

2009 Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund Cycle

The 2009 Art Acquisition Fund has finally begun! The global economic downturn has had an impact in many ways, and one of them has been the amount of funds available for distribution by organizations such as the Rasmuson Foundation. The Foundation has had a lot to consider over the past year, so delays were inevitable. But the good news is that the Art Acquisition Fund will continue, even if at somewhat diminished amounts in 2009.

(Continued on page 2)



Eagle by Anna Ehlers, Rasmuson Foundation Art Acquisition Fund purchase, Alaska State Museum

Pratt Museum Awarded National Grant for Exhibit Renovation

The Pratt Museum was one of 167 institutions nationwide awarded a Museums for America grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on July 30th. The \$146,000 two-year grant will support Phase 2 of the Pratt's Master Exhibition Plan, *Kachemak Bay: An Exploration of People and Place*. Phase 1 opened in 2004, engaging over 200 community collaborators, and Phase 2 exhibit development is happening in tandem with the Pratt's building renovation over the next five

(Continued on page 2)



Pratt's Master Exhibit Plan Phase 1 renovation was completed in 2004. Photo courtesy of Pratt Museum



Left to right:
Weapons of Mass Defense
by Da-ka-ween Mehner,
Rasmuson Foundation Art
Acquisition Fund purchase,
Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center

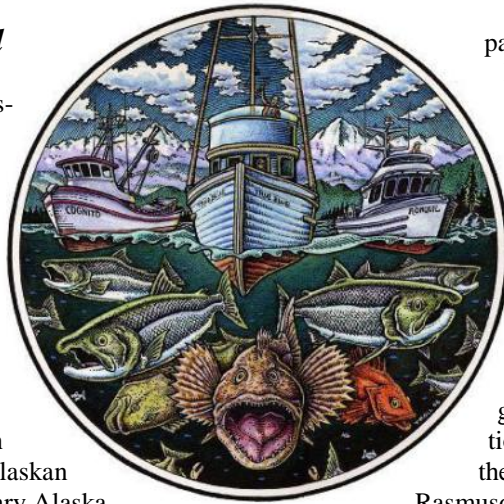
Feeding The World
by Ray Troll,
Rasmuson Foundation
Art Acquisition
Fund purchase,
Ketchikan City Museums

Rasmuson Art Fund

(Continued from page 1)

The board of the Rasmuson Foundation is very supportive of this innovative program. The Fund supports Alaska artists by providing resources to Alaskan museums to purchase these works of contemporary art. Since its inception in 2003, nearly \$1.3 million has been distributed to Alaskan museums for contemporary Alaska art acquisitions. That means nearly 600 works of art representing the efforts of almost 200 Alaskan artists have been purchased and placed in permanent collections of Alaska's museums. No other state enjoys such direct support for the acquisition of contemporary art and the enhancement of so many museum collections.

This year, 22 museums and culture centers have indicated that they wish to partici-



pate in the program. The Foundation is also interested in seeing more cultural centers and other rural museums participate, so if your institution would like to participate, contact the Art Acquisition Fund Administrator, Michael Hawfield, as soon as possible. The guidelines and application forms are posted on the Museums Alaska and Rasmuson Foundation websites.

The Art Acquisition Fund is designed to fund the purchase of contemporary work by established Alaskan artists. For more information on the guidelines, contact Project Administrator, Michael Hawfield, or see the Museums Alaska website at

<http://www.museumsalaska.org>.

Michael Hawfield, Project Administrator
hawfield@horizonsatellite.com
907 235-6078 or 907 299-0290 (cell)

Pratt Museum exhibition grant

(Continued from page 1)

years. The current building and site plans can be viewed on line at www.prattmuseum.org.

The exhibit grant enables the Pratt to continue engaging its community to confront pressing issues, including environmental, cultural, and economic changes through the development of dynamic exhibits and programs that meet the museum's long-term strategic goals. The Pratt will leverage the participation of more than 300 community collaborators, volunteers, and scholars as well as partnerships with the National Park Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, regional village councils and Alaska Native corporations, the Homer Chamber of Commerce, and many other arts and science organizations in the Kachemak Bay region and statewide.

Project Director Holly-Cusack McVeigh notes, "We are truly honored to be awarded the IMLS Museums for America grant. We are energized as we look to the future and work towards the continuation of high-quality, community-based exhibits and programming that have long characterized the Pratt Museum."

The Pratt developed its Master Exhibit Plan (MEP) to guide the comprehensive redesign of the exhibits and programs. It

addresses the themes of people and place, and includes emphases on regional homesteading, fishing, Alaska Native cultures, and the marine environment. The plan is designed around a series of questions that focus on the inter-relationships between people and place. Community members shape the stories, information, and images that will be used in the exhibit. The community as a result becomes the curator, and the exhibit serves as an "open window" to community-based videos, photographs, and other media that help unveil a complex, story-centered exploration of people and place. The Pratt considers this plan as a dynamic document, and as new information and community stories emerge, the Museum revises and enriches the exhibit.

