



## MEMORANDUM

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

**Date:** February 7, 2025

**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 19B Division of  
Libraries, Archives & Museums  
Standing Report

ALASKA STATE  
LIBRARIES  
ARCHIVES  
& MUSEUMS

## DIVISION OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

The Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums (LAM) provides and coordinates library services in Alaska, preserves government records, and collects, cares for, and exhibits the cultural and natural heritage of our state. The Division has five main budget components: Library Operations, Archives, Museum Operations, Online with Libraries, and Andrew P. Kashevaroff Facilities Maintenance. The Division supports approx. 50 full-time team members who work at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka.



## SPECIAL EXHIBITS



***Honoring the Ordinary*** opened at the Alaska State Museum on November 1. The solo artist exhibition by Dena'ina multidisciplinary artist Joel Isaaq Liq'a yes of Kenai invited visitors into the immersive environment of salmon culture surrounded by smoked fabric and sand underfoot. The installation created opportunities for moments of discovery, intrigue, and possibly discomfort by considering the survivance of Salmon Culture in Alaska today. The exhibit ran through January 11, 2025.



***Sharing the World I Know***, a solo exhibition by art quilter Ree Nancarrow, opened at the Alaska State Museum on December 6. Nancarrow makes quilts that tell of climate change and its impact on the Alaskan

landscape. Her unique pieces feature custom hand-printed fabrics that she combines and quilts with intricate designs. The exhibit runs through March 15, 2025.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH



**September:** Sheldon Jackson Museum Artist-in-Residence **Tina Cupell'aq Harness**, a talented beader of mixed Yup'ik heritage from Anchorage, offered three public artist talks, led a beaded earring class for adults, a beaded necklace activity for 4-H students, and a “Journal Prompt Class for Healing and the Creative Mind.”



**September:** The Alaska State Library awarded 45 Alaska public libraries **OWL Internet Cost Assistance awards** to help provide Alaskans with the benefits and opportunities that come with access to high speed internet.



**October:** Sheldon Jackson Museum Artist-in-Residence **Denali Taniilux McGlashan**, an Unanga multidisciplinary artist working in painting, 3D modelling/animation and sculpture, offered two public artist talks, visited elders at the Sitka Pioneer Home, and led a watercolor class at the museum.



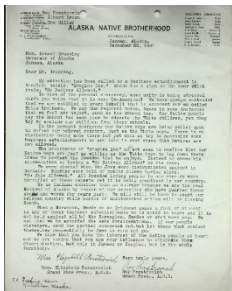
**October 4:** The Alaska State Museum hosted a **Drop-in Chilkat Tassel Making Workshop** with weavers Shaawat Ge Rae Ann Mills and Melina Meyer, Kwaashk'ikwaa. Meyer and Mills were part of the collective of weavers that wove finger-twined Chilkat Protector masks that appeared in the museum exhibit *Protection: Adaptation & Resistance*.



**October 14:** Qayaq Talk with **Lou Logan** in the museum gallery. Logan shared his journey to becoming a qayaq maker along with challenges and successes of learning to build an Iñupiaq qayaq with a historic qayaq as his guide.



**October 25:** The Alaska State Museum and Standing Tide Productions hosted a free **film preview and discussion** commemorating the 106th anniversary of the sinking of the **Princess Sophia**. Homer, Alaska filmmaker Silas Firth gave a presentation and partial preview of his documentary-in-process about the sinking of the ship.



**November:** The Alaska State Archives celebrated **National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month** by sharing records that highlighted people and events that have impacted Alaska Native communities across the state.



**November 1:** Artist **Joel Isaak Łiq'a yes** gave a **public talk** in the APK lecture hall to accompany the opening of his exhibit *Honoring the Ordinary* at the Alaska State Museum. The talk was recorded by KTOO and is available to watch at:

<https://www.ktoo.org/2024/11/01/juneau-afternoon-artist-joel-isaak-liqa-yes-solo-exhibition-honoring-the-ordinary-opens-at-the-alaska-state-museum/>

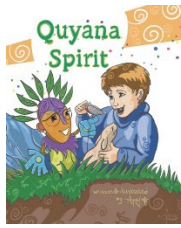
**FREE YOUTH ACTIVITY**  
**SALMON SKIN NECKLACE MAKING**  
 Saturday, November 2, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Alaska State Museum  
 Artist Joel Isaak will guide participants in salmon skin processing and will be given materials to make a necklace out of salmon skin and beads. Recommended for ages 13-19.  
**HANDS ON SALMON SKIN PROCESSING DEMONSTRATION**  
 Saturday, November 2, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Alaska State Museum  
 Participants can try out the different techniques of creating salmon leather and see various types of artwork that can be made out of salmon skin. Students of all ages welcome.  
 Sign up at [lam.alaska.gov/youthart](http://lam.alaska.gov/youthart)  
This program is partially funded by the citizens of Fair City and Borough of Juneau through public recreation and sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museums.



