



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

**2020**

**A YEAR IN REVIEW  
AND A LOOK AHEAD TO 2021**



Dear Friends,

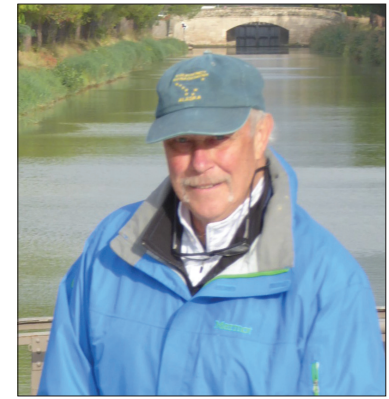
Just one year ago we looked forward to a great new year of exhibits, events, learning new stories of Alaska's cultural and physical history, and coming together at the State Library, Archives and Museum (SLAM). We looked forward to hosting monthly first Friday events and exhibit receptions. A major exhibit of Chilkat and Ravenstail weaving artistic skills in *The Spirit Wraps Around You* was planned for the summer of 2020 in conjunction with the Sealaska Heritage Institute's annual Celebration, one of the largest gatherings of Southeast Alaska Native peoples. We also looked forward to an increase in the number of visitors from around the world that bring approximately \$500,000 in revenues to help fund the acquisition and display of Alaska's history and culture.

Following the opening of a number of exhibits and events highlighted in this annual report, the bright outlook for 2020 dimmed on March 17 when the State Library, Archives and Museum had to close its doors to protect public health from exposure to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the doors to the Andrew P. Kashevaroff (APK) building locked and staff sent home, *The Spirit Wraps Around You* exhibit was cancelled, as was Celebration. With improving Covid-19 public exposure numbers the doors to the APK building opened again on June 24 with restricted hours and a limited schedule. Due to surging cases of Covid-19 in Juneau, the APK closed again in October. In the midst of a global pandemic and uncertain future, that's where we are today.

Now the good news and reason for hope. The Friends organization's financial situation is strong and we contributed \$25,000 to SLAM operations in 2020. With the help of local business sponsors and many individual contribution the Friends of the State Library, Archives and Museum raised enough funds to have Tlingit artist Lily Hope weave a Chilkat Protector Covid-19 mask for the State Museum's permanent collection. The Museum is planning on presenting the *Spirit Wraps Around You* exhibit in the summer of 2021 and looks forward to again receiving the revenues brought by worldwide visitors. In partnership with the Juneau Community Foundation, the Forever Friends Endowment Fund continues to grow and build a sustainable funding source to perpetuate the good work of the Library, Archives and Museum.

During the APK closure, State Library, Archives and Museum staff have done a wonderful job with online exhibits and daily social media content provided by the

collection. Take a virtual field trip to the State Archives and discover the people and events that shaped Alaska as we know it today. Explore the Alaska Digital Library with a collection of tens of thousands of ebooks and audio books. Enjoy



Kurt Fredriksson, FoSLAM president

a virtual tour of the Sheldon Jackson Museum available on the website through a partnership with the US Forest Service. The State Museum is participating in Virtual First Friday's organized by the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council where you can now view the *Simply Big* exhibit of large format art from the Museum's permanent collection. Log on to the SLAM website at <https://lam.alaska.gov/home> and explore the many virtual programs, exhibits and content that that can be found there.

To capture some of the pandemic's impact on the State Museum, past FoSLAM president and professional photographer Ben Huff interviewed a number of historians, artists, educators, and curators who have previously worked with the Museum. He explored what they missed about the Museum being closed, and what they looked forward to when it reopens. What I learned from these interviews is how special and important Alaska's State Library, Archives and Museum are to experiencing, sharing, and learning about Alaska's rich cultural and physical history. I also see the importance of kids learning and visiting with friends and visitors at the APK. To read what these individuals had to say visit our facebook July 16, 2020 page <https://www.facebook.com/foslam.org>

It is more likely than not that a vaccine to combat Covid-19 will be available in 2021 allowing us to return to the hopes and expectations we held for the State Library, Archives and Museum at the beginning of 2020. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to seeing you at the APK in 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt Fredriksson".

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

# 2020 FOSLAM EVENTS

## ALASKA'S SUFFRAGE STAR

The State Museum organized a traveling exhibit examining women's suffrage in Alaska to commemorate the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment. The exhibit describes how local and national activism helped Alaska women citizens achieve the vote in 1913, seven years before the 19th Amendment. In 1924, all Alaska Native women became eligible voters when the federal government granted US citizenship to Native Americans. The League of Women Voters and the Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum sponsored the exhibit.



*Margaret Vale, niece of President Woodrow Wilson, represents Alaska in a 1915 suffrage parade in New York City. Image courtesy Library of Congress.*

## WOMEN OF ALASKA

The State Archives and the Historical Collections organized a *Women of Alaska* exhibit in honor of the centennial of the 19th Amendment. The multi-panel exhibit celebrates and recognizes the significant role women have played in shaping Alaska into the state it is today.

