



MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education **Date:** August 18, 2020

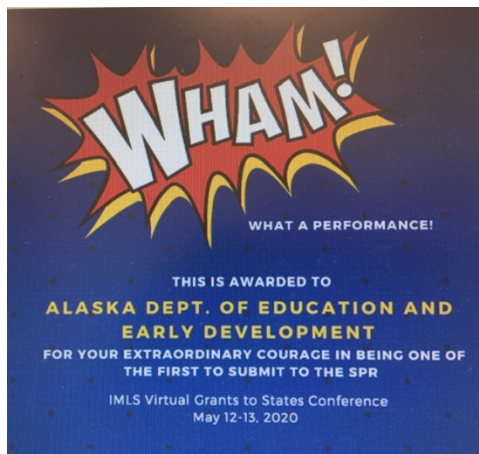
Thru: Commissioner Michael Johnson **Telephone:** 907-465-2911

From: Patience Frederiksen
Division of Libraries, Archives and
Museums **Subject:** Agenda Item 5B: Division of
Libraries, Archives and Museums
Standing Report

Staffing:

- Clayton Hainebach started work as a Records Analyst I on June 1.
- Christine Huff resigned her Museum Education Associate II position as of June 1.
- Christopher Russell began work as a Librarian I for the Newspaper Digitization Program on June 1.
- Damon Stuebner was reclassified from a Library Associate II to an Archivist I in August.

Division News:



May 12: Tracy Swaim, the Grants and Statistics librarian was recognized for early submission of the annual state program report for Alaska during the national IMLS Grants to States Conference.

Image of congratulatory slide that was displayed at IMLS conference

May 25: The State Libraries, Archives, and Museums put a statewide call out for materials documenting the impact of COVID-19 on life in Alaska. The announcement encouraged people to think about how they spent their days during Covid and to share documents, images, journals, audio recordings, and videos. These items could be donated at <https://lam.alaska.gov/our-covid19-story>.

May: The Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded \$66,102 in CARES Act funding to the State Library to be used for Covid-response grants for libraries and museums. In June, library and museum development staff awarded grants to three libraries and five museums so they can respond to the coronavirus pandemic by expanding digital access in their communities, improving virtual access to their collections, and purchasing internet accessible devices.

June 11: The Division reopened to the public in June. Phase I included timed entry at both museums and appointments for the library and archives. On July 9, the Division's Phase II plan included general open hours, but with a limited schedule. Each unit is open just four days a week from noon to 4 pm. The three-day closures each week were planned to allow the virus to die while no staff or public were in the public spaces. Museum exhibits staff designed and built sneeze guards for nine public service desks and many other safety and sanitation measures were included in the Division's reopening plan.

June 12: Public Library Coordinator Julie Niederhauser and Alaska Library Network Director Jodi Jacques submitted a CARES Act grant application for databases to IMLS. The decision on these grant applications has been pushed back to September because IMLS got over 1,600 grant applications, an indication of how little CARES Act funding has been allocated to libraries and museums.

June 15: Division Director Patience Frederiksen and Chief Museum Curator Addison Field received word that their NEH CARES Act grant application had not been funded. It was one of 1,300 applications submitted nationwide.

June and July: The State Museum posted a series of B&W photographs of people involved with the State Museum on its Facebook page and asked questions about how they were coping with the pandemic. Subjects included Susi Gregg and Jim Fowler, Sarah Asper-Smith, Dan Fruits, Sherry Tamone, Renee Guerin, and Ben Huff.

June 17: The City and Borough of Juneau awarded another youth activity grant to Outreach Librarian Claire Imamura and the Friends of SLAM for FY2022. Claire is replanning the series of workshops because the grant application was written prior to Covid and included in-person workshops with artists.

July 8 – August 1: Museum visitors totaled 503 with revenues of \$2,027.

July – August – Sheldon Jackson Museum hosted two Alaska Native artists-in-residence this summer: Abel Ryan (Tsimshian), who focused on painting formline designs and June Pardue (Alutiiq), who taught attendees how to create a pair of fish skin or moosehide earrings with porcupine quill and beaded embellishments. All of the classes taught by the artists were offered on Zoom,



July 15 – The State Museum opened a new exhibit: *Simply Big 1970-2020: Large Artworks from the Alaska State Museum Collection*. The exhibit offered large works from 28 artists produced since 1970, none of which have been exhibited recently.

Image: Nick Galanin, *Get Comfortable*