



MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education & Early Development

Date: May 21, 2024

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 9C. Division of
Libraries, Archives & Museums
Standing Report

ALASKA STATE
LIBRARIES
ARCHIVES
& MUSEUMS

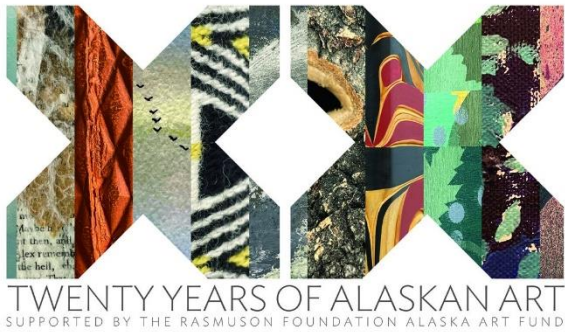
DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

The Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums (LAM) serves to promote and coordinate library services in Alaska, preserves government records, and collects, cares for, and exhibits the diverse cultural and natural heritage of our state. The Division comprises seven main components that cover a broad range of educational programs and activities. These components include Library Operations, Archives, Museum Operations, Online with Libraries, Live Homework Help, Andrew P. Kashevaroff Facilities Maintenance, and Broadband Assistance Grants. The Division supports approximately 50 full-time team members at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka.

TEAM TRANSITIONS

Stacy Tomaszewski will join the LAM team as the Library Technology Consultant and OWL Program Manager on May 6, 2024.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS



XX: Twenty Years of Alaskan Art is a new exhibition at the Alaska State Museum featuring the work of contemporary Alaskan artists that opened on March 1, 2024. The museum acquired these pieces over the last twenty years through the generosity of the Rasmuson Foundation's Alaska Art Fund. Thanks to the Fund, the Alaska State Museum has brought over 200 works of art valued at nearly half a million dollars into its permanent collection.



Arctic Winter Games: The Alaska State Museum traveled the exhibit *Arctic Winter Games* to the Wasilla Museum & Visitor Center to coincide with the Mat-Su 2024 Arctic Winter Games from March 10-16, 2024. In preparation for the exhibit, museum staff sorted and mounted new trading pins for the collection, which now includes more than 1,600 pins, most of which travel in the exhibit.



Qayaq opened at the Alaska State Museum in May. Juneau-based qayaq (kayak) maker Lou Logan is constructing an open-sea qayaq at the Alaska State Museum over the summer. Logan is making his first skin-on-frame qayaq in the tradition of his Iñupiaq ancestors from Wales, Alaska. A qayaq frame from King Island is on display in the gallery where Logan will be working. Logan does not have a set schedule, but you can see the progression of his qayaq throughout the summer. In the fall, he will give a talk about his process and research on the Southern Iñupiaq qayaq.



Protection: Adaptation & Resistance opened at the Alaska State Museum on May 3. *Protection* presents the work of more than 45 Alaska Native artists who explore the climate crisis, social justice, strengthening communities through ancestral knowledge, and imagining a thriving future. The exhibit runs through October 12, 2024.

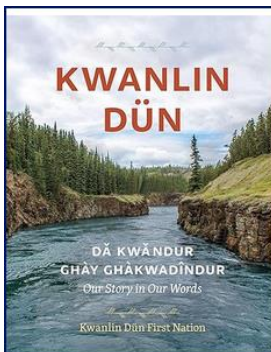
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH



February 24, 2024: The Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums (FoSLAM) held their annual membership meeting at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building followed by a drawing activity in the gallery.



February 28, 2024: The Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development held its regular meeting at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau. Board members enjoyed behind-the-scenes tours of collections in the library, archives, and museum.



February 28, 2024: Over 20 visitors from the Kwanlin Dün First Nation in the Yukon visited the Alaska State Library and Alaska State Archives as part of the heritage program “Honouring Identity, Celebrating Self.” Elders and youth participated in cross-boundary genealogical research using primary sources in the state collections. During their visit, the group donated a copy of their publication, *Kwanlin Dün*, to the Alaska State Library.



