



MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education & Early Development
Date: August 6, 2022

Thru: Acting Commissioner Heidi Teshner
Telephone: (907) 465-2911

From: Patience Frederiksen
Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums
Subject: Agenda 10B. Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums Standing Report

Staff Comings and Goings

Kendra Fleharty will start work as the Sheldon Jackson Museum as a Museum Protection and Visitor Services (MPVS) Assistant starting August 10.

Christopher Russell will start work as the Electronic Records Archivist 2 starting August 8.

Michelle Drummond will start work as a Library Assistant I in the Archives starting August 15.

Julie Niederhauser will retire from her Librarian 3 Public Library Coordinator position on September 1.

Claire Imamura has resigned from her Librarian 3 Grants and Inclusive Services Coordinator position on September 2.



May – State Archives staff participated in judging statewide Alaska History Day projects coordinated by the Alaska Humanities Forum as part of the National History Day competition. Students from grades 6 through 12 created projects (exhibits, papers, websites, and a performance) related to this year’s theme of *Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences*. The top student winners go on to compete in the National History Day contest, which will be held virtually this year in June. For 2023, the Humanities Forum has decided to stop coordinating Alaska History Day. The future of this annual event is uncertain.

Pictured: logo for Alaska History Day featuring a woolly mammoth.



Project Concludes – In 2013, the State Archives entered into an agreement with FamilySearch International to send volunteer couples to digitize archives collections pertaining to family history, including birth, marriage, and death records. After eight years with 16 volunteers working full time, the project has come to an end. Over 3,000,000 records (29 Tb) have been digitized, will be

indexed, and added to FamilySearch’s database for access at

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/>. Crowdsourcing of the Archives’ records will be available later this year to help identify all the records digitized by these volunteers.

Pictured: Logo for Family Search.

April – Alaska State Archives was invited to participate in the 3rd and final forum hosted by Reopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM), a research project conducted by OCLC, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and Battelle to produce and distribute science-based COVID-19 information that can aid local decision-making regarding operations of archives, libraries, and museums. The theme of the third forum was *Resource Networks and Collaborative Partnerships Toward Healthy Communities*.

April 19 – Wells Fargo closed its museums in Anchorage and donated much of its collections of Native artifacts to institutions that focus on Alaska’s Indigenous cultures. The Alaska Native Heritage Center received 1,700 objects. Five paintings, currently under review by the Museum Collections Advisory Committee, were donated to the Alaska State Museum.

April – Museum Outreach specialist Anjuli Grantham presented at the State of Alaska Emergency Management Conference with a session titled: *Museums, Libraries, and Archives: What Emergency Managers and First Responders Should Know*. The session was well-attended, and panelists fielded quality questions from several interested emergency managers.

April – Due to extremely high levels of snowpack in the Interior this spring, Anjuli also worked with the same panelists to pull together a webinar: *Preparing for Spring Break Up and Snow Melt Flooding*, with guest speakers from the National Weather Service and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management’s (DHSEM) River Watch program. Even with just a few days’ notice, they had over 40 individuals register for the webinar.

May 1 – The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum (SJM) received an Alaska Art Fund Grant from Rasmuson to purchase the *Midsummer Moon Mask*, artist Allie High's fusion of her Alutiiq, Tshimshian, and Haida background and her family's roots in Ninilchik. The mask will be the second contemporary

mask in the collection carved by a woman and it is the only object with such a diverse array of Alaska Native cultures in a single work of art.

May 1 – The Friends of the State Libraries, Archives, and Museums (SLAM) received a Rasmuson art acquisition grant to buy Ben Huff's image *Seven Doors of Doom*, which is the keystone of a series of images entitled *Atomic Island*. The pictured WWII and Cold War Naval outpost on the Aleutian Island of Adak tells a complex story of our westernmost front against communism and the people who live among the remnants of our past military ambitions.

May 1 – The Friends of SLAM also received a collections management fund grant from Rasmuson to use collaborative methods to establish and execute the most up-to-date gut conservation treatments and exhibition techniques in the museum field, while providing a model of inclusive collections care practice.



May 6 – An exhibit of watercolor maps created by thirteen youth participants during April's Youth Art at the APK watercolor workshop with Rachelle Bonnett opened on the APK mezzanine. The opening of the display was on First Friday.

Pictured: Student artist in front of display of watercolor maps.



May 6 – Another First Friday event had Bob King speaking on the use of sailboats in the Bristol Bay fishery until 1951, one of the last sailboat fisheries in the country. King has a background in journalism and an extensive knowledge of Alaska fisheries issues. He has written on Bristol Bay and fisheries history in *Alaska History* and other publications and is a project historian on the <NN> Cannery History Project.

Pictured: Historian Bob King reviewing a blueprint. Photo courtesy of Katherine Ringsmuth NN Cannery History Project.



