

## Cama'i—Hello,

In July, our collections team did something unusual. They took apart the museum's exhibits! Why? After three years of planning, design work, and fundraising, our renovation project is entering its construction phase. We break ground in August. In preparation we are moving staff to the second floor, taking apart displays, and securing collections. You can learn more about the planned changes on the renovation page of our website, [alutiiqmuseum.org/visit/renovation](http://alutiiqmuseum.org/visit/renovation).

Many people ask what our staff will do during construction. They will continue to serve. Watch for pop-up events, new resources, off-site programs, and a store in the KANA Marketplace. And don't hesitate to reach out for information or assistance.

We invite you to help us celebrate the many people and organizations that helped the museum reach this moment. Join us for a groundbreaking ceremony on August 26, at 1:00 pm at the museum, followed by our annual meeting at the Koniag building on Near Island at 2:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

April Isiik Counciller  
Executive Director

## Giving Matters

Every gift to the museum expands our ability to serve. Your contributions fuel our programs. They help us reach beyond museum walls to tell Alutiiq/Sugpiaq stories and build community awareness of the Alutiiq world. Join us in sharing the past and inspiring the future with a gift or a membership.

[alutiiqmuseum.org/give](http://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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Dir. of Archaeology & Special Projects	Molly Odell
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# Alutiit *Kasitat*

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Alutiiq Museum

## Coloring *Iqalluut*—Fish

Antler fishhooks, kelp lines, stone sinkers, and ivory lures are among the tools Alutiiq ancestors used to capture fish. Coloring *Iqalluut*—Fish, a new book by Alutiiq artist Hanna Sholl explores these tools, the seasonal rhythm of harvesting, and the fish important to Alutiiq life. The 28-page paperback features bold black-and-white drawings that bring fishing traditions to life. The images are paired with Alutiiq vocabulary and a short introduction to Alutiiq fishing.

"This is a delightful book," said Alutiiq Museum Executive Director April Laktonen Counciller. "Hanna's illustrations are lively and interesting. She studied museum collections, talked to staff, and pored over publications to create detailed, accurate pictures of ancestral tools and pair them with modern examples of fishing gear. The presentation illustrates how our fishing traditions continue."

In August, the museum will distribute complimentary copies of Coloring *Iqalluut*—Fish to local elementary schools. The book will be accompanied by a lesson plan that helps teachers develop classroom activities in art, language arts, and science.

"We worked with educator Kristine King to develop lessons tied to Alaska educational standards for grades two through four," said Education Manager Leda Ferranti. "The lessons help students learn the parts of a fish with both English and Alutiiq vocabulary, develop stories around fishing, and explore fish life cycles."

Copies of Coloring *Iqalluut*—Fish are available from the Alutiiq Museum Store for \$12. Visitors to the museum's website can download a free digital copy from the publication page. *Quyanaa*—Thank you to the North Pacific Research Board and Boston University for supporting this publication.



## Sharing Alutiiq Objects

A child's rain jacket, *kanaglluk*, made of gutskin and adorned with tufts of red and green wool. A wooden feast bowl blackened from years of use. Dozens of handwoven grass baskets embellished with delicate beadwork. These are some of the Alutiiq treasures in the collections of the Kodiak History Museum. These rare and beautiful objects are now available for the public to explore in the Amutat database. Amutat is the Alutiiq Museum's on-line gallery of ancestral tools, clothing, and artwork stored in collections around the world. It is available at: [alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/](http://alutiiqmuseum.org/collection/).

"The goal of the database is to create a central place where Alutiiq objects can be seen," said Curator of Collections Amanda Lancaster. "It focuses on sharing ethnographic objects—items made by Alutiiq people in the past two centuries. These objects are typically more complete than archaeological finds and they hold valuable information on Alutiiq methods of design, material use, manufacture, and decoration."

With support from Tangirnaq Native Village and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, the museum is expanding its efforts to photograph Alutiiq objects in collections across Alaska. Our first partner was the Kodiak History Museum. Chief Curator Margaret Greutert kindly worked with our staff to identify, access, photograph, and document the ancestral Alutiiq pieces in their care. In addition to assisting the Amutat project, the collaboration provided the Kodiak History Museum with additional photos and some new information.

"We gave copies of our photos to the Kodiak History Museum and shared some insights on the objects for their records. The project will help both organizations interpret Alutiiq tradition for years to come," said Lancaster.



