



LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

To: Members of the State Board of Education & Early Development
From: Amy Phillips-Chan, Ph.D., Director
Date: October 14, 2026
Item: 23.0B

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 approx. 50 full-time team members who work at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka.



Visitors participate in hands-on educational activities during the 2026 Family Fun Fair at the APK. This year's fair celebrated the APK's 10th anniversary with building-themed activities including Pop Art creations that featured the Nimbus sculpture.

TEAM TRANSITIONS

Abby Focht with the Alaska State Archives returned to college in August 2026 to complete her degree after 20 years of excellent service for the State of Alaska.

Emelene Peralta joined the LAM team as the Administrative Assistant 2 in September 2026.

Maria Wagner joined the LAM team as the Librarian 1, Statewide Resource Sharing Librarian, in September 2026.

GRANT AWARDS



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

July 2026: The **Alaska State Archives** received **\$220,146** from the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** through the Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition grant program to support the two-year archival project, *Foundations of*

Statehood: Alaska's Constitutional Development and the Process of Self-Determination and Full Representation. The project will result in improving access for researchers, educators, students, and the public to explore the historical records of one of the defining periods in Alaska's history, supporting new scholarship, classroom learning, and a deeper public understanding of Alaska's path to self-government.



Alaska Public Library Assistance (PLA) Grants: 81 Alaska public libraries were awarded FY2027 PLA Grants of \$7,000 each for a total of **\$567,000** of support from the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums. 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: 9 Alaska museums were awarded FY2027 GIA Awards for a total of **\$75,000** of support from the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums. These competitive grant funds can be used for projects related to collections, exhibits, education, outreach, and organizational development.

CHILDREN'S EXPLORATION CENTER



June 27: The Children's Exploration Center served as the main coordinator for the 2026 Family Fun Fair that welcomed 300 visitors to 14 hands-on educational stations hosted by LAM staff and local partners.



June-current: Construction is underway for the new Children's Exploration Center. Structural components have been installed, electrical outlets and lighting reconfiguration have been completed, and new wall panels have been primed and painted. The project will soon be transitioning to the installation of graphics including murals, text panels, and labels.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH



May 2-20: Selina Alexander (Koyukon Athabascan) taught a caribou tufting class and gave a public presentation titled “Koyukon Athabascan Culture & Art” during her artist residency at the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



June 5: LAM welcomed dance groups for **Celebration** who practiced in the APK atrium and lecture hall. Haida fashion designer **Dorothy Grant** signed copies of her book to coincide with her exhibit at the Alaska State Museum titled *Raven Comes Full Circle*.



June 24: LAM welcomed **Idaho State Librarian** Dylan Baker and his family to the APK with behind-the-scenes tours of the archives and historical collections storage areas.



July 29: LAM staff welcomed **three student groups to the APK Building**. Young learners from Juneau Montessori enjoyed a storytelling and map making event in the library reading room, high school exchange students from Japan learned about collaborative conservation in the lab, and college students interning with Sealaska Heritage Institute enjoyed hands-on tours of collections.



August 25-September 11: Larissa Kramer (Sugpiaq) served as the artist in residence at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Larissa is a model boat builder and jeweler who works with botanicals, resin, and fish skin. During her artist residency, Larissa taught a salmon skin earring class and gave two public presentations titled, “Alaska Native Art and Cultural History” and “My Artist Residency Experience.”



September 1-3: Division Director **Amy Phillips-Chan** traveled to Reno, NV for the Institute of Museum and Library Services **IMLS250: Telling America's Story**. Highlights of the convening included connecting with the 13 Alaska libraries who participated, meeting with state librarians, checking in with IMLS leadership, and learning from other libraries who have been celebrating America 250.



September 12: The Friends of the State Libraries, Archives, and Museums (**FoSLAM**) held a **strategic planning board retreat** on the UAS Campus. LAM staff and board members participated in a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) exercise and identified three focus areas for organizational growth.



September 16-30: **Kris Waymire (Iñupiaq)** served as the artist in residence at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Kris is a multimedia artist who creates with beads and textiles. During the artist residency, Kris focused on sewing seal skin parka trim, led a three-day Iñupiat-style moccasin workshop, and gave a public talk titled "Whaling Traditions."

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT



Museum Donation: LAM is thankful for a growing partnership with the **Suddock Foundation** who visited the APK in June 2026 and donated items from renowned Alaskan painters including a set of paintbrushes used by Fred Machetanz and a palette used by Sydney Laurence.



Museum Documentation Restoration: The flood event at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building on September 5, 2026, impacted cabinetry containing museum documentation including prints, negatives, and slides of objects and past exhibits. Although not part of the permanent collection, this documentation helps to tell the institutional history of the museum. Staff from across the division worked together to dry out, unstick, and rehouse photographic materials for future use and reference.



Preservica Training: Staff from the Alaska State Archives and Alaska State Library participated in three sessions of hands-on training to understand the functionalities and capacities of the new Preservica Enterprise system. Preservica serves as the long-term digital preservation platform for State of Alaska agency records.

DIVISION TEAM BUILDING



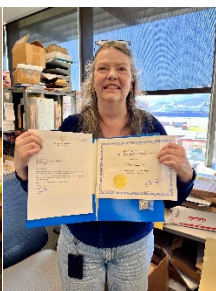
May: Children's Exploration Center Program Coordinator **Kaye Roldan** and Project Assistant **Kimberly Naylor** offered a presentation on educational programs, activities, and curriculum for the May 2026 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



June: Alaska State Archivist **Jon Henley** and Alaska State Librarian **Daniel Cornwall** offered a presentation on how to research historic Alaska newspapers and methods to access current Alaska news for the June 2026 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



August: Alaska State Museum Conservator **Dr. Ellen Carrlee** offered a presentation on collaborative conservation projects and partnerships with Alaska Native artists and knowledge bearers for the August 2026 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



May-August: LAM staff are being recognized with State of Alaska years of certificate awards and pins coordinated by the team at DEED. From Left to Right (with years of service): Jerry Duncan (30), Freya Anderson (25), Sue Conrad on screen (5), Lisa Simpson (40), Abby Focht (20), Jackie Manning (15), Daniel Cornwall (25), Kaye Roldan (5), Clint Farr (25), Jon Henley (5), Chris Hieb (20).

IN MEMORIAM



LAM is saddened by the passing of long-time historical collections librarian **Sandy Johnston** in August 2026. Sandy first joined the State of Alaska in 1986 and in her role with the Alaska State Library catalogued thousands of historical photographs, postcards, newspapers, papers, and publications. Her work has made these invaluable pieces of Alaskan history available to students, researchers, and community members for generations.

FACILITIES



APK 10th Anniversary Building Tours: Operations Manager **Clint Farr** offered informational **building tours** to 19 participants in August 2026. Visitors explored the inner workings on the APK including the boiler and fan rooms, lift stations, servers and more in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the APK.



Meraki Wireless: Under the management of IT Specialist **Clint Carlson**, in August 2026 LAM completed software upgrades and hardware installation of the Meraki wireless system that supports **free public Wi-Fi** at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka. Multiple access points in public spaces across the two buildings offer near seamless connectivity to patrons.



Flood Event: The Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building experienced a significant flood event on September 5, 2026, due to a disconnected hose from the reverse osmosis unit located on the 2nd floor of the building. The flood impacted first and second floor areas of the building, the freight elevator, fire, security, and lighting systems. Due to the quick actions of staff, no damage was done to the permanent object, archival, or media collections. LAM, DEED, and Risk Management are working closely together on remediation efforts to restore spaces and operations.