Museums for America grants support high-priority activities that advance a museum's mission and strategic goals, helping it to serve the public more effectively. "By making it their mission to provide the public with top-notch programming and knowledgeable staff, the 2009 MFA grantees have demonstrated that they know what is important to their communities," said Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of IMLS.

Heather Beggs, Director, Pratt Museum
director@prattmuseum.org
www.prattmuseum.org

GREETINGS & FAREWELLS

Join us in Unalaska!

The Museum of the Aleutians staff has been working diligently on this month's annual meetings. Zoya Johnson has headed up the Host Committee, and they have just sent out the printed Conference Program. The sessions and speakers are outstanding, so I urge all of you to join us.

The board of directors will be eager to discuss some challenging issues with the membership at Unalaska, including ways we can continue to attract Cultural Center and Museum Consortium members to MA, applying for capacity building grants to IMLS, and collaborating with young and aging audiences to advance our missions. We welcome your input and suggestions.

These last two months as your interim Executive Director has been rewarding. I've enjoyed contacting old friends and meeting new professionals, and I foresee some exciting potentials for growth and new programs. I look forward to working with you as we search for new board members to lead our organization and to hire an Executive Director by the end of the year.

—Terry Dickey, Interim Executive Director

New Staff Appointments

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center

Megan Peacock, Manager and Photo Archivist in the new Bob and Evangeline Atwood Resource Center, comes from the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, WY. She received her Masters in Library & Information Science from the University of Washington in Seattle. In addition to her experience with photographic archives, Peacock brings skills in digital collections, special collections references, and technical services.



Ryan Kenny, Registrar at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, comes from Washington, D.C., where he was a registration specialist at the National Museum of Natural History. Kenny graduated from Syracuse University in 2004 with a B.A. in American History, and from The George Washington University in 2007 with an M.A. in Museum Studies.



Sitka Historical Society and Museum

Ashley Kircher was welcomed as its new Curator of Collections and Exhibits.

University of Alaska Museum of the North

Carol Diebel has been appointed the new director of the University of Alaska Museum of the North, and she will begin her new duties in early October.

Diebel served as the director of natural environment at the Museum of New Zealand Te

Papa Tongarewa, where she led the museum's natural history research, curatorial and collections team. At Te Papa, she helped oversee the planning and construction of the museum's natural history collections storage facility and served on the development team for exhibits, including Whales/Tohora, which is now touring internationally. Diebel made it a priority to make the museum's scientific research and collections more available to the public in engaging and interactive ways

Te Papa also fosters very strong relationships with the native Maori community. The opportunity to work with the Alaska Native community is one of the things that made the position in Fairbanks appealing to Diebel, who sees the museum as a natural gathering place to share knowledge and honor local traditions.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Humboldt State University and a doctorate in biological oceanography from the joint program in oceanography at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology–Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Aldona Jonaitis, retires in September 2009, after 15 years as director of the University of Alaska Museum of the North. From the capital campaign for the \$48 million expansion to programming for the new wing, the expansion was her major focus. New facilities, like a lab to study ancient DNA, state-of-the-art research labs and collections storage along new professional staff positions have significantly expanded the museum's research capabilities. Jonaitis plans to remain in Fairbanks, starting up a dessert catering business and working as a museum consultant.



Photo courtesy of UA Museum of the North



Peacock and Kenny images courtesy of Anchorage Museum; Jonaitis photo by Kerynn Fisher / UAMN

Internships Serving Alaska

The Alaska State Museum-MA Internship Program was organized by Scott Carrlee and funded by an IMLS 21st Century Museums Professional Grant. These interns from museum studies programs were placed with host museums. Cindy Jones mentored Aaron Rath at Museum of the Aleutians; James Moss at Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum; and Carolina Marie Scarborough at Dorothy G. Page Museum, Wasilla. Mary Patt Wyatt mentored Jennie Davy at Palmer Historical Society Colony House Museum; Sandra Dong at Valdez Museum and Historical Archive; Christina Conn at Soldotna Historical Society & Museum / Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center. All host institutions provided projects, housing, and staff support.

Right: Paper conservator Grace White restored one of University of Alaska's first vellum diplomas while working at the UA Museum of the North. Her work was organized by the ASM in Fairbanks, Barrow and Eagle.

Photo by Tamara Martz / UAMN.



Discovering New Historical Sites in Prince William Sound

By Ted Spencer, Executive Director
Prince William Sound Museum



Whittier Now & Then
Photos courtesy of Museum

Recently a new exhibit for the Prince William Sound Museum in Whittier was being planned and researched. The exhibit was

inspired by a small book published by the Cook Inlet Historical Society in 1984. *Lieutenant Castner's Alaskan Expedition 1898 - A Journey of Hardship and Suffering* was an account written by one of the patriarchs of Alaska historians, Lyman Woodman.

The book recounts the horrors of exploring the wilds of interior Alaska during the late 19th century, several decades after the territory was acquired by the United States. The rugged, imposing regions were unknown and unmapped by the white explorers. An Army exploration team was sent North in the spring of 1898 to traverse the ground from Cook Inlet to the Matanuska Valley, over the Alaska Range and through the labyrinth of rivers, swamps and mountains to the Yukon River. The task was given to Lt. Joseph C. Castner, who led a group of a dozen men through uncharted wilderness beset by inclement weather, mosquitoes, no-see-ums, raging rivers and devils club. Lt. Castner and two of his men just barely made it out alive and would have probably have perished if not for aid from Tanana Valley natives.