Photographing a child's rain jacket at the Kodiak History Museum

## Game Time



Drawing by David Tucker

Beneath the fun and excitement of competitions, there are often educational lessons. In Alutiiq society, games teach skills, help players hone hand-eye coordination, reinforce spiritual beliefs, and encourage physical fitness. To promote both fun and learning, the museum is creating videos and players' guides to teach seven popular Alutiiq games. We are releasing these resources monthly on our website through November.

Games have a seasonal rhythm in Alutiiq communities and so do our videos. Our summer releases feature outdoor fun, while our fall videos focus on games that can be played indoors. Dehrich Chya narrates the videos, which feature community members playing. Each video is accompanied by instructions for play and scoring and an equipment list. Together the videos and the rules make it easy to get started.

Some of the featured pastimes are ancient. In *kakangaq*, players throw wooden disks at a target resting on a seal skin. In *augca'aq*, competitors work alone or in teams to throw darts at a porpoise model hanging from a string. In *yaamaq*, the goal is to toss a rock at a pole standing on the beach. The closer you get, the more points you score. All three of these games help participants practice targeting, a skill essential for hunting. *Kakangaq*, *augca'aq*, and *yaamaq* game pieces are among the finds from ancestral settlements, indicating that they have been played for at least six hundred years. Other Alutiiq games are more recent. *Lap-tuuk*, is a hilarious form of baseball. It involves a bat, a ball, two bases, and lots of people running back and forth at the same time! It is the Alutiiq version of a Russian ball game.

Quyanaa to the Munartet project and the Kodiak Island Borough School District Rural Schools READ Project for helping us share Alutiiq games.

## Archaeology



At the head of Kodiak Island's Santa Flavia Bay, a pair of gently curved beaches form a spit that separates the ocean from a shallow lagoon. On top, there is a lush growth of elderberry bushes, cow parsnips, and nettles. Look closely and you will see that the plants are covering a series of large, gentle depressions. These are the remains of Alutiiq *ciqlluut* (sod houses). This protected location with a commanding view of the bay was once an Alutiiq settlement. Russian traders recorded the community in 1804, calling it Pianovskoe. There are no Alutiiq stories or Russian accounts of the village, but recent archaeological excavations provide a glimpse of daily life more than 200 years ago.

In June, museum archaeologists dug into one of the houses. Here they found traditional Alutiiq tools—ground slate ulus, hunting lances, and pottery made from local clay. Several decades after Russian conquest, villagers were continuing to live in Alutiiq ways. But there were also Russian trade goods—glass beads, lead shot, and European or Asian ceramics, evidence of the forces shaping Alutiiq communities during this tumultuous period.

Pianovskoe had a deeper secret. Beneath its historic layers, there were two much older occupations. Archaeologists found tools and the remains of a smokehouse. Like people today, Alutiiq ancestors used heat and smoke to preserve their food. Based on tool types, the oldest layer of the site may be 5,000 years old. This winter, tool studies, radiocarbon dates, and identification of animal bones and shells left behind will provide a more complete picture of this long-settled part of the Alutiiq world.

Alutiiq  
MUSEUM Store



Shop online: [alutiiqmuseumstore.org](http://alutiiqmuseumstore.org)  
Make an appointment: 844-425-8844

Coiled grass baskets by Tina Hoen

## Serviceman Gives Again

In May of 1963, an American Serviceman named Carl was stationed in Kodiak. He had just finished Navy training in weather forecasting and was serving as Aerographers Mate. An avid fisherman, Carl loved Kodiak from the beginning. When not at work, he'd hitchhike to town or the Buskin to put a line in the water. Eventually, Carl bought a Ford sedan to explore and fish even farther. He often took his camera.

Nearly sixty years later, Carl contacted the museum for help identifying one of the places in his photos. Molly Odell recognized Chiniak and shared information about the coast and its history. Conversations with staff fed Carl's enduring interest in Kodiak and encouraged him to become a supporter. He kindly shared his photos of downtown Kodiak following the Great Alaska Earthquake. He also became a donor, using distributions from his individual retirement account (IRA) to support our work.

Carl said, "An important part of giving is having the trust between the two parties and that the donor knows the money is going to a good purpose. I have a deep appreciation for the land, the people, and the culture. . . I have been thoroughly impressed with your museum and the people who work there."

Quyanaasinaq Carl. Our greatest thanks.



Carl fishing in Chiniak Bay.