



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** State Board of Education & Early Development

**Date:** February 5, 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 4C. 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

**Nadine Kramarz** joined the LAM team as the Early Literacy and Children's Services Coordinator on December 1.

**Mark Davis** joined the LAM team as a Maintenance Specialist based at the Sheldon Jackson Museum on January 30.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS



***Painting at the End of the Ice Age*** opened at the Alaska State Museum on November 3. Artist David Rosenthal has painted glaciers for the last 48 years. From the Arctic to Antarctica, his work chronicles the retreat of glaciers and sea ice. *Painting at the End of the Ice Age* documents the effects of climate change within one lifetime. For this exhibition, Rosenthal worked with a group of scientists from around the world to create interpretive panels that accompany his paintings. The exhibit runs through March 30, 2024.



***Alaska Positive*** opened at the Alaska State Museum on December 1. Now in its 53rd year, *Alaska Positive* is a juried photography exhibit featuring entries from across the state. Juried by documentary and fine art photographer Camille Seaman, the exhibit presents a selection of 35 photographs from 24 photographers. Alaskan photographers summited 202 entries for the competition. Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum sponsored the awards. The exhibit runs through March 9, 2024. It then travels to museums around Alaska.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH



**September 28:** Sheldon Jackson Museum artist-in-residence Selina Alexander (Koyukuk Athabascan) offered a public talk titled “Learning Art Forms” on how she came to be a beader, porcupine quill worker, caribou tufter, and skin and fur sewer.



**October 4:** Artist Selina Alexander (Koyukuk Athabascan) taught a beaded porcupine quill workshop at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. The class was made possible with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum, and private donors.



**October 6:** Artist Maureen Gruben gave a virtual lecture at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building as part of the closing events for the *Visceral* exhibit. Maureen Gruben is an Inuvialuk artist from the village of Tuktoyaktuk on the Beaufort Sea in Northwest Territories, Canada. Her practice encompasses varied media, including video, photography, sculpture, textiles, land installations, and large-scale public works. She shares an aesthetic affinity and mutual respect with *Visceral* exhibit co-curator Sonya Kelliher-Combs.



**October 7:** A free youth activity called “Puviaq (bird crop) Ornament Workshop” was held at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building as part of the educational programming for the *Visceral* exhibit. Alaska State Museum Conservator Ellen Carlee led the workshop in which participants dissected the bird anatomy, learned why gut is a special material, and worked to inflate a bird crop.



**October 9 and 13:** Sheldon Jackson Museum artist-in-residence Golga Oscar (Yup'ik) gave two presentations in-person and via Zoom titled “Indigenizing the Mind in Western Spaces” and “Understanding Different Techniques of Yup'ik Art.” Oscar is a self-taught artist who pursues modern textiles that reflect his cultural identity. He seeks to revitalize his ancestral work with a mix of contemporary materials and design. Through his knowledge of traditional art forms and sewing skills, he creates cultural attire that becomes a vital visual element in his photographic imagery.



**October 17-19:** Director Amy Phillips-Chan and Sheldon Jackson Museum Curator of Collections Jackie Fernandez-Hamberg participated in the 2023 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention. AFN participants were able to visit with LAM team members and learn more about resources at the Sheldon Jackson Museum, including a hands-on program for educators, an artist-in-residency program, and a new interpretative plan to bring more community voices into the exhibit gallery. The table display was designed by ExhibitAK with support from Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



**October 24-26:** Artist-in-Residence Golga Oscar (Yup'ik) led a class in traditional Yup'ik bag making at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Oscar shared, "Students will be creating a unique Yup'ik pouch by using cross or running stitch and Kelugkaq (fancy stitching) techniques. Most materials we will be exploring are calfskin, leather, yarn, and corduroy/cotton fabric. During the time of the project, you will get a chance to learn about Yup'ik culture through the knowledge I have gained throughout my research. As part of that knowledge, we will create an atmosphere of Yup'ik values and how we engage in them."



**October 28-November 4:** Artist Golga Oscar (Yup'ik) taught a mukluk making workshop at the Shelon Jackson Museum. The workshop was sponsored by the International Museum of Folk Art (IMFA), the CIRI Foundation, and Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum



**November 3:** Artist David Rosenthal gave a public lecture at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building to accompany his exhibition *Painting at the End of the Ice Age* at the Alaska State Museum.



**November 4:** Artist David Rosenthal offered a watercolor painting workshop to youth in Juneau. The two sessions were filled to capacity in the classroom at the Andrew P. Kahsevaroff Building as young artists practiced sketching glaciers, applying perspective, and trying out watercolor techniques.



**November 4:** A community potluck event was held at St. Peter's by the Sea Church in Sitka to celebrate completion of the mukluk making workshop led by Golga Oscar.



