

Cama'i—Hello,

The Alutiiq Museum is beginning a visible transformation. For two years, we have been planning an expansion and renovation of our building. Behind the scenes, we've worked with architects, engineers, general contractors, committees, and consultants to design and fund facilities that better meet community needs. You want to create, teach, learn, and gather in the museum, surrounded by Alutiiq/Sugpiaq heritage. We don't have the space.

The renovation project will address this need. We are adding 3400 ft² to our building and transforming the entire first floor into public space. There will be a classroom, a gathering area, and a much larger exhibit gallery and museum store. We will also move our collections to a bigger vault in the basement so that research and collecting can continue.

Construction begins this summer. Our building will close to the public at the end of June and exhibits and tours will not be available. However, our staff will continue to provide community outreach and share resources, and our store will move to the KANA Marketplace. The coming year will be unusual, but the museum will emerge well-equipped for our next generations of service. We thank you for your patience as we grow. Please follow our progress on the renovation page of our website.

April Isiik Counciller
Executive Director

Giving Matters

Sharing the catch is an Alutiiq value. Whether it's a seal or a salmon, harvesters make sure that their family and friends are fed. They know that generosity leads to prosperity. The same is true of a gift to the museum. When you support our work, you give to the community. You make it possible for many people to learn, grow, and celebrate. Support heritage education today.

alutiiqmuseum.org/give

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OUR MISSION

The Alutiiq Museum preserves and shares the heritage and living culture of the Alutiiq people.

OUR VISION

Celebrating heritage through living culture.

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ALUTIIQ MUSEUM STAFF

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Headdresses in Old Harbor

Lent is a time of sacrifice and reflection in Alutiiq/Sugpiaq communities. The faithful do not hunt or eat meat in the forty days before Easter. Instead, people work on their homes, clean their communities, and enjoy quiet indoor activities. This spring, beading was a focus of Lenten activities in Old Harbor. Ten women met with artists Kayla McDermott and Emily Jean Capjohn to learn headdress making, with instructions and supplies provided by the Museum.

For two days, the ladies sat at tables in the tribal hall, working to transform leather, thread, and glass into colorful, personally designed headdresses. Many had never beaded before. Participants began by choose beads for their creation, picking colors and accent beads. Then McDermott and Capjohn helped them begin to build a cap—precisely marking leather pieces to create locations for each beaded strand. The ladies planned their patterns and began stringing beads.

Participants responded enthusiastically. They enjoyed the opportunity to work as a group, visiting and laughing as they learned new skills. Everyone asked for more chances to bead.

"It takes many hours to make a headdress," said Alutiiq Museum Executive Director April Laktonen Counciller. "Our workshops help beaders of all skill levels through the hardest part, making the cap, and give them the confidence to continue on their own."

Quyanaa to the Alutiiq Village of Old Harbor, Alaska Community Foundation, KANA, BIA, Phyllis and Glenn Clough, and Amy Peterson for supporting the class.



Beading class, Old Harbor, April 2023, with instructor Kayla McDermott.

A Lamp from Larsen Bay

You are strolling down the beach and find an unusually shaped rock among the cobbles. It sticks out. The stone is a different color. It's larger than the other rocks. As you pick it up and turn it over, it becomes clear that the piece was not created by nature alone. It was also shaped by human hands. This is exactly what happened to Sky Pedersen. Walking along the beach in Larsen Bay, she found a stone object and knew it was special—a stone oil lamp made by an ancestor.

Pedersen contacted the Alutiiq Museum for assistance and brought the piece to us. The lamp is made from a silica-rich, grey-green granite called tonalite. This stone occurs as seams in Kodiak's slate bedrock and as cobbles on the beach. It was a common choice for lamp making because it is hard and uniform, but it can be shaped by pecking. A beach on Bear Island at the entrance to Uyak Bay is locally known as Lamp Rock Beach because it has many tonalite cobbles.

The lamp that Pedersen found is oval and about 5 inches long. To make it, an Alutiiq/Sugpiaq ancestor battered a water-worn cobble with a hammerstone, cutting a bowl to hold oil. They also shaped the sides and carved a groove down the front of the lamp.

The oil lamp came from an ancestral settlement on land owned by the Native Village of Larsen Bay. The village kindly gave the museum permission to care for it on their behalf, so that it can be studied, shared, and enjoyed by many.



Tonalite lamp from Larsen Bay, Native Village of Larsen Bay collection.