While researching archives for the exhibit, my inquiries took me to the Walter Mendenhall photo collection at the USGS library in Denver, Colorado. Mendenhall photographed the early stages of the expedition including the arrival and landing of the exploration team at the head of Portage Bay. After unloading their supplies and camping awhile, the military troupe set out hiking over the mountains at Portage Pass to access the waters of Turnagain Arm and Cook Inlet.

After receiving the historical images I began to examine the arrival scenes. Not being familiar with the body of water known as "Portage Bay." I thought that there might be a clue in the photos. As I looked at two photos, in particular, I thought,

(Continued on page 11)

Cultural Pioneering In Alaska: An Internship Experience at the Dorothy G. Page Museum

By Maria Carolina Scarborough

When I first saw the offer of a paid summer internship in a museum in Alaska, I was in my student apartment in Upper Manhattan and in the post-graduation daze of writing a thesis for a Master in Arts degree in Museum Studies from NYU. All I could envision was flitting images of Jack London stories I'd read and Sarah Palin. What did I know about Alaska? Next to nothing. Yet there was the slight thrill of the possibility of the land of the midnight sun and the allure of the unknown. I sent my CV and – to my great surprise – I was accepted, I had only a few days to wind up my affairs in New York and embark on a very different experience.

As I read up on Alaska I unearthed all sorts of fascinating facts about where I would live and work. Wasilla was originally a trading post and part of the Gold Rush, and it became a significant city due to the construction of the Alaska Railroad. In Alaska there were real glaciers, the possibility of sighting whales, and seeing the sun truly set close to midnight and rise again a few short hours later. In summary, I was truly embarking on an adventure of the mind and spirit in a land where truth is often bigger and stranger than fiction.

When I arrived in Anchorage, Scott Carrlee, Curator of Museum Services from the Alaska State Museum, outlined the IMLS 21st Century Museums Professional Grant--to enhance Alaskan museums' ability to progress to current standards of museum best practices.

Using recent graduates of museum studies to advance Alaskan museums is a mutually enriching experience. For the interns, we can gain insight into how museums work differently in various environments of social and economic realities. In turn, the museums gain from the most recent theories and practices we recently learned in graduate school.

Carrying out a useful assignment requires the museum to provide a meaningful project, mentoring and other resources. I was tasked with cataloguing the artifacts in the collection in the town site of the Dorothy D. Page Museum. This town site consists of houses of early settlers which preserve the material artifacts which were part of the daily routine of the early settlers,

which in turn will enable future historians to document and recreate the social and economic history of this part of Alaska. One of the project's mentors, Cindy Jones, gave me a superb overview of the process of cataloguing a collection and a set of very practical guidelines that allowed me to complete the project in a timely fashion. Bethany Buckingham, my supervisor, provided me time and resources despite her already busy museum work schedule.

Living in Wasilla, Mr. and Mrs. Heaven generously welcomed me to stay in their home. Although I could come and go independently, they gave me wonderful insights about the community, their lives, and Alaska's history. They and their stories encouraged me to propose jump-starting the Oral Histories Project for the museum.

I read and learned about the history of Alaska's Matanuska-Susitna Valley area, which gave me insight and understanding of Wasilla's values and traditions in the context of the community it has evolved into today. It was also interesting to read about Alaska vis-à-vis its place in the context of American history. This reinforced my interest in oral histories and the vital role they can play in modern museological practices.

The best part of this internship was interviewing different personalities of the Wasilla community for the Oral Histories project. All the participants had interesting stories to tell, and this reflected on just how new the history of this State is... reminding me that Alaska is in the process of writing its history as it makes it. I was fascinated to hear these people talk about the historical moments they have lived through in the relation to local and statewide events.

Both the museological and the cultural Alaskan experiences proved to be rewarding and interesting, and meeting the unknown often proved larger than fiction. This reality echoed in the museum displays where many of the objects were donated by the families I interviewed, and some still remembered using these objects. From these settlers I learned about the pioneer qualities that made America great, and I felt a part of a pioneer project to preserve these values for future generations.

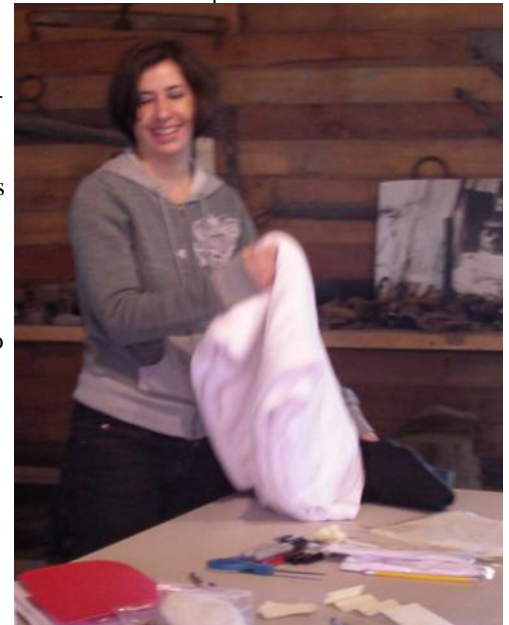


Photo by Cynthia Jones

STATEWIDE NEWS

Anchorage Museum wins grant

The Anchorage Museum received a \$147,736 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop an exhibition on the history and culture of the Dena'ina people. The exhibition is tentatively scheduled to open summer 2011 at the Anchorage Museum.