**November 9:** Sabena Allen (Tlingit) gave a presentation in-person at the Sheldon Jackson Museum and online titled "Complicating Discourse about Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Climate Change Policy in Southeast Alaska." Aandaxjoon, whose English name is Sabena Allen, is a Gaanaxteidi Raven and a child of the Kaagwaantaan clan. She is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at the University of Chicago and her research focuses on climate change and Tlingit oral history.



**November 17:**  
*Alaska Positive*  
2023 Guest Juror  
Camille Seaman  
gave a public lecture  
at the Andrew P.  
Kashevaroff  
Building. Seaman's  
photographs

concentrate on the fragile environment of the polar regions, providing the message: "we are of this Earth, and we only get one." Born on Long Island, Seaman is of Shinnecock, Montaukett, African American, and Italian ancestry. She was raised to celebrate the interconnection of humans and their environment. This way of seeing shapes her approach to photography today. She has traveled from Alaska to below the Antarctic Circle, photographing the landscape and its inhabitants.



**December 1:** Artist Jen Angaiak Wood (Yup'ik) gave a presentation via Zoom titled "Ancestral Inspirations, Modern Visions" as part of the Winter Series of events with the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Wood was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska but carries Yup'ik roots in Tununuk, a place she spent her summers while growing up. Although her designs are inspired by ancestral carvings, Wood "incorporates modern materials and concepts to emphasize that the Yupiit, and all indigenous peoples, have a contemporary culture, not just a historic one."



**January 19:** Fashion Designer Bobby Brower (Inupiaq) offered a talk via Zoom titled “Life as an Indigenous Business Owner” as part of the Winter Series of events with the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Bobby Brower is a fashion artist and furrier born and raised in Utqiagvik, Alaska. Her business, Arctic Luxe, promotes and sells luxurious handmade Indigenous clothing, accessories, and manufactured Indigenous-designed clothing.



**January 24:** The Mt. Edgecumbe High School Alaska Native Dance Group gave a public performance with singing, drumming, and dancing in the gallery of the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



**January 26:** Professor Emeritus at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Stephen Haycox, gave a presentation on Zoom titled, “Putting the Sitka Industrial Training School in Context: Alaska Natives and the Federal Government.” The lecture was offered as part of the Winter Series of events with the Sheldon Jackson Museum.

## SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM CLASS VISITS



**December 6:** Two Mt. Edgecumbe High School classes visited the Sheldon Jackson Museum for a hands-on research activity.



**December 15:** 80 students from Blatchley Middle School in Sitka visited the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Shown here is a student trying on wood snow goggles from the museum's education collection.

## GRANTS AND COLLABORATIONS



**Collections Management Fund:** Museums Alaska, with support from the Rasmuson Foundation, awarded grant funds for the Sheldon Jackson Museum to bring Yup'ik culture bearer Chuna McIntyre and Alaska State Museum Conservator Ellen Carrlee to Sitka to advise on how to best address bead disease in Yup'ik material in a culturally sensitive and appropriate way. The image shows a pair of 19th-century Yup'ik bone earrings (SJ-II-S-127) with bead disease.



**Art Acquisition Fund:** Museums Alaska, with support from the Rasmuson Foundation, awarded grant funds to support the purchase of Fairbanks artist Gail Friday's oil painting on canvas "The Extinguishing." "The Extinguishing" was part of Friday's Solo Show *Up Close and Underfoot* that ran from December 2, 2022 - February 4, 2023, at the Alaska State Museum.



### **Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation**

**Program:** The Alaska State Museum partnered with the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology to support the new Maritime Education grants administered by the National Park Service. The Alaska State Museum disseminated information about the new Alaska Maritime Heritage Program, provided one-on-one

consultation with potential applicants in partnership with the SHPO's office, assembled a review committee of experts, and recommended a ranked and scored list of projects. By December, the State Historic Preservation Officer made the final decisions based on grant criteria from the National Park Service. Awards ultimately went to 5 Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation projects totaling \$85,272 and 10 Alaska Maritime Heritage Education projects totaling \$209,697. Most projects will commence in February 2024 and be completed by June 2025.

## FACILITY DEVELOPMENT



**SNOW:** With a record amount of snowfall in January for Juneau, the Alaska DOT Division of Facilities Services had their hands full in keeping state properties dug out and open for business. Facilities Services demonstrated exceptional work in strategically clearing the mountains of snow from around the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building and helping to ensure the museum, library, and archives remained accessible to students, researchers, and visitors.



**Stratton:** The Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums coordinated an updated appraisal of the Stratton building in Sitka in November 2023. Information from the appraisal will be used in the forthcoming best interest finding.

