



FRIENDS *of the* **ALASKA**
STATE LIBRARY,
ARCHIVES & MUSEUM

2022

A YEAR IN REVIEW
AND A LOOK AHEAD TO 2023

Dear Friends,

In 2022 the doors to the State's Library, Archives and Museum (SLAM) were once again open with exhibits and events beginning to reflect pre-COVID conditions. First Fridays returned with free admission to the museum. Summer tourist visitors were again entering the Andrew P. Kashevaroff (APK) building to learn about Alaska's unique cultures and history.

The Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives and Museum (FoSLAM) annual membership meeting was held in February by Zoom. The ability of members from around the state to participate by Zoom has proven to be a real benefit which we plan to use for future meetings, in addition to in-person participation.

Among the numerous exhibits, youth activities, lectures, workshops and gatherings at the APK in 2022 a highlight was the exhibit *Mug Up: The Language of Work* that opened in April. A special pre-opening curated tour for members by state historian and *Mug Up* project leader Katie Ringsmuth was enlightening. The exhibit displayed pieces of equipment in the museum from one of Alaska's oldest canneries in Bristol Bay supplemented by stories from former cannery workers. *Mug Up* was the cannery term for a coffee break where diverse workers would come together and share ideas that led to labor union rights and the end to worker segregation in the canneries. The exhibit closed in October with a special lecture by Oscar Penaranda a Filipino educator, poet, activist and former cannery worker.

This year the FoSLAM Board of Directors upgraded the FoSLAM website (foslamm.org) and social media sites (Facebook and Instagram) with the help of a grant from the Alaska Community Foundation to provide contemporary information on events and activities at the APK building. A monthly email is also sent to members keeping you informed of the many activities, events, and exhibits scheduled at the APK.

The new website now includes a store link on the main page where folks can purchase exhibit catalogs like the *Spirit Wraps Around You* and *Tin Can Country* that were published by generous donations from our members. With help from FoSLAM, the Rasmuson Foundation, and the University of Alaska Press, work has also begun on publication of an

Alaska State Museum catalog and guide entitled *Alaska in Many Voices*.

FoSLAM's financial situation continues to be secure. In partnership with the Juneau Community Foundation, the Forever Friends Endowment Fund continues to build a sustainable future funding source for the library, archives and museum. The Friends Endowment Fund balance is approximately \$115,458.

On behalf of the Friends of the State of Alaska Library, Archives and Museum, let me send a special "shout out" to Patience Frederiksen who retired as Director of the Alaska State Library, Archives and Museum Division in October. Since 2016, Patience has been a great FoSLAM partner and leader for the Division. Her commitment to safeguarding Alaska's cultural and historic records has been outstanding. We also welcome the newly appointed Director Dr. Amy Phillips Chan. We look forward to helping her advance the mission of the state libraries, archives and museum.

FoSLAM currently includes approximately 255 members. The FoSLAM board welcomes and encourages members to consider volunteering to become a board member. The "about us" link on the FoSLAM webpage explains how the Board operates and the responsibilities of a board member. The board currently has seven standing committees that meet between monthly board meetings. We welcome you as a volunteer, participant on a committee, or as a board member in support of Alaska's state libraries, archives and museum.

As the end of 2022 approaches and the 2023 year begins, please renew your annual membership and consider making a Pick.Click.Give donation in your Permanent Fund Dividend application. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to seeing you at the APK in 2023.



Kurt Fredriksson

Friends of the Alaska State Archives, Library and Museum
Board President

FROM THE COVER

Photograph: detail of parka, II-A-2489.

Sonya Kelliher-Combs (Iñupiaq/Athabaskan) returns to the Alaska State Museum with a solo exhibition opening March 2023. The award-winning artist also continues her decades-long relationship with the museum in an exhibition exploring gut. It opens May 2023. The complementary exhibitions will feature Kelliher-Combs' own sculptural work as well as gut objects from the museum's collection such as parkas, drums, windows, and vessels. <https://lam.alaska.gov/gut>

2022 FOSLAM EVENTS

MUG-UP AT THE MUSEUM

Using a mug-up/coffee break motif, the Alaska State museum's 2022 summer exhibit spotlighted the language, ethnically and socially diverse cultures, and labor struggles of one of Alaska's most significant industries: salmon canning. The exhibit by state historian Katie Ringsmuth featured artifacts, specific work tasks, living quarters, and movies based on the Naknek River NN cannery in Bristol Bay. Lectures featured net and cork hanging and art, sailboat fishing, marketing and eating salmon, and the 1919 influenza pandemic. For Filipino American History Month, Oscar Peñaranda told stories and read poems based on his 15-year work experiences at NN Cannery.