About 60 percent of Alaska's population lives within traditional Dena'ina territory, yet there is little public awareness of the Dena'ina people and their history. This exhibition of more than 200 objects will bring to Alaska many early Dena'ina artifacts and help fill that knowledge gap. These ancestral objects now reside in European museums, far away from their culture of origin and those who would benefit most from their legacy.

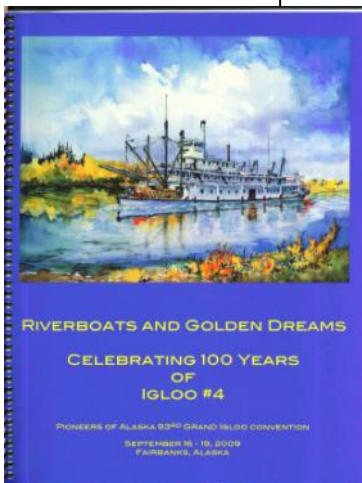
The Anchorage Museum has partnered with the Alaska Native Heritage Center on this 5,000-square-foot exhibition, believed to be the first exhibition on Dena'ina history and culture. The exhibition will bring the Dena'ina story to life through re-created settings and hands-on activities.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (www.ims.gov) is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Today the institute announced more than \$19 million in Museums for America grants for 167 museums, chosen from 433 applicants. Grants support high-priority activities that advance the museums' missions and strategic goals, helping them serve the public more effectively.

Alutiiq Museum Collaborates with Russian Museum

With grant funding from the National Park Service Shared Beringian Heritage program, the Alutiiq Museum is collaborating with the Kunstkamera Museum of St. Petersburg on a catalog of Sugpiaq collections. Early Russian explorers took thousands of ethnographic objects home to Europe, and many of these treasures remarkably preserved in modern collections. Research trips to St. Petersburg have uncovered about 700 items from the Alutiiq world, including rare examples of clothing, boats, and basketry. Alutiiq Museum Executive Director Sven Haakanson, Jr. and his Russian colleagues are developing a publication to show case these pieces, so that the information they contain can be returned to Alaska. Alaskans are also helping Russian museums better understand the objects in their care. As part of the project, Haakanson will take 4 Alutiiq weavers to St. Petersburg in January of 2010, to study the fabrication, design, and embellishments of ancestral baskets and to share their knowledge of twining.

The Alutiiq Museum is also embarking on a film project. The staff of the museum's Alutiiq Language program has begun working with Alutiiq artist Lena Amason and Kodiak teens to animate a traditional Alutiiq story. Students will create original pieces of artwork to illustrate the film, which will feature Alutiiq language vocabulary. The film will be used as a teaching tool for language learners. A grant from the First National Development Institute is supporting the project, which will include the production of a project documentary and an exhibit of student artwork.



Celebrating 100 Years of Igloo #4 booklet
Image courtesy of Pioneer Museum

Pioneer Museum, Fairbanks

This year is the 100th anniversary of Igloo #4, and the booklet committee decided to feature the 298 Charter members of Igloo #4 for this year's Pioneer Convention in Fairbanks. A Grant-in-Aid enabled us to add 50 to 60 photos of charter members of Igloo #4 to the project. This booklet committee consists of 4 members of the Museum Board; George Lounsbury, Linda Conley, Donna Krier, and Joanne Oehring. Pat Babcock did all the computer work to make the book print-ready, and Joan Skilbred is our expert photographer, digitizer, and genealogist.

Joanne Oehring completed the digitizing and enlarging of the panoramic photo of Dawson City (ca. 1900-1908). Now hanging in our lobby, the panorama is now 7 feet long and 20 inches high and features photos of many of the businesses then operating in Dawson, with the names of the proprietors. For more information, contact

info@fairbankspioneermuseum.com

Sitka Historical Museum was granted a special use permit by the Forest Service for use of an historic home through 2010 for much-needed off-site storage, research and work space, and a photographic collections room. Through the Alaska State Museums' Internship Program, summer intern Amy Thompson provided valuable assistance in collections management, research, and exhibit design. She is completing her Master's degree in public history at St. Cloud State University, Minnesota.

Yup'it Piciryarait Museum in Bethel has a new website. You can log in at www.ypmuseum.org, or call Darlene Orr at (907) 543-7335. Their current exhibit is *The Yaaruin: Story Knife* that showcases the museum's collection of story knives along with stories, symbols, demonstrations on DVD, and a hands-on station.

