



MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education & Early Development

Date: October 4, 2023

Thru: Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

Telephone: (907) 465-2911

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

Subject: Agenda 12B. Division of
Libraries, Archives & Museums
Standing Report

ALASKA STATE
**LIBRARIES
ARCHIVES
& MUSEUMS**

DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, & MUSEUMS

The Division of Libraries, Archives and 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.

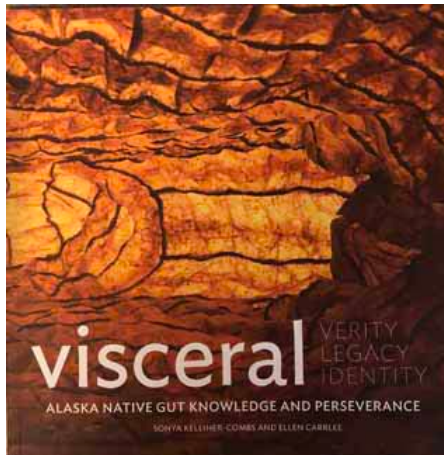
TEAM TRANSITIONS

Kimberly Naylor joined the LAM team as an Administrative Assistant on July 31.

Zachary Watt joined the LAM team as a Museum Protection and Visitor Services Assistant on August 14.

Jon Erik-Henley joined the LAM team as a Librarian 2 with the Historical Collections on September 5.

PUBLICATIONS



Visceral: The Alaska State Museum published the exhibit catalog *Visceral: Alaska Native Gut Knowledge and Perseverance* by Sonya Kelliher-Combs and Ellen Carrlee. The full-color catalog features parkas, baskets, and other heritage items made from marine mammal intestine as well as essays on contemporary artist gut knowledge and historical construction techniques.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS



Alaska Schools (August). Archivist Leah Hainebach and graduate student Lauryn Framke organized an exhibit of historical publications, photographs, and documents related to education in Alaska in the Alaska State Library Reading Room to coincide with the start of the new school year.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



June-August: 2023 Summer Reading Program: Find Your Voice. The Alaska State Library sponsors a statewide summer reading program by providing an iRead summer reading resource guide and purchase codes for summer reading materials to each library participating in the statewide program. At the conclusion of the summer reading program, participating libraries complete and submit a summer reading program report and evaluation. Thirty-four Alaska libraries participated in the summer reading program in 2023.

Poster illustrated by Alaska author and artist Michaela Goade.



June 30: St. Lawrence Island Yupik culture bearer and visiting artist Raktenga Elaine Kingeekuk offered a public presentation about her cultural and artistic experiences in the Andrew P. Kashevaroff lecture hall.



July 13-14: Sheldon Jackson Museum artist-in-residence Neva Mathias (Cup'ik) offered a traditional Cup'ik grass basket making class at the museum.



July 27: Artist Neva Mathias (Cup'ik) offered a talk on subsistence hunting and harvesting practices in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region at the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



August 24: Sheldon Jackson Museum artist-in-residence David John Angaiak (Yup'ik, Aleut) taught a natural pigments and story knife, yaaruin, workshop to a full class of students.



August 25: Artist David John Angaiak (Yup'ik, Aleut) offered a public talk titled "Behind the Mask: A Yup'ik Expression in a Modern World" at the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



September 1: Alaska State Museum conservator Dr. Ellen Carrlee offered insight into the process and research for the exhibition *Visceral: Verity, Legacy, Identity – Alaska Native Gut Knowledge and Perseverance* in her public talk "Science & Secrets of Visceral" at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building.

**YOUTH ACTIVITY FOR AGES 12-18:
GAMING MINIATURE PAINTING**

Saturday, September 9, 1-4 pm, Alaska State Museum

Come learn the basics of miniature painting. Paints, brushes and miniatures are provided.

Sign up at lam.alaska.gov/youthart

This program is partially funded by the citizens of the City and Borough of Juneau through sales tax revenues and sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum.

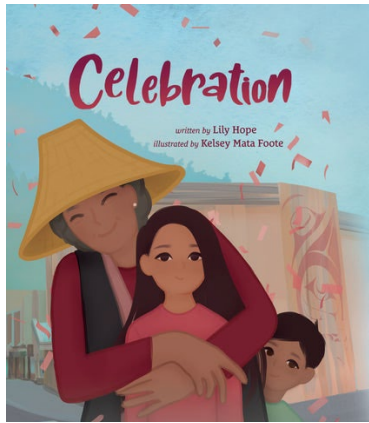


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September 9: Alaska State Museum Chief Curator Addison Field led a gaming miniature painting workshop for youth at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building. The free activity was offered in partnership with the Platypus-Con Board and Card Game Extravaganza at Centennial Hall in Juneau.

GRANTS AND COLLABORATIONS



Raven Reads: Sealaska Heritage Institute, in partnership with the Alaska State Library, Alaska Library Association, and others, received a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant to develop culturally responsive early literacy programming for children and learning resources for librarians.



Juneau Pediatric Dentistry: The Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums partnered with Juneau Pediatric Dentistry to place 100 children's passes in free backpacks filled with supplies for the Back-to-School event held at Twin Lakes Park on August 5. Each pass offers complimentary admission for a child and one adult to visit the Alaska State Museum.



SEADOGS: The Southeast Alaska Dogs Organized for Ground Search (SEADOGS) performed an urban search and rescue exercise on the grounds of the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building on August 26.