Fun in the Sun Family Fair



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Kay Field Parker, Rachele Bonnett, Marie Acemah, Claire Imamura, Ellen Carrlee and staff helped participants weave, wind cord, and make buttons to decorate Ravenstail necklace bags; draw and paint their own watercolor maps; create original 3-minute cannery/fishing documentaries in a Teen Video Intensive and Stop Motion Workshop. On the APK plaza during Family Fair Fun Day, youth re-created

historic photos, designed bookmarks, and made Mug-Up buttons; learned about animals; made porcupine quill and bead bracelets. At Juneau's Maritime Fest, 200 visitors learned about salmon canneries and snagged salmon made of cork.

ALASKA STATE LIBRARY

- Fridays at noon during the library's Virtual Alaska Story Hour for Adults, folks read and discussed *Tip of the Iceberg*; *If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name*; *The Serpents Trail*; and *Walking My Dog, Jane*
- Added 100,000 digitized Alaskan newspaper pages to *Chronicling America*, a free searchable online database of historical newspapers 1777-1963
- Hosted school and adult group research and presentations
- Started *Preservica* to preserve and access 1.5 TB of electronic resources and added to 22,000 items in Alaska's Digital Archives.

ALASKA STATE ARCHIVES

- Collaborated with FamilySearch volunteer couples for eight years digitizing 3,000,000 family history records (29Tb) <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>.
- Based on Morningside Hospital, Portland, where insane Alaskans, often Natives, were sent, Judge Niesje Steinkruger and State Archivist Karen Gray taught how to search for forgotten Alaskans' family, tribal, and community histories.

LANDSCAPING

Available FoSLAM board and staff members cleaned up the APK building grounds.



Landscaping volunteers

GUT CONSERVATION COLLABORATION

Ellen Carrlee, Museum Conservator

The conservation lab has been busy preparing gut-related research, exhibits, and programming for 2023, and FoSLAM has been so helpful!

Gut refers to intestine, bladder, stomach, esophagus, or even membranes from around inner organs. Typically, the gut in Alaskan collections is marine mammal in origin (seal, sea lion, walrus, or whale) but some cultures also used bear. Translucent “summer processed” gut was the original Gore-Tex: waterproof but vapor-permeable. Satiny, opaque white “winter processed” gut was more flexible and not used wet. In addition to its use for raincoats, hats, and capes, gut was also used for windows, sails, canteens, and hunting floats. Tourist items like wall pockets and decorative bags were made from gut in the 20th century. Today, Native art markets occasionally sell earrings or small baskets made with gut, but gut items are rare. One of the few contemporary artists working with gut is Sonya Kelliher-Combs, who is collaborating with conservator Ellen Carrlee, (whose PhD research involved the relationships of Yup’ik intestine processing) to co-curate the exhibit trilogy *Visceral: Verity, Legacy, Identity. Alaska Native Gut Knowledge and Perseverance*. The three interrelated exhibitions of *Visceral* explore contemporary and historical Alaska Native issues, spotlighting gut as a material used to express Indigenous voices.

The *Visceral: Verity* gallery opens Friday March 3, 2023 as the solo exhibition of Sonya Kelliher-Combs. Her mixed-media work employs both natural and synthetic materials and draws attention to questions of authentic experience, truth, abuse, transparency, and credibility.

Visceral: Legacy opens Friday May 5 as a further interpretation of Sonya’s solo exhibition themes through objects selected from the Museum’s permanent collection. As a guest curator, Sonya brings the richness of her childhood in Nome, her international career as

an artist, her life in Anchorage, and her insights as a person of Iñupiaq, Athabascan, and European heritage.

Visceral: Identity also opens Friday May 5, featuring a selection of gut parkas from across Alaska to highlight the technical and historical aspects of this remarkable material in cross-cultural perspective. Ellen and Sonya explore the latest analytical and social science research examining this medium and why gut remains a significant material for key relationships in Alaska.

These three galleries will be open through the summer 2023 season, augmented by special workshops and lectures, and will close in mid-October 2023. FoSLAM plays a crucial role to administer grants and support this collaboration bringing together art, science, and indigenous knowledge. Thank you!

Exhibit staff Aaron Elmore and Jackie Manning (foreground) work with artist Sonya Kelliher-Combs to select objects from the museum collection and design the Visceral: Legacy exhibit gallery.





Amazements by Gail Priday

JANUARY

Up Close and Underfoot

Closes February 4, 2023

Gail Priday is an artist living in Fairbanks, Alaska who finds inspiration from the natural world, specifically the boreal forest.