May 7 – More than 200 people dropped by the Division's booth at the Maritime Fest in Juneau. The booth focused on our summer exhibit *Mug Up: The Language of Work*. Kids learned about salmon canneries, created their own cork salmon and bamboo skewer fishing poles, and tried their luck at snagging fish in our fishpond. It was a very fun, very busy day. It was our first time attending the Maritime Fest since 2018, when we made paper plate captain hats for the Princess Sophia exhibit. Pictured: Two girls fishing for cork salmon in a fishpond tub.



May 9 – 12 Fourteen rural library directors without a master's in library science attended the Small Library Institute of Management (SLIM) at the APK. The workshop covered library administration, management, policy development, collection development, copyright and patron confidentiality, reference services, programming, and technology planning. SLIM is a hybrid training, combining a four days in-person training and a self-paced online course. Julie Niederhauser, Public Library Coordinator for the State Library and Sheila Ring, Library Director for Naknek's Martin Monsen Regional Library, co-

facilitated the workshop.

Pictured: SLIM attendees posing on staircase near eagle tree in Atrium of APK.

May 16 – 20 Nationally recognized tech trainer Carson Block offered IT workshops on the basics of computer hardware, software, and networking for staff who work in libraries, archives, and museums. He taught his *Alaska Can Do IT* workshops in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks over a week.

May – State Library staff assisted two Fairbanks librarians, Sue Sherif and Tyson Rinio, by posting a series of training videos as part of their grant: *Honoring Alaska Native Cultural Heritage: Continuing Education for Alaska Community Libraries*. These videos were designed to feature Alaska's efforts to preserve and support Native languages, film, and history and is now posted on the *Sustainable Heritage Network*, an online platform that consolidates and provides access to online educational resources of interest to tribal archive, library, and museum staff. Titles include:

- [Alaska Native Languages Archive with John DiCandeloro](#)
- [Alaska Film Archives with Angela Schmidt](#)
- [Baby Raven Reads with Tess Olympia](#)
- [Cultural Programming in Petersburg](#)
- [Cultural Programming in Haines with Erik Stevens](#)



May 31 – June 4 Juneau’s rising 7 – 12th graders attended the *Teen Video Intensive and Stop Motion Workshop*, which was taught by Marie Acemah of See Stories. On June 4, Marie led a stop motion video workshop for rising 2nd - 6th graders. The students were invited to create their own original 3-minute mini-documentaries inspired by *Mug Up: The Language of Work*. The student films were screened in a free event at the APK Lecture Hall on June 3.

Pictured: Marie Acemah teaching students how to film and students interviewing APK staff on fisheries.



May 23 – 27 Anjuli Grantham hosted the first *Preparing Alaska Cultural Organizations* workshop in Juneau. Anjuli asked Division staff to donate a wide variety of materials for a live burn exercise at the Juneau Fire Department training facility. The goal was to load the objects in the burn room, then have the live burn, and to immediately work on salvaging, triaging, and stabilizing all the different materials, a situation that could mirror what a museum or archive might face after catastrophe. Three days, fifteen participants, ten team members, blue skies—it was a successful salvage/triage/stabilization workshop! Two more live burn exercises are slated for

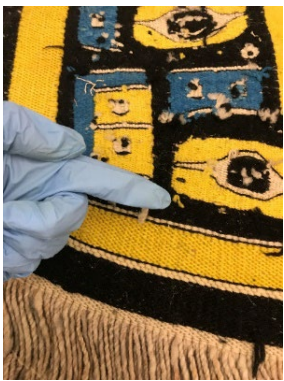
Wasilla and Fairbanks during September.

Pictured: Workshop participants and a small selection of the materials that were burned. Furniture and shelving gathered for the exercise are not pictured.



June – The State Library’s Internship Project brings one intern who has recently completed or is near completing their Master's degree in Library or Information Science (MLIS) to work in an Alaskan public library for two months each the summer. Our 2022 intern Julianna Clark is learning about writing archival metadata and controlled language describing KYUK's video collections held by the Kuskokwim Consortium Library in Bethel that contain valuable and unique Yup'ik/Yupiiit cultural information. She received her MLIS in 2021 from the University of California, Los Angeles with specializations in Archival Studies and Media Archival Studies.

Pictured: Intern Julianna Clark in Bethel.



June 8 – *A Weavers’ Gathering* at the APK focused on science in service to the weaving community and included presentations by chemists Dr. Tami Lasseter Clare and PhD student Dario Durastanti from Portland State University on the collaborative research of historic dyes used in Chilkat robes in the State Museum collection. Weaver Lily Hope and State Museum conservator Dr. Ellen Carrlee facilitated the attendee discussion with the chemists about future collaboration interests of the weaving community. The discussion was followed by a sneak preview screening of the KTOO documentary *Weaving Our Identities* produced by Paige Sparks. Chilkat and Ravenstail weavers worked on their weaving projects in the Atrium throughout the day.

