



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Education & Early Development

DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

P.O. Box 110571  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0571  
Main: 907.465.4837  
Fax: 907.465.2

### MEMORANDUM

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

**Date:** October 9, 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:** Agenda 8.0B 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.



## SPECIAL EXHIBITS



***Golga Oscar Exhibition:*** Yup'ik artist **Golga Oscar** admires a *nasqurrun* (dance headdress) in collections storage in preparation for his solo exhibition at the Alaska State Museum in November 2025.



***How to Eat Canned Salmon*** a new exhibit interactive will be installed in the gallery of the Alaska State Museum in September. A traveling version is available to reserve for museums across the state. Content development, graphic design, and fabrication were supported by funding from the Alaska Maritime Heritage Grant Program.

## MUSEUM REACCREDITATION



**American  
Alliance of  
Museums**

**June:** LAM hosted two site reviewers as part of the 10-year **reaccreditation process** for the **Alaska State**

**Museums with the American Alliance of Museums.** Site reviewers met with staff, toured collections, reviewed

policies, conversed with board members, and observed visitor interactions at both the Alaska State Museum in Juneau and Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka.

## LAM GRANTS



**Alaska Public Library Assistance (PLA) Grants:** 81 Alaska public libraries were awarded FY26 PLA Grants of \$7,000 each for a total of **\$567,000** of support from the Division. These non-competitive grant funds can be used for a variety of operating expenditures including staff, utilities, collection materials, computers, and educational programming.



**Museum Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Awards:** 10 Alaska museums were awarded FY26 GIA Awards for a total of **\$97,871.68** of support from the Division. These competitive grant funds can be used for projects related to collections, exhibits, education, outreach, and organizational development. Funds can be used to purchase supplies and equipment, pay for contractual services and personnel, or other items necessary to support and improve museum services.



## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH



**May 24: Collaborative Bead Study Group #8** learns about the care and repair of Dene Athabascan beadwork in the Alaska State Museum conservation lab.



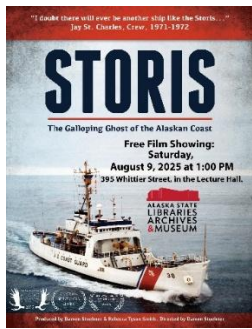
**June 17-July 3: Sheldon Jackson Museum Artist-in-Residence Liz Chikayaasi Morrow** (Unanga) gave two artist talks and a workshop during her three-week residency. Talks were titled, “Relief Printing as a Reflection of Traditional Indigenous Carving” and “My SJM Experience.” The workshop “Intro to Relief Printing” offered participants hands-on experience carving and printing their own linoleum blocks. Morrow also led a community event in which a steamroller rolled over carved linoleum blocks; helped residents at the Sitka Pioneer Home to make bookmark prints; and taught 4-H students how to make relief prints.



**July 16-August 1: Sheldon Jackson Museum Artist-in-Residence Shirley Hootch** (Yup'ik) gave a public talk in-person and online titled “How I Started” sharing how she began making jewelry with ivory, baleen, and wood. Hootch also led a workshop in which participants carved their own pair of mask earrings and spent time with residents at the Sitka Pioneer Home.



**July 17: Cruise ship group “Quilt Addicts Anonymous”** shared knowledge of historic textiles in the Alaska State Museum conservation lab.



**August 9:** LAM offered a free film showing of *Storis: The Galloping Ghost of the Alaskan Coast* produced by Film and Media Archivist **Damon Stuebner**. Lively discussion with many stories about the U.S Coast Guard Cutter *Storis* followed the screening. The public event coincided with the arrival and commissioning of the new *Storis* in Juneau.



**August 11:** The Children’s Exploration Center hosted a **Kinder-Ready In-Service Meeting** for 9 teachers from Mendenhall River Community School and Harborview. The CEC team shared lesson plans that combine collection resources and math concepts to support Alaska State Standards.



**August 29:** Sheldon Jackson Museum **Artist-in-Residence Sydney Akagi, Tleinax Shaawat** (Tlingit and Haida) gave a public talk “Threads of Resurgence: Chilkat Weaving, Repatriation, and the Power of Indigenous Female Art in Alaska” at the Sheldon Jackson Museum and via Zoom.

## COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT



**State of Alaska Recorders Volumes:** The Department of Natural Resources contracted with US Imaging to digitize thousands of Recorders Volumes held in the collections of the Alaska State Archives. Contracted staff arrived in July, set up equipment in the paper lab, and processed volumes with the assistance of Archives team members. Here, staff from US Imaging show FoSLAM board members a high-speed scanner in action.

## DIVISION TEAM BUILDING



**June:** 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 June 2025 LAM All-Staff Meeting.





**June 6:** CEC team members **Kaye Roldan** and **Kimberly Naylor** offered a button-making activity for staff to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Alaska Historical Library and Museum on June 6, 1900.



**July:** Operations Manager **Clint Farr** gave a presentation for the July 2025 LAM All-Staff Meeting focused on the Facilities Council for Deferred Maintenance and the process used for scoring and awarding projects.



**August:** Library Technology Consultant & OWL Program Manager **Stacy Tomaszewski** offered a presentation on the OWL Zoom, WiFi Analytics, and Internet Cost Assistance Grants for the August 2025 LAM All-Staff Meeting.

## FACILITIES



**Nimbus:** The recognizable green sculpture received its annual scrub in June by museum staff to remove buildup of dirt and moss.



**June 28:** A truck with camper drove into the clearance bar on the down ramp to the parking garage at the APK. There was some damage to the top of the camper including loss of the sunroof cover. As the camper backed from the collision, the clearance bar was pulled back into position. No long-term damage to the bar or post base was determined following review by an engineer.



**Building Lights:** Building Maintenance Specialist **Rob Knudson** tackled replacement of sizeable interior and exterior lights at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building. The lights around Nimbus had not been replaced since installation and are now lighting up the plaza!

## LAM: 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Talk:** Alaska State Museum Curator of Collections **Steve Henrikson** gave a presentation to a packed audience on 125 years of Alaska history followed by celebratory cake in the atrium.

**Family Fun Fair:** Over 425 visitors participated in hands-on art, science, reading, and history activities during the **2025 LAM Family Fun Fair** on **July 11**. Special appreciation to our local partners with Sealaska Heritage Institute, AEYC, SEARHC, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums for joining us and helping to make this a special community event.