February 29, 2024: The Sheldon Jackson Museum hosted a presentation on Zoom titled “Athabascan Sprint Dog Musers Carry on a Family Tradition” by Pro Dog Racing Kennels owners Jennifer and Carl Probert. In the talk, Jennifer and Carl shared about their kennel's past, present, and future. They are both third-generation dog mushers and are raising their children to be the fourth generation of mushers.



February 2024: Alaska State Library Development staff completed a site visit to Dzantiki’ Heeni Middle School with the school librarian and support staff. Additional site visits are planned for Glacier Valley Elementary, Harborview Elementary, and Juneau Douglas High School.



March 1, 2024: Artist and photographer Ben Huff gave the final talk in the Alaska State Museum’s winter lecture series *Cooler Seasons, Warming World* at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building. Huff discussed his current photography series, *The Light That Got Lost*, and his work with the Juneau Ice Field Research Program, the longest-running glacier research project in North America.

FY25 Alaska State Library Grant Programs
March 7, 2024

Valarie Kingsland - Head of Library Development & Public Library Coordinator
Kate Enge - Grants & Continuing Education Coordinator

Library Development
Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums
Alaska Department of Education and Early Development



1

An Equal Opportunity Institution for Every Student Every Day

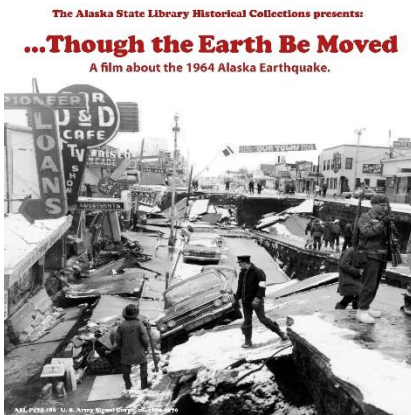
March 7, 2024: Alaska State Library Development staff offered an online tutorial for Alaska public libraries about state library grant opportunities and the application process.



March 13, 2024: Mt. Edgecumbe High School's Inupiaq & St. Lawrence Island Dancers offered a public performance at the Sheldon Jackson Museum as part of the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum Winter Share Your Culture/ Share Your Research Series.



March 21, 2024: The Sheldon Jackson Museum hosted an Interpretive Plan meeting at the museum and on Zoom. Participants shared thoughts on educational programming, exhibits, and the layout of museum spaces. Community feedback from the Interpretive Plan meeting and an accompanying online survey will be used in the upcoming reaccreditation process for the Alaska State Museums. The Interpretive Plan is also a seminal step in working together to envision a future for the museum in Sitka grounded in Alaska Native stories and knowledge.



March 30, 2024: The Alaska State Library offered a free public viewing and guided conversation in the APK of: "...Though the Earth Be Moved" in remembrance of the 60th Anniversary of the 1964 Alaska Earthquake. Alaska State Library Historical Collections staff rescanned "...Though the Earth Be Moved" and other 16mm motion picture films relating to the earthquake in HD and 4K resolutions. The new scans provide a cleaner, sharper viewing experience than the previous standard definition scans, and revised closed captioning provides more accurate access to the original script. Visitors who missed the presentation can see the film in the Earth Sciences Gallery at the Alaska State Museum through April 30.



April 3, 2024: Mt. Edgecumbe High School's Unanga & Sugpiaq Dancers performed in the gallery of the Sheldon Jackson Museum as one of the final presentations in the 2023-2024 Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum Winter Share Your Culture/Share Your Research Series.



April 3, 2024 The Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum hosted their annual meeting at the Westmark Sitka Hotel with guest speaker Chuna McIntyre (Yup'ik). Chuna McIntyre is a Yup'ik garment maker, painter, storyteller, and cultural expert. Born in Eek, Alaska, McIntyre learned traditional Yup'ik dance, stories, and songs from his grandmother. He later founded and directed the Nunamta Yup'ik Eskimo Singers & Dancers, a troupe that has traveled the world. In 2007, he was an artist demonstrator at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. In 2019, the Sheldon Jackson Museum brought him back for a consultation project focused on documenting the Yup'ik mask collection.



