Alutiiq Memorial Park Takes Shape

A lot on the corner of Upper Mill Bay Road and Kashevaroff Drive is empty today, but plans are underway to transform this small, brush-covered piece of downtown Kodiak into a new city park. The City of Kodiak is currently considering a proposal from the Alutiiq Museum to dedicate the .34-acre plot to a memorial park honoring the ancestors of the Kodiak Alutiiq people. The idea for the park came from the museum’s Executive Director, April Laktonen Counceller.

“We want to have a place where our Alutiiq ancestors can be publically honored and remembered in a culturally meaningful way”, said Counceller.

The City of Kodiak owns the land for the proposed park. The parcel lies behind the Alutiiq Museum, under a patch of alder and salmonberry bushes. With the assistance of Kodiak Mayor Pat Branson, and a community steering committee, the museum is developing plans for park facilities. The group envisions easy maintained landscaping and features inspired Alutiiq traditions. Counceller explains.

“Our working plan is to have a pathway across the lot that intersects a memorial area. The memorial would be a large concrete circle planted in the center with Forget-Me-Nots, and encircled by concrete benches. The circle is an important symbol in Alutiiq culture. Circles represents the universe in Alutiiq art, and circular holes can act as passageways between the human and the spirit world. They are also symbolic of vision and awareness. In addition, we would like to install signs that tell people about the memorial project and introduce Kodiak’s Native history.”

Funding for the project would come from donations and sales. Community organizations have already offered to provide labor and supplies, and the Alutiiq Museum proposes to lead the project and raise the remaining funds through grants and brick sales.

“People would be able to buy a paving stone for the park walkway, and to have a name engraved on it,” said Counceller. “We would welcome anyone to put their name on a brick, to share a message, or to remember a loved one. We see the park as a place for people of all heritages to learn about Kodiak’s past and to memorialize those who came before us. All of us have ancestors and a history that deserves understanding.”

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Looking for something to do with your friends and family this holiday season? If you’re a current member, you already enjoy free admission to the Alutiiq Museum. Now, thanks to the generous support of KeyBank, everyone gets in for free between November 25 and December 23! Add a little local culture to your holidays with a visit to the Alutiiq Museum, a gift to our community from KeyBank.

November 25 – December 23
FREE ADMISSION
**Cama’i Friends,**

The fireweed is in bloom and the fish are running. *Kiagumuuq*! – It must be summer! We have had a busy gallery this season with numerous travelers, local friends, and cruise ship visitors. We delight in seeing new faces, greeting friends at our events and programs, and corresponding with supporters on our social media pages.

One of our most popular Facebook posts this summer featured the discovery of an ancient intertidal fish weir. On the same survey, the team discovered at least 17 other archaeological sites, and an array of petroglyphs. It seems that every time we look around, we learn new things about our culture and history.

New finds of old things are not just limited to archaeology. Our ongoing research with local Elders continually teaches us new things about our heritage. When I recently shared how exhaustingly energetic my youngest child can be, an Elder shared a valuable story. In her youth, Elders looked upon such children with favor—because they were the ones most likely to survive to adulthood. What an eye opener and reminder to modern parents who worry about so many little things!

We are privileged to work in culture where family and community are precious, and knowledge has unexpected relevance in the modern world. In this newsletter, we share updates on many museum activities, all of which include opportunities to experience, participate, or contribute. Join us! I hope to see you soon.

With warm regards,
April/Isiik Laktonen Counceller, PhD
Executive Director

**ALUTIIG HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

Chair  Margaret Roberts, Koniag, Inc.
Vice Chair  Margie Bezona, KANA
Treasurer  Perry Eaton, Ouzinkie Native Corporation
Board Member  Fred Coyle, Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc.
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Board Member  Andy Teuber, KANA
Board Member  Emerita-at-Large Ruth Dawson
Board Member  Emerita-at-Large Rita Stevens

**Mission and Vision:**
By preserving and sharing cultural traditions of the Alutiiq people, we seek to celebrate Alutiiq heritage through living culture.

The Alutiiq Museum is governed by Afognak Native Corporation, Akhiok-Kaguyak Inc., KANA, Koniag Inc., Leisnoi Inc., Natives of Kodiak Inc., Old Harbor Native Corporation, and Ouzinkie Native Corporation. Each organization elects a representative to the Alutiiq Heritage Foundation, the Alutiiq Museum’s board. Funding is provided by charitable contributions, membership fees, grants, contracts, and sales from the museum store.