Ceremonial Use Program: The Alaska State Museum offers a ceremonial use program in partnership with tribes in Southeast Alaska in which the museum cares for and stores specific clan regalia that is made available for authorized clan use in traditional and cultural functions. Shown here, the Kiks.adi Frog Hat has been removed for a Koo.éex' in Wrangell at the end of August 2023.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT



Door Actuator: The Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building features a new door actuator between the staff offices and the visitor research room on the second floor. The door actuator has been a long-requested item from staff and will offer fluid movement of library carts and team members between the two busy spaces. Installation of the actuator in September 2023 is shown here.

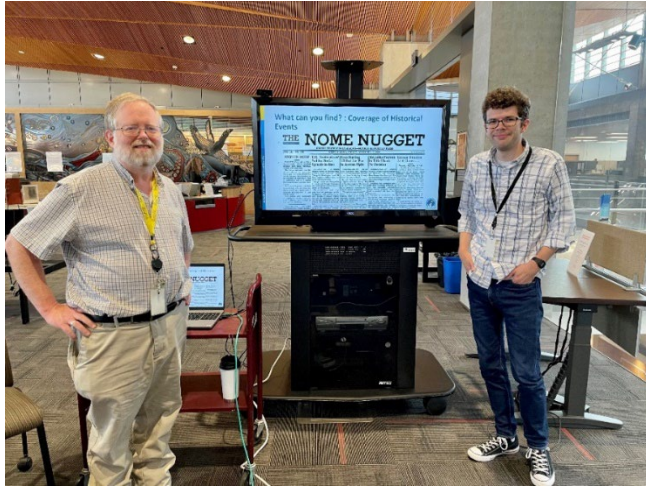


Stratton: The Department of Education & Early Development received approval from the Board of Education during the July 2023 board meeting to pursue sale of the Stratton building in Sitka with proceeds directed towards much needed improvements at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. The Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums is securing an appraisal of the building that will be used in a forthcoming best interest finding.

DIVISION TEAM BUILDING



Commissioner Visit: The team of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums welcomed Deena M. Bishop, Ed. D., Commissioner, to the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building on August 25. Commissioner Bishop met with team members across the division as she toured the collections, research rooms, support spaces, and galleries at the APK.



July: Continuing Resources Librarian Daniel Cornwall and Electronic Records Archivist Christopher Russell gave a presentation on historical Alaska newspapers and the National Endowment for the Humanities grant project *Chronicling America* for the July 2023 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



August: Head of Library Development Valarie Kingsland and Grants and Continuing Education Librarian Kate Enge offered a presentation on programs and services offered by Library Development for the August 2023 LAM All-Staff Meeting.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Society of American Archivists: State Archivist Karen Gray and Electronic Records Archivist Christopher Russell attended the joint meeting of the Society of American Archivists and Council of State Archivists in Washington, D.C. from July 26-29. Christopher shared, “Attending the Preservica user workshop helped me to coordinate and discuss with other state digital archivists new methods and strategies to make our software and digital platform work better for the citizens of Alaska.” Karen presented in the session “Removing the Stigma: Opening Mental Health Records for Public Access” and met with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) team to discuss current digitization efforts of Alaska records.

2023 Continuing Education Forum
Tennessee State Library and Archives
Nashville, TN 37219

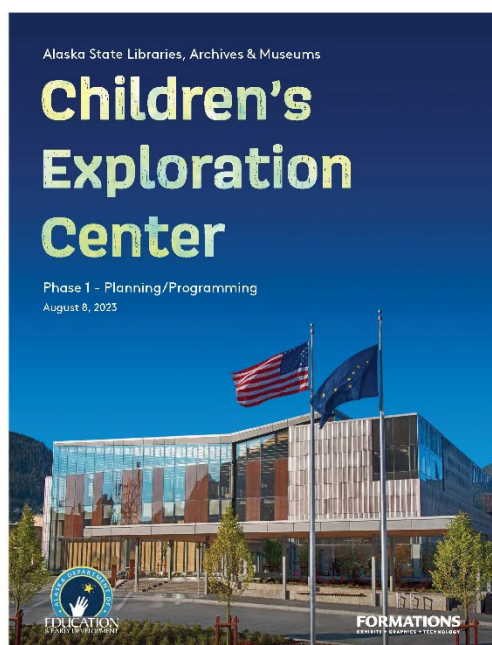
More information regarding registration and event details will be circulated on a later date.



Continuing Education Forum: Grants and Continuing Education Librarian Kate Enge attended the COSLA Continuing Education Forum in Nashville, TN from August 20-23. Kate shared that one of the most invaluable aspects was, “speaking to the other attendees and

gaining ideas for CE programming and presenters to offer librarians in Alaska.” The Alaska State Library offers ongoing continuing education programs including annual grants for Alaska library staff to attend in-person or virtual training events.

CHILDREN’S EXPLORATION CENTER



Phase 1 – Planning/Programming Submittal:

Children’s Exploration Center planning team members from the Division of Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums, Sealaska Heritage, Discovery Southeast, Juneau School District, and the Southeast Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children, reviewed and provided feedback on Phase 1 – Planning/Programming materials submitted by Formations, Inc. in August. The center, located on the first floor of the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building, will promote lifelong learning among young Alaskans with a focus on early literacy and hands-on exploration of the state’s unique history, culture, and art.