## LOWLANDS

A solo artist exhibit by Sara Tabbert opened at the State Museum exploring the beautiful landscapes of interior Alaska. Tabbert created woodblock prints, carved panels, and sculptures that reveal often overlooked subjects and environments.

## WOMEN OF VISION

In recognition of the 100-year anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States, the Alaska State Museum exhibited a collection by 50 Alaska female artists that spans over a century including recent acquisitions made possible by the Rasmuson Foundation.

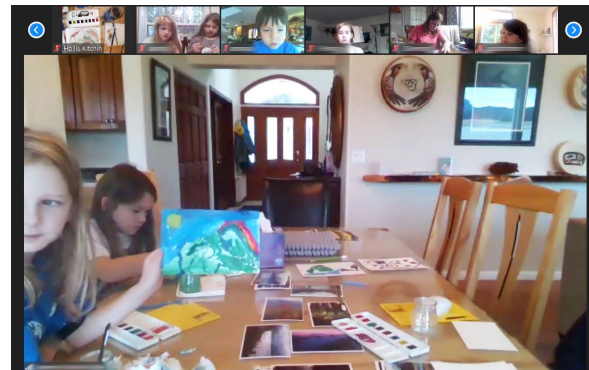
## THE SALMON WAY: AN ALASKA STATE OF MIND

The State Library welcomed Amy Gulick, author and photographer of *The Salmon Way: An Alaska State of Mind*, for a public lecture, book signing, and refreshments. This program was recorded for later broadcast on 360 North and on the web at [www.ktoo.org/show/at-the-apk/](http://www.ktoo.org/show/at-the-apk/).

## SPECIAL YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

On the last day of winter vacation, more than 125 Juneau children spent a fun-filled day with their families at the Father Andrew P. Kashevaroff building that houses the State Archives, Library and Museum. Activities included:

- Posing for a portrait in Alaskan locales in the Archives photo studio
- Learning about Alaska animals with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Creating a design for the Kids Don't Float poster contest
- Upcycling Alaska newspapers collected for the Alaska newspaper project
- Making Alaska action figures out of chenille stems, based on the clothing and technology in the Museum's collections.



*Although everyone was disappointed that activities were put on hold, we were able to switch October's activity to virtual, and had a watercolor postcards workshop with Hollis Kitchin. We're looking forward to more virtual workshops and to eventually being able to create art together again!*

This annual youth program is partially funded by the City and Borough of Juneau and is sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum.



## ILLUSTRATING ALASKA EXHIBIT

“If you were a porcupine, I would still want to hold you close.” That’s the text. You’re the illustrator. How would you illustrate a mama porcupine with 30,000 quills cuddling her baby for the night? Would you use soft or vibrant colors? Should the animal be cartoon-like and playful or realistic? Those challenges haunt and inspire children’s book illustrators.



*The final cover illustration for Shanyaak’utlaax, Salmon Boy, illustrated by Michaela Goade for Baby Raven Reads. The exhibit features different steps that these four artists go through in order to arrive at a book.*

Sarah Asper-Smith’s Illustrating Alaska exhibit highlights a variety of techniques Alaskan artists use to illustrate children’s books. Mitch Watley sketches in pencil and then uses the computer to digitally color his drawings. Like Mitch, Jim Fowler begins with pencil sketches, but he paints his illustrations in acrylic after storyboarding them. Evon Zerbetz carves her images backwards in linoleum and then inks and prints her work by hand. Michaela Goade paints in watercolor and then adds digital finishing touches. Each artist creates his

or her unique vision using varied media and methods to make the text come to life on the page.

Although the Illustrating Alaska exhibit celebrates artwork for children and the displays are sized for 4- to 12-year-old bodies, everyone will learn how to illustrate a children’s book.

Visitors can become artists. They’ll receive a short text appropriate for a children’s book, they’ll draw sketches that relate to the text, and then they’ll use crayons to draw one of their sketches. In The Book section, children of all ages

can paste their own illustrations and text into a book, creating a 32-page story.

The Illustrating Alaska exhibit will travel to museums around the state beginning with the Alaska State Museum in Juneau in February 2021. A pop-up exhibit will be displayed at libraries, schools and community centers statewide.

## FRIENDS CHILKAT MASK MUSEUM DONATION

In the summer of 2021, the museum plans to display a major exhibit on Chilkat and Ravenstail weaving titled *The Spirit Wraps Around You*. Master weavers from southeast Alaska and Canada will tell the story of traditional Northwest Coast weaving. The FoSLAM Board of Directors thought a Chilkat Protector COVID-19 mask woven by Lily Hope, a Chilkat weaver, could be an important exhibition of the most important of contemporary events (COVID-19) alongside some of the oldest robes in the world.