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The *Alutiiq Kasitat* is published quarterly by the Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository.

**ALUTIIG MUSEUM STAFF**

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<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>April Laktonen Counceller, PhD</td>
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<td>Rosanne Wilson</td>
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<td>Collections and Exhibits Specialist</td>
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<td>Projects Manager</td>
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<td>Events Specialist</td>
<td>Christina Thompson</td>
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<td>Jeff García</td>
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Enroll Now for the Alutiiq Language Nest!

In January, the Sun’aq Tribe started Alutiit’stun Niuwawik (A Place to Speak Alutiiq), an Alutiiq language nest. Here, young children are immersed in Alutiiq language while participating in developmentally appropriate activities. The nest provides a unique opportunity to learn Alutiiq, while preparing children for kindergarten.

Classes take place at the Alutiiq Center, upstairs from the Alutiiq Museum, from 8:30am to 11:30am. The daily routine includes circle time, singing, arts, indoor games, snack time, reading aloud, small-group play, free play, and outdoor activities at Sargent Park. Alutiiq-speaking Elders and language learners support the immersion experience.

The first full year of the Alutiit’stun Niuwawik begins September 5th. Classes will be held three days a week. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the program welcomes children ages three to five years old with independent bathroom skills. Young students are encouraged to enroll with a caregiver to attend and learn alongside the student. Wednesdays will focus on kindergarten preparation with advanced activities for student’s ages four and five.

The program also hosts family language learning events, and requires families of language nest students to participate twice a month. Learning together helps students understand that they are part of a language community. Language learning continues throughout the school year at Family Language Night, where community members gather to make soup and practice beginner language lessons. All are welcome to this weekly event. The next Family Language Night will be August 30th, at the UAF Fishery Industrial Technology Center on Near Island. Visit Facebook for updates and news!

https://www.facebook.com/KodiakAlutiiqLanguageProject/.

You can enroll in the Language Nest today! Registration packets are available at the Sun’aq Tribe, on their website (sunaq.org/tamamta-liitukut), or by contacting program staff. Candace Branson, Project Manager, 486.4449, cmbranson@sunaq.org.

Volunteers Welcome

Do you like to meet people? Can you take photos, bake cookies, make crafts, or talk about Kodiak? Are you interested in art or archaeology? If the answer to any of these questions is “Yes!”, the Alutiiq Museum has a spot for you. We are looking for volunteers to help with everything from greeting visitors to washing artifacts. No experience is necessary. We’ll design a volunteer opportunity that fits your schedule and interests, and provide training. Turn your free time into a fun, unique experience. Volunteer at the Alutiiq Museum. To learn more please contact Jeff Garcia, 844.425.8844, x19, jeff@alutiiqmuseum.org.
A series of eight digital storybooks are connecting students of all ages with Alutiiq culture and language. The books are the creation of Kodiak authors and artists in partnership with the Native Village of Afognak (NVA) and the Alutiiq Museum. Each story focuses on Alutiiq traditions. Newly written stories and classic tales weave together cultural themes, colorful illustrations, and Alutiiq vocabulary to promote learning. Modern technology helps to bring the books to life. The books are apps, free smartphone programs that make Alutiiq language available to a global audience.

At the heart of each book is a recording by an Alutiiq speaker. Readers can simply listen to the recording or they can interact with the words. They can touch any word or letter in the story to hear a spoken version, and they can make their own recording of each book. This allows readers to see, hear, and practice speaking Alutiiq words.

In August, NVA published the seventh book in the series. Kaugya’angcum Qawangurtuwa, Small Fox’s Dream, tells the story of a young fox who imagines getting ready for school. In addition to an app version of this book, print copies are available through the Alutiiq Museum store. The eighth and final book in the series will be released this fall. It features The Ptarmigan Girl, a legend shared by Candace Branson.

The app books are compatible with iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch devices using iOS 8.0 or higher. They can be downloaded for free from the iTunes store. Search by story name to find them. These books were produced with generous support from the Afognak Native Corporation, Administration for Native Americans, and Institute of Museum and Library Services.
Beaded Artwork Added to Collection

Beaded artwork was the focus of two recent purchases for the museum’s collections. With support from Rasmuson Foundation we added a beaded picture and a beaded headdress to our holdings. Both works are by Alutiiq artists, and will be displayed in an upcoming museum exhibit on Alutiiq spirituality.