**November 2:** Artist **Joel Isaak Łiq'a yes** led a **salmon skin necklace making workshop** for local youth and a **hands-on salmon skin processing demonstration** for all ages as part of the opening events for *Honoring the Ordinary* at the Alaska State Museum

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**November 20:** Apay'uq Moore gave an author/artist presentation on her book *Quyana Spirit* for children and their families via zoom and during a watch party at the museum.



**November 20:** A collaboration with the Alaska State Council of the Arts and Jackie Schoppert led to the arrival and unpacking of carved wood panels titled *Big Sky Salmon* by Tlingit artist and educator Robert James **Jim Schoppert** (1947 –1992).



**December 7:** Fairbanks art quilter **Ree Nancarrow** gave a **public talk** in the APK lecture hall about her new solo exhibition *Sharing the World I Know* at the Alaska State Museum. The presentation was recorded by KTOO and available to watch at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvjI9Ob6SCE>



**December 21:** The Children's Exploration Center held a *Winter Wonderland Workshop* for youth that began with a tour of Ree Nancarrow's *Sharing the World I Know* quilt exhibit. Students then moved into the classroom to create their own fabric landscapes and receive a short lesson on stitching techniques from Amy Kesten, a local quilting artist and retired Juneau teacher.



**December 28:** **Bead Study Group #4** met in the museum conservation lab with the theme of beaded dolls. Mary Ellen Frank (red apron) of Juneau's Doll Museum described her doll construction and beadwork process.



**January:** The Alaska State Archives recognized the passing of **President Jimmy Carter** through research into the Office of the Governor's Press Office public information files (Series 612) to discover documentation on President Carter's visits to Alaska during his time in office to meet with Governor Jay Hammond. The photo of President Carter shown here was taken during an event in which he disembarked from a U.S. Marine Corps helicopter in Alaska. The Carter Administration had a significant impact on Alaska with the signing of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) into law in 1980.

## DIVISION TEAM BUILDING



**September:** Alaska State Library team members **Patrick O'Neal**, **Freya Anderson**, **Ginny Jacobs**, and **Sandy Johnston** offered a presentation on the range of historical and contemporary resources that the library offers to state employees for the September 2024 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**October:** Alaska State Archivist **Karen Gray** shared highlights of the *Archives Working Across Remote Environments (AWARE)* and *See Stories* grants as well as key takeaways from the Council of State Archivists Conference for the October 2025 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**October 24:** It was all hands-on deck for the **arrival of whalebones** from the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka to the Alaska State Museum in Juneau. Staff from across the division lent a hand in getting the heavy bones safely from the container van and into collections storage.



**November 2024:** Alaska State Library Early Literacy and Children's Services Coordinator **Nadine Kramarz** offered a presentation on the statewide summer reading program for the November 2024 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**December 2024:** Children's Exploration Center staff **Kaye Roldan** and **Kimberly Naylor** led an interactive presentation on the Children's Exploration Center with music, dance, and a popular hands-on paper landscape activity for the December 2024 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**January 2025:** Division Director **Amy Phillips-Chan** offered division-wide updates as well as a brief review of organizational structure and processes before the start of the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session for the January 2025 LAM All-Staff Meeting.



**Communication Bias Training:** The division partnered with the collective Gínga and Igníñ for two days of in-person communication bias training at the Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building in January 2025. The training focused on relationship building and enhanced communication. Participants actively engaged in naming their hopes for a more inclusive and unbiased workspace, worked together to identify collective biases, and determined ways to mitigate them.



**LAM Team Wellness Walks:** LAM staff are stepping out in short, optional group walks to various landmarks around Juneau every third Tuesday of the month in 2025. The walks are designed to promote team member wellness and foster increased communication among sections.

## TEAM AWARDS



**Alaska Historical Society** recognized Division Director Amy Phillips-Chan and co-editors R.B. Smith and Carol Gales with the **2024 Contributions to Alaska History Award** for the publication of *Stronger Together: Bering Strait Communities Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic*, 2024, University of Alaska Press.



**Institute of Museum Library Services** awarded the Alaska State Library the **Francis Keppel Award** for the timely submission of the 2023 Public Library Survey. This award recognizes the exceptional work of Grants and Continuing Education Librarian Kate Enge who serves as the state data coordinator and works with approx. 80 Alaska public libraries each year to complete the extensive survey.

## FACILITIES



**Andrew P. Kashevaroff Building:** Maintenance issues are on the rise as the APK reaches its 10-year anniversary. Two failures in a row of the sewer lift pump left half of the building without water for several days while boiler failures related to a broken fuel pump necessitated the switch to electric heat in January. Operations staff and DOT staff work closely together to mitigate damage and enact proactive measures where possible.



**Archives Storage Centers:** The State of Alaska has two main records storage centers (1 in Juneau and 1 in Anchorage) that contain thousands of boxes of state agency records, with new ones arriving all the time. Records are put in a holding pattern to be pulled per agency request, “permed out,” destroyed, or brought to the APK for processing and/or permanent storage in the Alaska State Archives.