FEBRUARY

Prayer Markers: Regenerative Ecology

February 3 – April 8, 2023

Jannah Sexton-Atkins mixed media assemblages are aesthetic inquiries into where science and humanity intersect.

MARCH

Visceral: Verity

Alaska Native Gut Knowledge and Perseverance

The three interrelated exhibitions of Visceral explore contemporary and historical Alaska Native issues, spotlighting gut as a material used to express Indigenous voices.



Wall pocket made of intestine trimmed with painted esophagus and cotton thread, circa 1900, from the Aleutian Islands. II-F-66



Drum, early 20th century, northwest Alaska. Likely made from walrus stomach, 97-35-14.

visceral

- 1: felt in or as if in the internal organs of the body
- 2: characterized by or proceeding from instinct rather than intellect
- 3: characterized by or dealing with coarse or base emotions

verity

- 1: the quality or state of being true or real
- 2: something (such as a statement) that is true
- 3: the quality or state of being truthful or honest

legacy

- 1: a gift by will especially of money or personal property
- 2: something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past

identity

- 1: the condition of being oneself or itself, and not another
- 2: condition or character as to whom a person or what a thing is: the qualities, beliefs, etc.
- 3: the state or fact of remaining the same one or ones, as under varying aspects or conditions



Water canteen, possibly Yup'ik, early 20th century, likely made from a seal stomach. II-A-1280

MAY

Visceral: Legacy and Visceral: Identity *Alaska Native Gut Knowledge and Perseverance*

OCTOBER

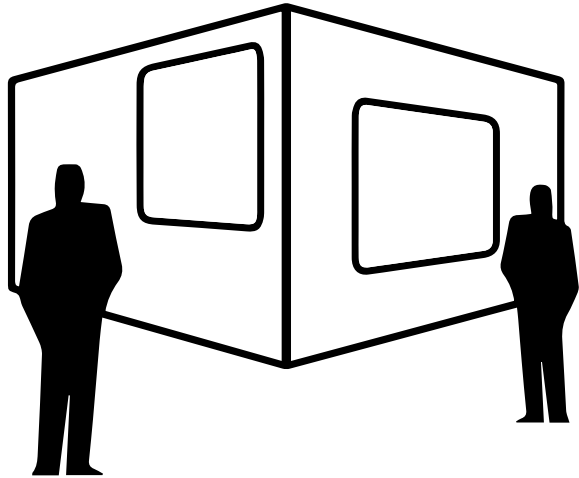
Archives Month

Check out the blog for Alaska history updates:
akstatearchives.wordpress.com

2022 Youth Activities, dates TBD

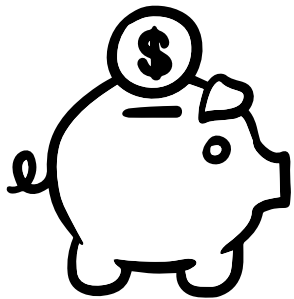
The youth activity program provides young people with opportunities to work with professional artists to learn artistic techniques and engage with art, history, and collections.

In 2022, we...

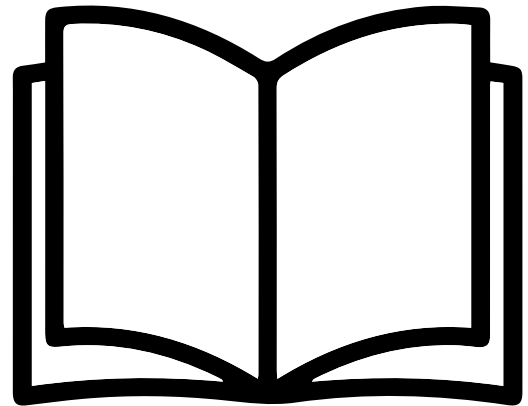


DONATED
\$21,000

FOR EXHIBITION SUPPORT, ARTIST HONORARIUMS



CONTRIBUTED
\$8,500
TO OUR ENDOWMENT FUND

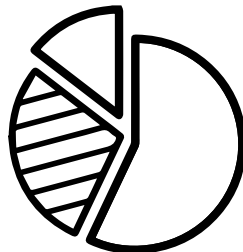


DONATED
\$5,000

TO THE ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TO BE USED TOWARD PUBLICATION
OF A MUSEUM CATALOG

MANAGED
11
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for museum acquisitions, exhibit support,
collection management and youth activities



DONATED
\$26,550

FOR ART ACQUISITIONS
(FROM GRANTS AND DONATIONS)



HOSTED
2
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19

PROGRAMS, TRAININGS & TALKS



GENERATED
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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Have you renewed your membership for 2023?

Renew online at
foslam.org/membership
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22421, Juneau, AK 99802

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being a Friend.*