Past and Present is a beaded picture by Wasilla artist Cheryl Lacy. This three-dimensional embroidery combines images reflecting Alutiiq spirituality—petroglyphs, the Alutiiq hero Raven, the natural world, and the Orthodox Church. The piece was inspired by family stories and a photograph Lacy took looking down Kodiak’s Mission Road. The 8” by 12” image is made from glass beads hand-stitched to a pellon base with nymbo bead thread, and a black ultrasuede backing. Past and Present joins two other bead embroideries by Lacy, donated to the museum in 2017.

The second piece is a headdress by Old Harbor’s Kayla Christiansen. Titled Nacaq, this headdress was created with glass beads, metal charms, leather, and synthetic sinew. The beaded designs on the garment’s cap represent Alutiiq history. The top rows of beads use the Alutiiq colors of red, white, and black to symbolize traditional culture and values. The second set of beads uses the colors of the Russian flag to represent conquest and colonial rule. The third set of beads is pattern to represent the American flag and denote the sale of Alaska to the United States. Below the American flag design, rows of gray and black beads represent the hardships, disease, and trauma experienced by Alutiiq people. Nacaq is currently on display at Sitka National Historical Park in an exhibit observing the 150th anniversary of the Alaska purchase.

To see these pieces, and all the artwork purchased through the Rasmuson Art Acquisition Fund, please visit the collections page of our website and click on Contemporary Art. To date, the Alutiiq Museum has purchased of 126 works by 36 artists with over $195,000 in grants from the fund.

Attention Artists!

The Alutiiq Museum is currently seeking artwork to purchase through the Rasmuson Foundation Art Acquisition Fund. If you are an established artist, living in Alaska and would like the museum to consider your work for our collection, please contact Amanda Lancaster 844-425-8844, x22, amanda@alutiiqmuseum.org.

We will consider any piece of visual art that compliments the museum’s mission and was produced within the past three years. Application materials are available at https://alutiiqmuseum.org/opportunity and proposals are due by Friday, September 8th at 4:00 pm.
Speaking of Kodiak

The Alutiiq Museum’s annual fall lecture series kicks off on Thursday, August 24 with a presentation by Candance Branson and Marya Halvorsen. Learn about the Alutiiq language revitalization efforts and the new Language Nest. This innovative preschool program is combining language instruction with Kindergarten preparation (p3).

Branson and Halvorsen are among the eight who will share current Kodiak programs and research during the two-month lecture series. Sticklebacks, fish traps, salmon skin, and paralytic shellfish poisoning are among the topics to be discussed on Thursday evenings starting at 7:00 pm. The first three events will be held at the Kodiak Public Library, and the last four at the Alutiiq Museum (see p8 for a full schedule). The series is a chance for the public to learn from local experts and to discuss their work. Each lecture ends with a question and answer period and a chance to meet the speaker.

If you can’t attend the lectures in person, or want to revisit a great talk, watch for videos of the presentations online. We will be filming each speaker, archiving the talks on our website, and sharing them over social media.

All lectures are free and open to the public. Taikina-You should come.

Wildflower Lore

Blueberry, salmonberry, and fireweed blossoms are adding a pop of color to the KANA Near Island Building, in vibrant paintings by Cathy Cordry. The paintings are part of Kodiak Wildflower Suite, a set of ten oil on panel works purchased by the Alutiiq Museum in 2016. Five of the paintings are now on display, featuring plants important to Alutiiq subsistence and health. Beneath each painting, cultural information and photographs tie traditional plant knowledge to Cordry’s artwork. Gayla Pedersen bakes with blueberries. Annie Boskofsky harvests cotton grass. Nina Olsen applies of poultice of salmonberry leaves to her daughter’s hand.

The cultural information comes from research conducted by Priscilla Russell. In 1990, Russell visited all of Kodiak’s Alutiiq communities where she met plant harvesters and recorded their traditions. The museum is currently working with Russell to publish her notes and photographs. A book titled Naut’staarpet—Our Plants, A Kodiak Alutiiq Plantlore, will be available in December. Edited by museum staff and designed by Alisha Drabek, the book will feature 60 local plants and their many uses for food, fuel, raw material, and medicine. Till then, the new Near Island display provides a colorful taste of Alutiiq plant use.