Pictured: Detail from the back of a woven Chilkat robe.



June 8 – 10 Guest Artist Abel Ryan (Tsimshian) worked on his art in the Sheldon Jackson Museum lobby. He is a Tsimshian artist of the Laxiboo clan of Metlakatla, Alaska. He studied Tsimshian arts from master carver Jack Hudson in Metlakatla as a child and later went on to attend Sheldon Jackson College and the University of Fairbanks. A wood carver and metal engraver, he enjoys making masks, bowls, bracelets, rattles, earrings, pendants, and paintings.

Pictured: Guest artist Abel Ryan carving a wood figure.

June 29 – July 6 David Vishnamuri taught three workshops to library and museum staff over a week in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks. *Designing for the Future* is an interactive workshop that guided participants on how social and behavioral changes from the pandemic are affecting the future design and operation of libraries and other public institutions.

June 29 – *Alaska State Plan for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) 2023 – 2027* The Alaska State Library receives \$1.1 million annually from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to improve library services across Alaska, which we award as grants to libraries. On June 29, 2022, the State Library submitted a new five-year plan to IMLS on how we will use these funds to enhance library services across Alaska. All grants awarded by the State Library must address at least one of the activities in the plan.



June 29 – Weather cooperated as Claire Imamura and Division staff held a Family Fair Fun Day on the APK plaza. Youth travelled around Alaska with activities inspired by the collections and activities of the State Library, Archives, and Museum, including: recreating a historic photo, designing their own bookmark, making Mug Up buttons, learning about Alaska animals with the Department of Fish & Game, and making porcupine quill and bead bracelets with Ellen Carrlee.

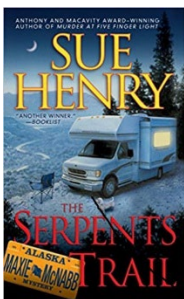
Pictured: Youth participant with origami purse to hold pin, bookmark, and bracelet and Ellen Carrlee showing students how to core porcupine quills and thread yarn through the quill.



July 8 – 30 Sheldon Jackson Museum’s Native Artist in residence this July was Eechdaa Dave Ketah, a Tlingit carver, drum maker, and painter. Ketah was born and raised in Ketchikan. His ancestors are the Hinyaa from the south of Lingít aani (Tlingit land - Southeast Alaska). What he knew about his Tlingit identity came from what his grandmother taught him as a boy. Living outside Lingít aani for most of his adult life, he learned about his heritage from reading, the internet, and museum visits. The pandemic was the catalyst for him becoming a practicing student of his language and the creative expressions of formline design, carving, and regalia making. Ketah

worked on his art in the lobby of the Museum throughout July and held two zoom classes to teach attendees how to make a tináa (copper shield) pendants and earrings.

Pictured: Eechdaa Dave Ketah sketching designs.



July – The State Library’s *Virtual Alaska Story Hour for Adults* is now reading *The Serpents Trail* by Sue Henry Fridays at noon. Coordinator Freya Anderson writes: “Story hours for kids are great, but why should they get all the fun? We’re jumping into a mystery this time, and we’re pushing our standard a bit: it’s by an Alaskan author and has an Alaskan sleuth, but this book is set Outside (gasp!). We think you’ll still enjoy it.”

Pictured: Sue Henry’s *Serpent’s Trail* book.



July 20 – Fall 2022 Artists Nicholas Galanin and Merritt Johnson designed *Water Moves Life* as a multi-site-specific work exploring the linked forces of a changing climate and rising inequality. Bronze forms replicating mass-produced plastic jugs paired with the sound of flowing water and police radio chatter braid together allusions to freedom, survival, containment, and control. The jugs serve as a reminder that all life follows water: it flows freely and cannot be easily contained. *Water Moves Life*, a project of the Anchorage Museum, has its main installation at the Anchorage Museum and is complemented by satellite locations at Cuddy Family Midtown Park in Anchorage and at the State Museum in Juneau.

Pictured: Bronze version of plastic jugs in exhibit.



July 19 – A boisterous, happy group of Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) students visited the State Museum. This group was intriguing to museum staff, since the students seemed to be from all around Alaska. A visitor services person went into the galleries to see how they were doing. She mentioned that she noticed the cool earrings that one student was wearing, and the student said she was so excited to see another pair like hers *in the display cases!* Another student approached the staff member to say how much she was enjoying the museum. She pointed out what things she really liked and why. Lisa herself was charmed: ‘To see so many students, in the summer, working together excitedly and sharing what they learned, or found in the gallery spaces as they worked out their assignment! It was such a treat.’

Pictured: ANSEP students photographed at eagle tree.