STATEWIDE NEWS

University of Alaska Museum of the North

Planetarium Travels Rural Alaska

The University of Alaska Museum of the North is partnering with the Geophysical Institute at UAF to bring space science to rural Alaska. Through a new, three-year NASA grant, museum educators are traveling around the state, showing views of the night sky in a portable planetarium.

Daytime presentations in schools cover topics such as constellations, the relationship of earth's movements to day length and seasons, and the big bang theory. Our educators also present a "community science night" aimed to inform and inspire children, their parents, and other members of the community.

During community science night, participants can build a constellation tube, paint a glow in the dark poster, and carry out other activities while they are waiting to see the planetarium show. The night time show explores such questions as the origin of life and whether life exists elsewhere in the universe, highlighting the unique features of planets in our solar system and beyond. Both day and night presentations illustrate that science is not static and dull, but instead is alive and changing through observations made today.



To see if a planetarium visit to your community is possible, contact

**University of Alaska
Museum of the North
Education
Call 907-474-5360**

Dr. Robert Herrick, Associate Research Professor, uses the portable planetarium.

UAMN photo

Ahtna Cultural Center Opens

The Ahtna Heritage Foundation opened the Ahtna Cultural Center at the Wrangell St. Elias National Park Visitor Center Complex.

This center presents a wonderful opportunity to share the rich Ahtna culture with the visitors at the Copper River area as well as with long time residents. Over time, many aspects of the Ahtna culture and people have been stereotyped or misunderstood, or simply overlooked. We hope this culture center will provide a more accurate portrait of how important the Ahtna culture is presently and has been to the survival of the generous, happy, and proud people who first owned this land. The center is another avenue of preserving the past and especially sharing it with future generations of Ahtna people.

The current displays in the center are made up primarily from the collections that belong to Ahtna, Incorporated along with some items that were gathered by AHF over the years. Two of the more prominent displays are the handiwork of Tazlina elder, Johnny Goodlataw and the young people who helped. Mr. Goodlataw directed the construction of a dipnet and a fish wheel that are great examples of Ahtna culture and the "old ways." There will also be a collection of historic photos, beadwork, oral history recordings, as well as general information that tells about the history and culture of the Ahtna people.

Our vision is to "grow" the collections and have more items to display over time. For example, we want to create seasonal displays, identifying key components of Ahtna culture during the different seasons and how those cycles contributed to the rich and vibrant culture we know today. The Ahtna Heritage Foundation is carefully and mindfully forming proper policies and procedures that will ensure the safety and security of items that have been loaned or donated to the cultural center. If you are interested in sharing items of cultural value please contact Liana Charley John at 822-5778 or Tana Finnesand at 907.822-3535.

GRANT RESOURCES

American Heritage Preservation Grants IMLS – Bank of America Initiative

Note: Katie Oliver and Baranov Museum received one of these grants last year.

This special initiative of the Conservation Project Support Program, Bank of America partners with IMLS, to provide grants to small museums, libraries, and archives. The grants will raise awareness and fund preservation of treasures held in small museums, libraries and archives. Grants will help to preserve specific items, including works of art, artifacts and historical documents that are in need of conservation.

Applicants will build on completed conservation assessments of their collections to ensure that the grants are used in accordance with best practices in the field, and underscore the importance of assessment planning. The grant of up to \$3,000 are aimed at completing stand-alone projects that convey the essential character and experience of the United States.

Guidelines are available. **APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2009**

For more online information: <http://www.ims.gov/collections/grants/boa.htm>

Institute of Museums and Library Services
Christine Henry, Senior Program Officer
Phone: 202/653-4674
E-mail: chenry@ims.gov

Conservation Project Support Grant— IMLS

Now is the time to be thinking about the Conservation Project Support grant from IMLS. The deadline is October 1, and it takes about 6 weeks to put a grant together. Don't delay.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is accepting grant applications to the agency's fiscal 2010 Conservation Project Support program. Application guidelines

are available at <http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/conservProject.shtm>.

The institute awards matching grants of up to \$150,000 to help museums identify their conservation needs and priorities, and to help them ensure the safekeeping of their collections through the implementation of sound conservation practices.

Guidelines are available. **APPLICATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 1, 2009.**

Contact Senior Program Officer, Christine Henry, 202-653-4674, chenry@ims.gov, or Program Specialist, Mark Feitl, 202-543-4635, mfeitl@ims.gov.

Contact Scott Carrlee, Curator of Museum Services at the Alaska State Museum, if you want to discuss your project. He can be reached at 907.465.4806 or by email, scott.carrlee@alaska.gov.

Alaska State Council on the Arts

The Alaska State Council on the Arts funds applications in all areas of the arts: dance, visual arts, literature, music, theater, media arts, and traditional Native arts. The Council also encourages applications that promote and develop the cultural heritage of Alaskans and the creation of new works by Alaskan artists.

Community Arts Development Grants

assist small nonprofit Alaskan organizations in developing art programs in underserved areas of the state and/or underserved disciplines. Exhibits, concerts, dance performances and festivals, workshops, readings, theater productions are examples of the kinds of arts projects funded through this grant category. Grant amounts will not exceed \$5,000.