Bookmark Contest

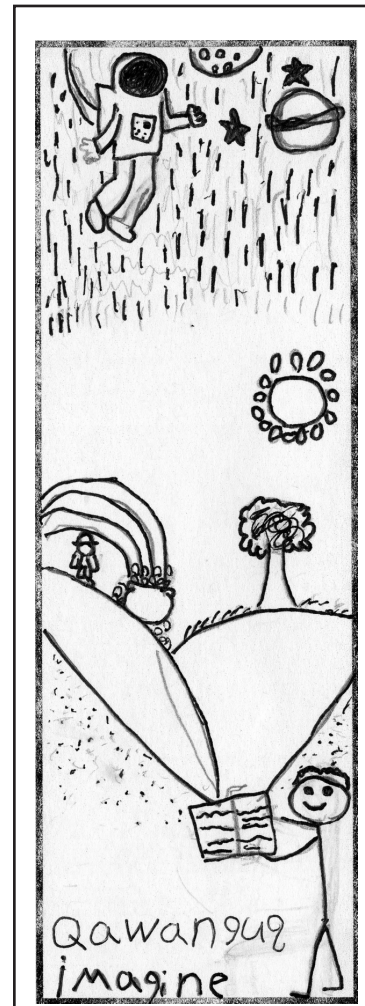
Reading can be magical. Spending time with a book improves concentration, increases knowledge of the world, and improves literacy. It can also transport you to another place. A book can take you on a bear hunt. It can help you climb mountains, kayak far out to sea, or travel to the stars. Taking a journey with a book was the theme of the Alutiiq Museum's 2023 rural school bookmark contest, a partnership with the Kodiak Island Borough School District READ program.

The museum invited students in five rural schools to design a unique bookmark inspired by their reading journey. Museum staff members assisted. They shared ancestral designs, led drawing classes in village schools, and helped students add Alutiiq/Sugpiaq words to their creations.

The result was a beautiful selection of original artwork by students of all ages. *Munartet amlertut maani Qik'rtami.* – There are many artists here on Kodiak Island. It was hard to pick winners, but a team of community educators selected two from each school. The museum printed the winning bookmarks and sent them to each community to share. All the students who participated in the contest had their bookmarks laminated and sent to them to use on their reading journeys.

Arya'aq naaqiyuq.
The girl is reading.

Tan'uraq naaqiyuq.
The boy is reading.



Uriah, Port Lions School, grade 5

WINNER

Kodiak Island Rural Schools
2023 Bookmark Contest



Alutiiq Week

Alutiiq Week is a fun and fulfilling time of year in Kodiak's rural communities. Every spring, students and community members gather to celebrate Alutiiq/Sugpiaq heritage by singing and dancing, creating Alutiiq art, and eating traditional foods. Staff members Dehrich Chya and Leda Ferranti shared in the fun this year.

Dehrich and Leda attended Alutiiq Weeks in Akhiok, Chiniak, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions and shared the Mobile Museum, artifacts and replicas in the museum's teaching collection. Students were able to learn about different types of Alutiiq tools, learn the Alutiiq names for different artifacts, and even pass around the artifacts to get a closer look.

Dehrich and Leda also shared shadow puppet versions of ancient legends from each of the communities. Chiniak students learned about a pair of monstrous serpents living in a cave near Ugak Island. Akhiok students heard the story of an *a'ula'aq*—big foot stealing food and mysteriously disappearing in Olga Bay. In Old Harbor, they shared the tale of the giant squid that lived outside of the village, and Ouzinkie students learned of the Crow and the Goose who got married before the crow met an untimely end. Port Lions youth learned about the Rainbow Worm near Afognak, which ate people who came near it. Then, students had the opportunity to make their own shadow puppets to tell their own stories about hunters and shapeshifters.

Quyanaa—thank you to each community for hosting us. Our travel was supported by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, Kodiak Island Borough School District, and Munartet Project through the Alaska State Council on the Arts.



Rainbow Worm. Drawing by Coral Klemzak, 2021, AM1001.

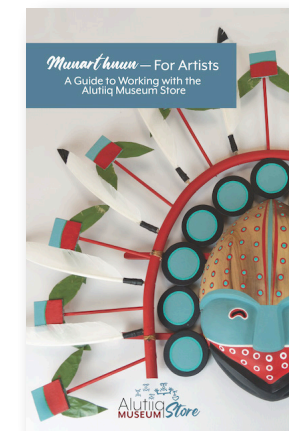
Museum Store Move

The Alutiiq Museum Store is moving! In July, when our gallery closes for renovation, we will open a retail outlet in the KANA Marketplace. This store will continue to offer a diverse selection of beautiful contemporary Alutiiq/Sugpiaq artwork and jewelry, as well as museum merchandise and our popular publications. We will also update our online store weekly to continue supporting artists and share the beauty of Alutiiq culture. Please come see us in the gallery before the end of June to enjoy our current exhibits one more time and then visit us throughout the summer at our temporary store in the KANA Marketplace.

Supporting Artists

Alutiiq/Sugpiaq artists help Alutiiq culture thrive. Artists tell stories, teach traditions, and build pride in Native heritage. At the museum we are proud to work with Kodiak's creative community. This spring we are introducing new resources to support artists. Watch for monthly video spotlights on local artists and explore our latest publication, *Munart'hnun*—For Artists.

This booklet explores the questions artists commonly ask. How can I sell artwork in the museum store? Where can I get professional pictures of my work? What is the Alutiiq Seal program and how do I participate? Learn how the museum connects artists to our services, encourages artistic expression, and provides opportunities for many people to enjoy Alutiiq arts. Created with support from the City of Kodiak. Digital copies are available on our website or contact Gallery Manager Nina Gronn for a paper copy, 844-425-8844.



alutiiqmuseumstore.org