April 4-8, 2024: Alaska State Library Development staff distributed a Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) kit to Petersburg Public Library. Petersburg Library shared, "We had an evening program for families that was well attended. We talked about the upcoming eclipse and did several of the activities. I handed out viewing glasses at that event. Then I did the Shadow Bear activities during my Head Start Story Time, big hit! Our community's third grade is doing a unit on space, so I gave them the left over viewing glasses and the third-grade teachers then used several of the activities in the kit in their classrooms."



April 9, 2024: The first cruise ship arrived in Juneau, heralding the start of the 2024 summer tourist season at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building.



TWO SESSIONS!
 THURSDAY
 APRIL 25TH
 4:30 PM
 SATURDAY
 APRIL 27TH
 2:00 PM
 ALASKA STATE MUSEUM
 395 WHITTIER ST.
 HOW IT WORKS:
 80% STORIES
 AND LEARN
 ABOUT CREATING
 COMIC ART!
 SIGN UP AT:
 LHM.ALASKA.LIBRARY/ART
 ALASKA BONDIES
 ALASKA STATE LIBRARIES
 ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS



April 25 and 27, 2024: The Alaska State Museum hosted two workshops with Dimi Macheras and Casey Silver, creators of the graphic novel *Chickaloonies*. The interactive

workshops encouraged students to learn how to think visually and express their inner storyteller through the medium of the graphic novel. The artists' work is also featured in the Alaska State Museum's summer exhibition *Protection: Adaptation & Resistance*.



May 3, 2024: Exhibit curator Asia Freeman led a discussion in the APK lecture hall with artists Amber Webb, K'asheechtlaa Louise Brady, Lily Wooskindein Da.áat Hope, and Rico Lanaat' Worl whose work appears in the new exhibition *Protection: Adaptation & Resistance* on view at the Alaska State Museum through October 12, 2024.

COLLABORATIONS AND GRANTS



Alaska's Heart Through Student Art: The Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums displayed student art from across Alaska in the Andrew P. Kashevaroff

Building mezzanine gallery for the 9th Annual Student Art Show organized by the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA). On February 5, 2024, ACSA hosted an evening event and auction at the APK for administrators and legislators, with auction proceeds going to participating students and a scholarship fund.



Collections Management Fund: Museums Alaska, with support from the Rasmuson Foundation, awarded grant funds to the Sheldon Jackson Museum to bring Yup'ik culture bearer Chuna McIntyre and Alaska State Museum Conservator Ellen Carrlee to Sitka in April 2024 to advise on how to best address bead disease in Yup'ik material in a culturally sensitive and appropriate way.



The Cutting-Edge News: Students from Mt. Edgecumbe High School, a division and Sitka partner with the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums, released a new episode of "The Cutting-Edge News." A student visit to the Sheldon Jackson Museum features in this episode along with some other great topics about student life in Sitka.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5-aSDVMPm4>



Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art:

The Alaska State Museum exhibit team partnered with staff at Crystal Bridges to provide training on how to create a custom mount for a Chilkat robe for the exhibit *Space Makers: Indigenous Expression and a New American Art*. The ASM team originally designed this innovative mount for the seminal exhibit *SWAY*, which has since garnered praise for its appearance of natural movement. Staff at Crystal Bridges shared, "I

cannot thank you enough for your assistance to the Crystal Bridges team in fabricating the mount and generosity in sharing the details and techniques for bringing it to life. The lenders were absolutely floored by the impact, and Crystal Bridges is documenting the process for future reference."



Alaska Robotics Mini-Con: The APK welcomed over 700 visitors to the Alaska Robotics Mini-Con on April 27, 2024. The event included music, drawing, games, lectures, workshops, and book signings throughout the day. Primary sponsors included Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums and Juneau Public Libraries.



Alaskan Newspapers: Alaska State Library Information Services staff worked with *The Ester Republic* to acquire their archive of newspaper issues. *The Ester Republic* granted permission to make the papers publicly available. Library staff added the newspapers to LAM's portal on Preservica for public access and long-term preservation.



Historic Preservation Workshop: LAM hosted the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology Historic Preservation Workshop at the APK on April 24, 2024. Alaska State Museum staff offered a welcome that was followed by a series of presentations, including a success story from Eldred Rock Lighthouse Preservation Association, a recent recipient of an Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Grant offered by the State Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the Alaska State Museum.