Operating Support Grants are annual grants available to eligible organizational applicants to support a portion of ongoing artistic and administrative functions. These

may include, but are not limited to, salaries, travel, promotion and production costs of an entire program, or a majority of the organization's yearly activities.

Workshop Grants are made to Alaskan nonprofit organizations to provide them with the opportunity to hold an arts-related workshop of limited duration using artists and other professional resource persons as instructors. A workshop may include all areas of the visual, performing, traditional, craft, media, and literary arts, as well as arts administration. Grants usually average around \$1,000.

Tel: 907.269.6610

Fax: 907.269.6601

Online for current details:
www.eed.state.ak.us/aksca



Alaska Humanities Forum

Three grant programs are available at the Forum:

We The People Grants: Funding up to \$10,000 for the teaching, study, and understanding of American history, culture, and democratic principles. Deadline is April 1 annually.

General Grants: Funding up to \$10,000 for general humanities projects. Deadline is October 1 annually.

Mini Grants: Our smallest grant program with funding up to \$2000. These projects have a rolling deadline and need prior approval before applying.

Potential applicants are asked to consult with staff before submitting proposals.

Contact Information:

Tel: 272-5341

Toll Free Number (voicemail only): 888-687-6865

Fax: 272-3979

Online for current details: www.ahf.org

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Send message to: list.manager@list.state.ak.us
(note that there is a period between "list" and "manager"). Leave the subject line empty.

In the body of the message type: subscribe eed-akmuseums.

Do not attach a signature or put anything else in body of message. If you have an automatic signature, make sure it is turned off.

To POST messages to members of the Listserv:

Send an email to the following address: Akmuseums@list.state.ak.us

(Note that this is a different name than the one used to subscribe.)

GRANT NEWS

MAP Your Way to Excellence

*IMLS Museums Assessment Program—
An Alaskan Museum's Experience*

“By offering the opportunity to connect to your own institutional story, connect to colleagues on a similar path, and connect to professional standards, MAP offers the antidote to the isolation of small or rural museum work.”

—Katie Oliver, Executive Director,
Baranov Museum

“If I could be so bold to claim that the Baranov Museum is enjoying a certain spiral of success, then I must share that a key contributor to the spiral is the Museum Assessment Program (MAP).” Katie Oliver, Executive Director, Baranov Museum

The Museum Assessment Program (MAP) is an affordable way to strengthen your museum and achieve excellence. Within a year your museum can conduct a self-study, consult with a museum professional, and gain the tools to become a stronger institution.

Several of Alaska's museums have completed the program in the past few years including the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository, Baranov Museum, Dorothy G. Page Museum, Hammer Museum, Palmer Museum of History and Art, Pratt Museum, and the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center. Join your colleagues in the pursuit of excellence.

MAP has been designed to accommodate museums of all types and sizes, from history museums to natural history museums to cultural centers. There are four types of assessments each designed to

answer specific needs: Collections Management, Governance, Institutional (operations and general overview), and Public Dimension (community engagement). The peer reviewer's travel costs are covered so you don't have to worry about the potentially high cost of travel to Alaska.

Katie explains why MAP is an especially good choice for small and rural museums like many of Alaska's museums. “By offering the opportunity to connect to your own institutional story, connect to colleagues on a similar path, and connect to professional standards, MAP offers the antidote to the isolation of small or rural museum work. It was a good choice for us when we had seemingly few resources, and it was an equally good choice when we had achieved success with our goals and were looking for new challenges.”

The annual application is supported through a cooperative agreement between AAM and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Please visit the MAP website (www.aam-us.org/museumresources/map/apply.cfm) for application details. Museums will be accepted on a rolling basis through the postmark deadline of November 30, 2009.

Space is limited, so submit your application as early as possible. If you have any questions about the program, contact program staff by email at map@aam-us.org or by phone at (202) 289-9118.

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM AWARDS GRANTS TO ALASKA MUSEUMS

Twenty-seven museums and historical societies across Alaska received funding for important preservation projects from the Alaska State Museum this year, under an appropriation from the Alaska Legislature. The projects range from treating water damaged artifacts from last spring's floods in Eagle to upgrading the storage for photo archives at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. Five of the grants will bring museum studies interns from various universities to work in small museums in Alaska.

The grants range from \$780 to \$8,000 for a total \$105,600. Most requests were to fund improvements in collection storage, conservation projects, exhibit upgrades, and new equipment. Overall, 33 applicants had requested more than \$160,000 for museum projects around the state.