In 2020 there were no funds in the state budget allocated to purchase objects or artifacts for the Museum’s collections. Thanks to generous



*Deanna Lampe, Elizabeth Hope, Lily Hope. @sydneyakagipfoto*

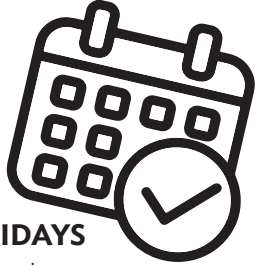
donations received by individuals and business sponsors, a Chilkat Protector COVID-19 pandemic mask will be purchased for display at the 2021 summer exhibit *The Spirit Wraps Around You* and added to the Museum’s permanent collection.

*Cover photo: David Eckerson. @sydneyakagipfoto*

# In 2020, FoSLAM...

HOSTED

3



IN-PERSON FIRST FRIDAYS

with free admission and snacks

SAVED  
**\$55,000**

TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

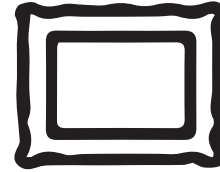
the Forever Friends Endowment Fund



SENT MONTHLY EMAIL  
UPDATES TO

**686**

FoSLAM SUPPORTERS



RAISED

**\$4,000**

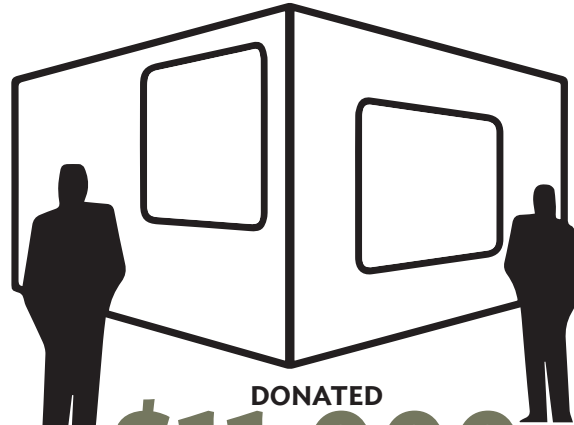
TO PURCHASE THE  
CHILKAT PROTECTOR MASK  
BY LOCAL WEAVER LILY HOPE

SUPPORTED

**125**

KIDS DOING ART

at the Annual Youth Program



DONATED

**\$11,000**

FOR EXHIBITIONS

ASSISTED IN PROVIDING LAM WITH OVER

**\$114,000**

IN SUPPORT



MANAGED

**3 + 7**

GRANTS

FUNDS

for the Libraries, Archives and Museum

# MOUNTING NORTH-COAST ROBES FOR SUMMER 2021'S THE SPIRIT WRAPS AROUND YOU

By Aaron Elmore

North coast weaving is often exhibited flat against a wall. This is convenient but not ideal. The pieces can start to look like pictures. Also, backs are hidden and, for weavers, seeing the back is essential.



Off-the-Wall Blanket Mount

Off-the-Wall mounted robes have a much greater visual impact. A thin but strong lath of spruce is inserted through a tube stitched by hand to the piece. Gaps left in the

stitching allow custom made brackets to grab the spruce lath and hold the robe flat, secure, and about four inches from the wall. A curved lath lifts one edge of the robe far enough from the wall to expose the back.

We will also include three mannequins in *The Spirit Wraps Around You*, each with an in-house designed and fabricated, self-supporting, aluminum skeleton with posable, lockable joints. All three skeletons are covered with hand carved muscle masses made from polyethylene foam.



Mannequin Skeleton



Dancing Mannequin

The most complicated "mannie," will be dancing with robe flaring out and fringe swirling. The illusion will be created by a light-weight frame of steamed spruce lath and plywood bolted to the mannie's skeleton. Extra support for the fringe is provided by a translucent band of bias-cut silk organza running along the base of the frame. All this extra support would be for

nothing without the mannie's posable skeleton which allowed for the dozens of tiny adjustments needed to make this dancer look like they are really moving.

Even more striking than our Off-the-Wall mounts but less work than our mannequins are our newly conceived 'barrel' mounts. A custom jig was built to hold three pieces of steamed lath

in shape while the glue dried for 24 hours. This sharply recurved glue-up was then combined with almost twenty more custom steamed and shaped pieces of lath to form a framework that floats off the floor on a single post.

Curator-of-collections, Steve Henrikson co-curates the show with internationally renowned weavers: Evelyn Vanderhoop, Marie Oldfield, and Lani Hotch. Weaver Delores Churchill is serving as an exhibit elder, and Juneau-area weavers and Ravenstail Weaving Guild members Lily Hope, Janice Criswell, and Kay Parker are assisting.



Barrel Shoulder Jig



Barrel Mount



Barrel Mount Armature

Approximately 24 robes will tell the story of Native weaving among the Tsimshian, Haida, and Tlingit of Alaska and British Columbia. In addition to robes from the museum's own collection, local Tlingit clans are lending their sacred robes to the effort.





**FRIENDS** *of the* **ALASKA**  
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P.O. Box 22421 | Juneau, AK 99802 | | [www.foslam.org](http://www.foslam.org)

***Thank you for  
being a Friend.***