Anchored Histories: See Stories, an Alaskan 501(c) nonprofit that works with Alaskans and youth on film and story projects, received a federal grant for the project *Anchored Histories Teacher Professional Development: Digital Storytelling Tools for Alaska Native & English Language Learner Students to Engage History, Civics, & the Power of Place through Primary Sources*. The Alaska State Archivist serves on the project steering committee and helps provide training and mentorship to Alaskan teachers. During the project, archives staff will work with students to identify and digitize primary sources for inclusion in student documentaries.



AWARE: The Council of State Archivists received a federal IMLS grant for the project *Archives Working Across Remote Environments (AWARE): Connecting the Government Archives of the U.S. Territories, Hawaii, and Alaska*. This project will investigate

and articulate the needs of territorial and non-contiguous state archives, produce guidance documents, and develop a plan for their support. The Alaska State Archivist is working with contractors and participating entities to prepare for a fall symposium. Archives staff will work with project partners when they travel to Juneau for an in-person site visit.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT



Flashing: Metal flashing (edging) torn off from the canopy at the APK front entrance during the blizzard in November 2023 was pieced back together and replaced in March 2024.



Smoke Detectors: On April 12, 2024, team members with Johnson Controls inspected over 200 smoke detectors located throughout the APK. All detectors were found to be in good working condition.



Polished Floors: Our partners with REACH helped prepare the APK for the 2024 summer tourist season with an annual strip and wax of the Terrazzo floors on April 13-14, 2024.



Sheldon Jackson Museum Signs: Alaska State Museum exhibit staff created new outdoor signage to replace older signs showing evidence of long-use wear at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Sheldon Jackson Museum building staff carefully matched and repaired the exterior paint and hung the new signs (one square sign shown here) in time for the summer tourist season in Sitka.



Stratton: The online public notice for the Preliminary Best Interest Decision of Land Conveyance for the Stratton Library was posted on April 16, 2024. The public has until May 16, 2024, at 4pm to submit comments to deed.commissioner@alaska.gov for consideration by the Board.

DIVISION TEAM BUILDING



February: Director Amy Phillips-Chan, Operations Manager Clint Farr, and Museum Exhibits staff Jackie Manning and Aaron Elmore traveled to Sitka for work at the Sheldon Jackson Museum, including fabrication of new mounts for the totem poles, meetings with local partners, examination of the buildings, and in-person conversations with SJM team members.



March: Archivists Michele Drummond and Abby Focht gave a presentation about their work, from research requests to creating archival boxes, punctuated by anecdotal stories, such as a 1922 case that involved fingerprinting the jury, for the March 2024 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



March 18, 2024: Team members from across the division assisted in moving a traditional King Island wood kayak frame from collections into the Alaska State Museum exhibit gallery for the exhibit *Qayaq*.



April: Director Amy Phillips-Chan, Chief Curator Addison Field, and Conservator Ellen Carrlee traveled to Sitka for work at the Sheldon Jackson Museum, including a glass bead conservation project with Chuna McIntyre, meetings with local partners, participation in the Friends

of the SJM annual meeting, and in-person conversations with SJM team members. Chuna McIntyre gifted a copy of his co-authored publication *Yua: Spirit of the Arctic* to the Alaska State Library (shown here).



April: Museum Protection and Visitors Services (MPVS) Team Members Brian Wallace, Sheila Hernandez, Zac Watt, and Quinn White offered a presentation on the services, programs, and special projects that their team is working on during the April 2024 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



Denim Day: The LAM team put on jeans and gathered for a photo during Denim Day on April 24, 2024. Denim Day seeks to increase awareness of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and visibly demonstrate support to survivors.

CHILDREN'S EXPLORATION CENTER



Content Development: The planning team for the Children's Exploration Center (CEC) is finalizing the development of all content (text, images, objects, audio, and interactives) for the new center. The CEC, located on the first floor of the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building, will promote lifelong learning among young Alaskans, focusing on early literacy and hands-on exploration of the state's unique history, culture, and art. The center is anticipated to open in summer 2024.