For more information on the Grant-in-Aid program, contact

Scott Carrlee
Tel: 907.465-2901

www.museums.state.ak.us

The museums and organizations receiving funds were:

Ahtna Heritage Foundation, Glennallen conservation supplies, \$1,981
Alaska Museum of Natural History, Anchorage exhibit upgrades, \$7,315
Alpine Historical Park, Sutton conservation assessment of exhibits, \$2,000
Alutiiq Museum, Kodiak exhibit upgrade project, \$7,541
Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association, Anchorage audio preservation project, \$7,111
Anchorage Museum internship funding, \$5,120
Bald Eagle Foundation, Haines internship funding, \$2,000
Baranov Museum, Kodiak kamleika conservation project, \$7,440
Duncan Cottage Museum, Metlakatla internship funding, \$5,000
Eagle Historical Society, Eagle treatment of flood damaged objects, \$2,000
Inupiat Heritage Center, Barrow support for internship project, \$5,000
Hammer Museum, Haines collection and display upgrades, \$1,899
Hope and Sunrise Historical Museum,
Hope interpretive sound recordings, \$2,000
Juneau-Douglas City Museum storage system for photos/ archives, \$5,654
Kenai Visitors Cultural Center datalogger equipment, \$1,870
Kodiak Maritime Museum cover for fishing vessel display, \$1,090
Museums Alaska support for annual meeting, \$5,280
Museum of Transportation & Industry, Palmer computer equipment, \$2,000
Palmer Museum storage re-organization project, \$7,865
Pioneer Memorial Park, Fairbanks enlarge photos for display, \$2,000
Port Alexander Historical. Soc internship project, \$3,500
Resurrection Bay Hist. Soc., Seward camcorder for oral history, \$780
Sheldon Museum, Haines exhibit lighting upgrade, \$5,452
Talkeetna Museum monitor heaters, \$2,000
Tanana Valley Railroad Museum develop finding aid, \$2,000
Valdez Museum exhibit upgrade project, \$8,000

JOB OPENINGS – INFO

Museum Director/CEO Pratt Museum

Homer, Alaska

The award-winning Pratt Museum seeks an energetic, creative, and compassionate professional to lead the organization through its next phase. Reporting to a Board of Directors, the Museum Director provides visionary leadership for and management of a dynamic community-based museum of art, science and culture.

The Pratt Museum is dedicated to the process of education by exploring the natural environment and human experience relative to the Kachemak Bay region of Alaska and its place in the world. The Museum seeks to inspire self-reflection and dialogue in its community and visitors through exhibitions, programs, and collections in the arts, sciences and humanities. In 2005, the Pratt Museum was awarded the IMLS National Award for Museum Service and the Museum has received numerous other state and regional awards for its innovative programming. The Museum Director is responsible for administration, outreach, and program oversight, including strategic planning, development, and implementation of a major capital campaign. Minimum three years administrative experience in museum or comparable nonprofit setting required.

Visit www.prattmuseum.org for more information about the Pratt Museum and its programs. Visit www.homer.alaska.org for more information about Homer, Alaska -- a vibrant arts town perched on beautiful Kachemak Bay.

Salary \$50,000-\$60,000, DOE

Deadline: Open until filled

For more information contact Search Committee, Pratt Museum, 3779 Bartlett St. Homer, AK 99603 or call 907-235-8635 or send an email to info@prattmuseum.org

Artist / Master teacher To Carve House Post Alaska Native Heritage Center Anchorage, AK

The Alaska Native Heritage Center is seeking proposals from accomplished artists and master teachers, who wish to design and carve a house post during the summer of 2010.

The project will entail traditional art forms. We will be installing four (4) separate house posts from four (4) different Southeast Alaskan Native Cultures – Eyak, Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian.

These house posts will be carved from red cedar brought to the Alaska Native Heritage Center in the spring of 2010. The object of the project is to educate visitors to our state, but more importantly to our Alaskan Native youth, which is our priority and part of our mission statement.

**Proposals are due by
Friday at 5:00 p.m. on October 2,
2009**

For a Request for Proposal and information, contact:

Scott Neel, PhD
Curator of Collections and Exhibits
Alaska Native Heritage Center
8800 Heritage Center Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504-6100
sneel@alaskanative.net
Direct Phone (907) 330-8023
Cell Phone (907) 315-0902

Executive Director Museums Alaska

The statewide association of Alaska's museums seeks a motivated professional to work with its board of directors and members, and to lead and advance the organization and its member museums.

Duties include:

- 1) Provide a central office for Museums Alaska, Inc.;
- 2) Coordinate the quarterly newsletter publication (*Network*) of Museums Alaska, Inc.;
- 3) Maintain financial records and prepare budgets for board approval;
- 4) Maintain membership lists and develop membership;
- 5) Write the appropriate grants and fund-raise for the organization's support and projects;
- 6) Collaborate and provide leadership with other private, non-profit, and public state, regional, national organizations for the benefit of its members and museums in Alaska;
- 7) Schedule meetings and prepare agendas; and
- 8) Oversee the coordination of the annual meeting with the local host committee and the Alaska Historical Society.

For these services Museums Alaska, Inc. pays approximately \$ 1,166.00 per month and offers no staff benefits.

Deadline: Open until filled.

**Position is open
beginning October 2009.**

Submit application to
Search Committee, Museums Alaska
PO Box 82148
Fairbanks, AK 99708
Email: museums@alaska.net.

Foam Supplies for Museums

Rebecca Nelson, manager at the Copper Valley Historical Society Museum in Copper Center can supply closed cell polyethylene foam supplies for museum storage and shipping through my upholstery supplier. If you need such supplies, I can be contacted for prices and details

TEL 822-5149

Email sprucehen@coppercenterak.net.

