Alutiiq Museum Selected for Incubating Innovation Program

The Alutiiq Museum is one of four Alaskan arts organizations selected to participate in Incubating Innovation. This year-long program, led by EmcArts of New York City, helps organizations address their most complicated challenges by examining long held practices and promoting innovation. Generous support from the Rasmuson Foundation is making this program available in Alaska this year.

“We participated in an earlier stage of innovation training with EmcArts last year,” said Alutiiq Museum Executive Director Dr. April Counceller. “That process was very valuable. It helped us sort through our challenges and test some of our assumption. Now, we are ready to begin addressing one of our central issues, involving more of Kodiak’s diverse community in the exploration and celebration of Alutiiq heritage. This is the challenge we will be innovating around in the coming year, in our second year of training.”

The program, which begins this month, will take the museum through an intense six-month planning effort. Counceller will build a ten-member team of representatives from the museum’s board, staff, and community to participate in both Kodiak-based work sessions and a five-day retreat in Girdwood, Alaska. Following planning, the museum will implement a pilot project with a $20,000 grant from the program, an experiment designed to test a new strategy for audience engagement.

The Alutiiq Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and culture of the Alutiiq, an Alaska Native tribal people. Representatives of Kodiak Alutiiq organizations govern the museum with funding from charitable contributions, memberships, grants, contracts, and sales.