Quyanaa—thank you to the Kodiak Area Native Association and the Institute for Museum and Library Services for supporting the display.
What can my class do at the Alutiiq Museum? Are there ways children can experience the Alutiiq language? What is in the museum’s educational boxes and how do I reserve one? These are some of the common questions the Alutiiq Museum answers in its latest publication, Guide for Litnauwistet–Teachers. This colorful, sixteen-page booklet is designed to connect educators of all types with the museum’s resources. Whether you work in a preschool or college classroom, or in after school program, camp, daycare center, or homeschool, the guide is a useful tool for understanding the museum’s services.

“Educators are among our most important partners,” said April Laktonen Counceller, the museum’s executive director. “When teachers and caregivers take the time to explore Alutiiq heritage with youth, they demonstrate that it is important to understand the history of Kodiak. They help to dismantle stereotypes and encourage children to see the world in fresh ways. The museum has been operating for 22 years now, and we have built an extensive set of resources. The guide supports teachers’ efforts. It helps them connect with ideas and staff members.”

The guide is more than a description of opportunities, however. It is an invitation to collaborate. Counceller explains. “People sometimes think that a visit to the museum is a scripted experience, where a staff member presents a predesigned tour. We want educators to know that the museum has many resources and knowledgeable staff members, and that we can use them to design unique experiences. We can provide hands on activities in our gallery or design a presentation that addresses a topic of interest to the class. This summer, for example, children participating the Fish & Wildlife Service’s salmon camp came to the museum to learn about Alutiiq uses of salmon.”

The guide is free. It was produced as part of the museum’s contribution to the Munartet Project, a partnership that supports teaching in and through the arts and culture in Kodiak. Partners include the Kodiak Island Borough School District, Alutiiq Museum, Kodiak Arts Council, and Kodiak College, with support from the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

The museum is providing complimentary copies of the guide to schools, libraries, tribes, and community organizations. Copies will also be available to the public while supplies last. You can request a copy by contacting Gallery Assistant Lauren McCausland. Or visit the education page of the museum’s website to download a PDF version.
Events

Fall Calendar

August 24th, 7pm, Fall Lecture Series (at Library)
Candace Branson and Marya Halvorsen – The Alutiiq’sun Niuwawik – A place for speaking Alutiiq

August 31st, 7pm, Fall Lecture Series (at Library)
Julia Fine – The Alutiiq Word “awa’i”

September 1st, 5-7pm First Friday | June Pardue

September 2nd, 1-2:30pm, Alcohol Ink Painting Workshop with June Pardue, registration required

September 7th, 7pm, Research Night at the Kodiak Public Library Use library resources to investigate Alutiiq heritage.

September 8th, 4-7pm, Alutiiq Culture Fest Community celebration with exhibit preview, free fry bread, headdress pageant, and activities

September 9th, 1-5pm, Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers 30th Anniversary Celebration | Afognak Native Corporation Building

September 14th, 7pm, Fall Lecture Series (at Library)
Patrick Saltonstall – Fish Traps, Fox Farms and Petroglyphs: The Afognak Land Survey

September 21st, 7pm, Fall Lecture Series (at Museum)
Natura Richardson – Stickleback Observations

September 23rd, Noon-4pm, Craft Saturday Alutiiq Animal Masks

September 28th, 7pm, Fall Lecture Series (at Museum)
Kitty Deal – Qik’ram Litnauwistai (Island’s Teachers)

October 5th, 7pm, Fall Lecture Series (at Museum)
Hanna Sholl – Hand Tanning Salmon Skin

October 6th, 5-7pm, First Friday | Threshold Recycling

October 12th, 7pm, Fall Lecture Series (at Museum)
Julie Matweyou – The Deadliest Dig–Kodiak Shellfish and PSP

October 21st, Noon-4pm, Craft Saturday Petroglyph Pumpkin Carving

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  - 1 unlimited admission + News

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- **Isuwiq Seal** $100
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  - All members and donors $250+ receive recognition in a Kodiak Daily Mirror ad and on our website.

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**PAYMENT METHOD**

- Credit Card
- Check attached

**CREDIT CARD NUMBER**

$ CHARGE AMOUNT

**SIGNATURE**

You may submit your application by mail, phone, fax or in person. For online donations visit: alutiiqmuseum.org/give/donate

Alutiiq Museum
215 Mission Road, First Floor
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

PHONE 844.425.8844
FAX 866.335.7767
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