FREE COOKBOOK (1952) Shishmaref Day School, students

Katch Bacher at the Alaska Museum of Natural History has a book available for free
Katch Bacher
Alaska Museum of Natural History
201 North Bragaw ST.
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: 274-2400

JOIN US NOW!

ALL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31.

MUSEUMS ALASKA MEMBERSHIP FORM, 2009

Name _____
 Street Address _____
 Institution Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____
 Email _____
 Designated voting representative (one per institution) _____

I want to contribute \$ _____ Donna Matthews Professional Development Fund.
 \$ _____ Advocacy Fund.

Mail to **Museums Alaska, PO Box 82148, Fairbanks, AK 99708**

Please make your check out to Museums Alaska.

Your membership is valid for the calendar year, through December 31, 2009.

You can also join online at www.museumsalaska.org

Individual Membership

___ Student or volunteer \$15
 ___ Individual (voting)\$30
 ___ Affiliate (non-voting)\$30
 ___ Patron\$100 +
 ___ Museum Level Patron.....\$500 +

Organizational Membership

___ Institution A (less than \$50,000 budget) \$ 30
 ___ Institutional B (\$50,000 – 100,000 budget) ...\$50
 ___ Institutional C (\$100,000-250,000 budget) ..\$100
 ___ Institutional D (over \$250,000 budget)\$150
 ___ Corporate Sponsor\$250

*Give the gift of
 Membership -
Museums Alaska
 Membership
 Connecting People.
 Places & Ideas!
 Join Now.*



Prince William Sound

(Continued from page 4)

"Gee, those mountains look familiar!" I quickly realized that the mountains were those surrounding present day Whittier. Portage Bay is now known as Passage Canal.

With the exception of the Whittier skyline and an occasional behemoth cruise ship at dockside, the beach and campsite area of 1898 look pretty much as they did 112 years ago. And with a little investigation one might find the entrance to the famous trail used over the ages by Alaska Natives, miners and explorers to reach what is now the Portage Glacier, Seward Highway and Turnagain Arm from the waters of Prince William Sound. Ask the U. S. Forest Service folks at the Begich Boggs Visitor Center at Portage Lake to tell you all about it.

MUSEUMS ALASKA

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ALASKA 99708
907.306-3409

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Anchorage, AK 99501
TEL: 907-272-5313
FAX: 907-272-3979
EMAIL: grants@akhf.org
WEB: www.akhf.org

Alaska Office of History and Archeology

550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3564
TEL: 907-269-8721
EMAIL: oha@alaska.net

Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA)

411 West 4th Avenue, Suite 1E
Anchorage, AK 99501
TEL: 907-269-6610
TEL: 888-278-7424
WEB: www.eed.state.ak.us/aksca

Alaska State Museums

395 Whittier St.
Juneau, AK 99801-1718
TEL: 907-465-2901
FAX: 907-465-1976
WEB: www.museums.ak.us

American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)

1717 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37203-2991
TEL: 615-255-2971
FAX: 615-255-2979
EMAIL: history@aaslh.org
WEB: www.aaslh.org

Association of Children's Museums (ACM)

1300 L St. NW, Suite 975
Washington, DC 20005
TEL: 202-898-1080
FAX: 202-898-1086
WEB: www.childrenmuseum.org

Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC)

1025 Vermont Ave. NW,
Suite 500
Washington, DC 2005-6310
TEL: 202-783-7200
EMAIL: info@axtc.org
WEB: http://www.astc.org

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

1800 M St. NW, Ninth Floor
Washington, DC 20036-5841
TEL: 202-606-8536
FAX: 202-653-4604
EMAIL: imlsinfo@imls.gov
WEB: www.imls.gov

Museums Alaska

PO Box 82148
Fairbanks, AK 99708
TEL: 907-306-3409
EMAIL: museums@alaska.net
WEB: museumsalaska.org

Museums Store Association, Inc.

4100 E. Mississippi Ave.,
Suite 800
Denver, CO 80246
TEL: 303-504-9223
FAX: 303-504-9585
EMAIL: info@museumdistrict.com
WEB: www.museumdistrict.com

National Archives and Records Administration—Pacific Alaska Region

654 West Third Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
TEL: 907-261-7801
FAX: 907-261-7813
EMAIL: bruce.parham@nara.gov
WEB: www.archives.gov/facilities/ak/
anchorage.html

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20506
TEL: 202-682-4589
WEB: www.arts.gov

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Room
402
Washington, DC 20506
TEL: 202-606-8309
EMAIL: info@neh.gov
WEB: www.neh.gov

The National Science Foundation (NSF)

4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230
TEL: 703-292-5111
EMAIL: info@nsf.gov
WEB: www.nsf.gov

National Trust for Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036
TEL: 202-747-6455
WEB: www.nthp.org

Visitor Studies Association (VSA)

8175-A Sheridan Blvd., Suite 362
Arvada, CO 80003-1928
TEL: 303-467-2200
FAX: 303-467-0064
EMAIL: info@visitorstudies.org
WEB: www.visitorstudies.org

Western Museums Association

2960 San Pablo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94702
Or
PO Box 8367
Emeryville, CA 94662
TEL: 510-665-0700
FAX: 510-665-9701
info@westmuse.org

Advertising in Network

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