ik headdresses and parkas made by the artist, and ledger drawings.



***Alaska Positive*** opened at the Alaska State Museum on December 5, 2025. Now in its 55th year, *Alaska Positive* is a statewide juried photographic exhibition organized and toured by the Alaska State Museum. Its purpose is to encourage the practice of photography as an art form in

Alaska. The exhibit will run through March 2026 and then travel to museums around the state.



***embrace. reflect. release.***, a new exhibition by mixed media sculptor and performance artist Myesha Callahan Freet, opened at the Alaska State Museum on February 6, 2026. *embrace. reflect. release.* features time-based performance, mixed media sculptures, and visual art elements. The exhibit runs through April 4, 2026.



***The Alaska Railroad:*** The Alaska State Archives and Alaska State Library Historical Collections partnered to develop an exhibit featuring original photographs, journals, and documents on the history of the Alaska Railroad. The exhibition is currently on view in the Alaska State Library Reading Room at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building.

## MUSEUM REACCREDITATION



**November:** The **Alaska State Museums** received official 10-year **reaccreditation** from the **American Alliance of Museums (AAM)**. For more than 50 years, the Accreditation Program has been recognized as the gold standard of museum excellence. With its mix of self-assessment, peer review, and public recognition, AAM Accreditation helps to ensure the integrity and accessibility of museum collections, reinforce the education and public service roles of museums and promote good governance practices and ethical behavior. Together, the Alaska State Museum (Juneau) and Sheldon Jackson Museum (Sitka) represent 2 of only 7 nationally accredited museums in the state.

## LAM GRANTS



**Alaska Online with Libraries (OWL) Grants:** 52 Alaska public libraries received FY26 OWL Internet Cost Assistance Grants for a total of **\$232,000** of support from the Division. These grant funds assist Alaska public libraries in providing free high-speed internet access to their patrons.

## CHILDREN'S EXPLORATION CENTER



**October 4:** The Children's Exploration Center offered a **poetry and shadow puppetry workshop** with **Maité Agopian**, and **Daryl Farmer**. Youth participants composed poems inspired by artwork in the exhibition *In a Time of Change: Boreal Forest Stories* and made puppetry silhouettes to illustrate and act out their poetry.



**December 20:** The Children's Exploration Center partnered with the Alaska State Archives to offer an **archival box workshop** where youth participants created a custom box from archival materials and learned about the 10 main agents of deterioration.



**January:** Structural exhibit components for the Children's Exploration Center have arrived at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH



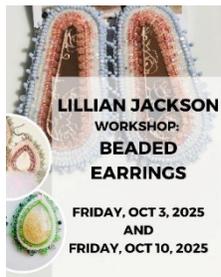
**September 2025 – April 2026:** Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums has partnered with the Friends of the State Libraries, Archives and Museums to host a bimonthly “Sketching at the Museum” with guest artists leading participants in drawing techniques and activities.



**September 2 - 19:** Sheldon Jackson Museum Artist-in-Residence **Danielle Larsen** (Koyukon Athabascan, Unangâ, Inupiaq) gave two talks in-person and online titled “Finding Beauty in Small Things” and “From the SJM Collection.” Larsen also led an acrylic painting still life class at the museum and spent time with residents at the Sitka Pioneer Home.



**September 5:** Writer **Corinna Cook** gave a public presentation called “Human Imagination Beneath the Boreal Forest” in the APK Lecture Hall. The talk coincided with the exhibition *In a Time of Change: Boreal Forest Stories* that ran at the Alaska State Museum through October 11, 2025.



**September 24 – October 10:** Sheldon Jackson Museum Artist-in-Residence **Shanaskéi Lillian Jackson** (Lingít & Koyukon Athabascan) offered an artist talk in-person and online titled “Legacies Threaded Together” and taught a four-part beaded earring class.



**October 3:** **Sean Dowgray, Maité Agopian, and Daryl Farmer** gave an immersive art performance in the APK Lecture Hall titled “Moving Through the Boreal Forest” that included a marionette, light projection, percussion, field recordings, and poetry.



**November 7:** Artist **Golga Oscar** gave a **public presentation** in the APK Lecture Hall about his artwork and special exhibit *Continuing My Grandmother's Legacy* that ran at the Alaska State Museum through January 2026.



**November 25:** Photographer and guest juror **Patrice Helmar** gave a **public presentation** in the APK Lecture Hall to correspond with *Alaska Positive*, a biennial statewide juried photographic exhibition organized and toured by the Alaska State Museum since 1970.



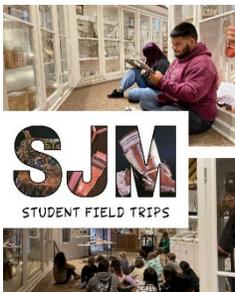
**January 9:** Mary Goddard (Tlingit) gave the talk “90-Day Native Challenge” online and at the Sheldon Jackson Museum in which she shared her experience eating only what she could locally harvest for 90 consecutive days. This was the first event in the 2026 Share Your Culture Share / Your Research winter presentation series sponsored by the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



**January 23 and 30:** Four dance groups from **Mt. Edgecumbe High School** (Athabascan, Inupiaq, Yup'ik, and Unangax) performed songs and dances at the Sheldon Jackson Museum and answered questions from the audience. The student dance groups will next be performing at the 2026 Festival of Native Arts at UAF.



**February 6-7:** Artist **Myesha Callahan Freet** delivered a **time-based performance** during the opening of her special exhibit *embrace. reflect. release.* followed the next day by a **public tour** of her exhibit in the Alaska State Museum.



**Sheldon Jackson Museum Student Field Trips:** Museum staff offer in-person and online educational experiences to student groups throughout the school year. There are over 35 programs to choose from that meet Alaska's current educational standards. Or create a custom experience with the curator. Visit the Sheldon Jackson Museum Teacher Resources webpage for more information.

## COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT



**Chilberg Collection:** The Alaska State Museums received the Joseph E. Chilberg Collection in September 2025. The significant donation includes approx. 450 Bering Strait Native cultural heritage items from the early 1900s as well as many photographs and memorabilia from Nome. Museum

staff have been busy processing the items in preparation for entering the permanent collection where materials will be accessible to researchers, artists, and educators.



**Carved Pole:** A carved mortuary pole (SJ-I-A-248) at the Sheldon Jackson Museum has been covered and accompanied by a new label that speaks to the status of this sacred item. The pole entered the collection in 1895 and was deaccessioned by the Alaska State Museums to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in 2019. The museum has been working in partnership with USFS and Sitka Tribe of Alaska on plans for physical transfer of the pole to a new location supported by tribal members.

## DIVISION TEAM BUILDING



**September:** LAM Leadership: **Amy Phillips-Chan, Clint Farr, Kaye Roldan, Addison Field, Freya Anderson, Valarie Kingsland, and Karen Gray** provided updates from across the division for the September 2025 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**October:** Alaska State Archives team members **Karen Gray, Leah Hainebach, Chris Hieb, Michele Drummond** and **Abby Focht** offered a hands-on presentation of division archives and examples of agents of deterioration for the October 2025 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**November:** Chief Curator **Addison Field** gave a presentation for the November 2025 LAM All-Staff Meeting on the organizational structure and activities of the Alaska State Museums.



**December:** LAM wrapped up a year of short monthly walks around Juneau to foster team member connection and employee wellness.