## DIVISION TEAM BUILDING



**September:** Curator of Exhibits Jackie Manning and Exhibit Specialist Aaron Elmore offered a presentation on the museum exhibit calendar and a tour of the fabrication shop for the September 2023 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**October:** Archivists Chris Hieb, Christopher Russell, and Leah Hainebach offered an online tutorial of ArchivEra and a presentation titled “A (Digital) Labor of Love: Managing the Archives Collection” for the October 2023 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**Versascan Arrival:** Team members from across the division assisted in unpacking and setting up the new large format Versascan in the paper conservation lab at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building. Team members then participated in a hands-on training for scanning 2D and 3D materials from the collections.

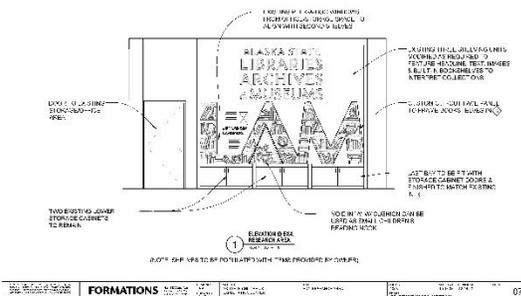


**FoSLAM Gala:** The Friends of the Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums hosted a special evening and fundraiser event at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building on October 14. Ticketed guests could enjoy appetizers, listen to live music, attend a reading in the library, watch a demonstration of the new scanner, and participate in a museum collections tour.

**Sheldon Jackson Museum Today**



**November:** Museum Protection and Visitor Services Staff Sue Conrad and Kendra Fleharty and Curator of Collections Jackie Fernandez-Hamberg offered a virtual presentation on the Sheldon Jackson Museum for the November 2023 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**December:** Director Amy Phillips-Chan led a conversation on the progress of the Children's Exploration Center in the new space for the December 2023 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**A Holiday Morning @ the APK:** LAM staff gathered for holiday treats and conversation followed by a team photo in the library reading room on December 6.



**January:** Director Amy Phillips-Chan led a presentation and conversation on the organizational structure of the State of Alaska, DEED, and LAM along with an introduction to the upcoming Legislative Session for the January 2024 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**Alaskan Red Plaid Day:** LAM staff celebrated our Alaskan snow by donning plaid shirts, scarves, and coats on January 19.

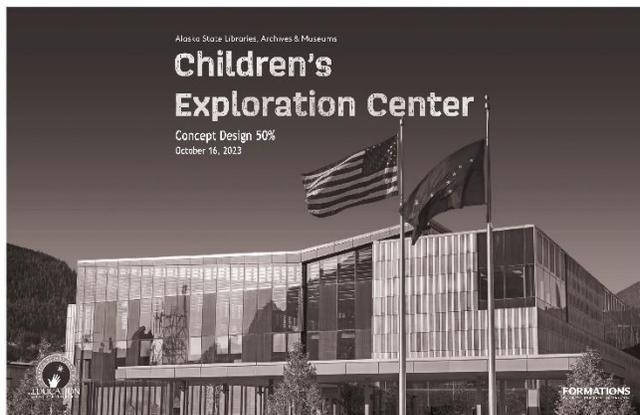


**House Post Installation:** LAM staff from across the division assisted in the installation of a new house post by Juneau artist Steve Brown on January 29. The house post is a companion to the left post inside the clan house of the Alaska State Museum. Photograph by Brian Wallace.



**Museums Alaska:** Board Members of Museums Alaska met with Alaska State Museum Curator of Statewide Services Mary Irvine during a recent trip to Juneau on January 30. Alaska has over 160 museums and cultural centers located as far north as Utqiagvik, as far west as Unalaska, and as far south and east as Ketchikan.

## CHILDREN'S EXPLORATION CENTER



**Phase II – Concept Design:** The Children's Exploration Center is in Phase II Concept Design, which includes drawings for exhibits, signage, the floor plan, and elevations. Preliminary colors and materials are being reviewed as well as lighting and power/data drawings. Planning team members are gathering images and object data as well as writing exhibit text. 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.



**Logo Development:** The Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums partnered with Cedar Group out of Juneau to develop a logo for the new Children's Exploration Center. The logo features the state of Alaska with an adult and child holding hands and pointing to a star. The figures denote the important transference of knowledge between generations while the star is an inspirational symbol and visual reference to our state flag.



**Artwork Design:** The Alaska State Libraries, Archives & Museums has partnered with 80% Studios to develop large-scale artwork for the Children's Exploration Center. 80% Studios artists and storytellers Dimi Macheras and Casey Silver are well-known for their comic book series *Chickaloonies* and are passionate about collaborative projects with students and museums.