

Cama'i Hello,

Construction is in full swing at 215 Mission Road and we've temporarily moved out of the building. While we miss our gallery and offices, the museum is much more than its facilities. At the heart of our work are programs and resources. These are still available. In the coming months, you will find many ways to connect to the Alutiiq world while you wait for our building transformation.

Start by visiting our new website. We are still at alutiiqmuseum.org, but we have reorganized and expanded content, updated photos, and improved navigation to help you explore the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq world. You asked for more cultural information. Now there is an entire section devoted to Alutiiq heritage. Please explore this wonderful resource. It was built with support from the EVOS Trustee Council through the CORal Partnership

While you are browsing the website, go to the publications page and download a free copy of our latest book chronicling Kodiak Alutiiq history. Or consult the events page for a list of upcoming presentations. The Mobile Museum will be making summer appearances! Archaeology projects are about to begin. Stay tuned to our social media to learn about the finds.

We are grateful for your understanding as we build a strong foundation for future years of service. If you'd like to contribute to the museum renovation, there is still time to give. Visit the renovation page of our website!

Quyanaa,

April Isiik Counciller
Executive Director

Newsletter Sponsors



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

Executive Director April Laktonen Counciller, PhD
Director of Advancement Djuna Davidson
Chief Curator Amy Steffian
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Language & Living Culture Manager Dehrich Chya
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Curator of Archaeology Patrick Saltonstall
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Exhibits Manager Alexandra Painter
Museum Generalist Rebecca Pruitt
Store Coordinator Chyian Heine

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Alutiiq Museum
215 Mission Road, Suite 101
Kodiak, Alaska 99615

PHONE: 844.425.8844
FAX: 866.335.7767

info@alutiiqmuseum.org
alutiiqmuseum.org



ALUTIIQ HERITAGE FOUNDATION
215 MISSION RD STE 101
KODIAK AK 99615

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



History Book Published

Ice age boaters, sod house builders, Russian traders, reindeer herders, and cannery workers are all part of the museum's newest publication, *Imaken Ima'ut—From the Past to the Future*. Released in April, this 188-page paperback chronicles the history of Kodiak's Native people. In five chapters, staff members examine the forces that shaped Alutiiq/Sugpiaq communities over 7,500 years. The book traces the Alutiiq past from its deep roots in the peopling of North America to the heritage movement of today. Written for a public audience, it provides an account of Alutiiq history with Alutiiq perspectives. It was funded by a grant to Koniag by the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

Designed by the museum, the presentation is heavily illustrated with over two hundred images from the museum's collections and numerous sidebars. In addition to the text, each chapter features short summaries of interesting topics with related information. For example, in a discussion of the fur trade, readers will find a sidebar about Alutiiq hunters taken to California. There are also Alutiiq language glossaries at the end of each chapter and a detailed index at the end of the book.

"We designed the book to be engaging and accessible," said Executive Director April Laktonen Counciller. "It is carefully researched by our team and then presented in a way that makes the information understandable. We believe it will be a valuable resource for Alaska history classes. *Imaken Ima'ut* brings Alutiiq history to life, and we know that's important for Native youth. Our children do better in school when they see their heritage reflected in their lessons."

The book has been distributed to libraries, schools, and tribal organizations. An eBook is available for free download from the publications page of the museum website, and a paperback can be purchased through the Museum Store.

Language Summit



Alutiiq Language Summit, April 2024

At a gathering dedicated to language revitalization, Elders, learners, teachers, and administrators sat around poster-sized pieces of paper. Note-takers jotted down ideas as the group debated priorities for the next five years of Alutiiq language revitalization. The summit brought together Elders, educators, language learners, and museum staff to consider the next steps in both documenting and teaching Alutiiq. The results of the day-long event will be used to update the Kodiak Regional Sugpiaq/Alutiiq Language Strategic Plan. A grant to the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak from the Administration for Native Americans funded the gathering, which was co-hosted by the Alutiiq Museum.

Alutiiq or Sugt'stun is a threatened language. The mission of the strategic plan is "To bring back the sound of Alutiiq to the voices of our community, through the words of our Elders." To further this mission, the strategic plan outlines five goals: 1) Support Alutiiq language teachers; 2) Recruit and retain speakers; 3) Increase access to language resources; 4) Institutionalize the language movement, and 5) Create a home for language learning.

Since its last update, important goals have been achieved—the opening of an Alutiiq language house, publication of a Kodiak Alutiiq language textbook, and graduation of learners from a certificate program at Kodiak College. For other goals, work is ongoing. Listening to participants share ideas and inspiration, it is clear there is still work to be done to keep Alutiiq accessible for future generations. However, there are equal amounts of enthusiasm, ideas, and commitment. Look for the updated strategic plan on the language page of the museum's website this summer. For news on Kodiak Alutiiq language programs, contact Dehrich Chya, dehrich@alutiiqmuseum.org, to join the Qik'rarmiut Alutiit Regional Language Advisory Committee list serve.

Parka Crafts

Before the introduction of Western clothing, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people wore *atkut*—parkas, long, hoodless robes of animal skins. Puffins, cormorants, and other sea birds provided pelts for garments. Bird hides were cleaned and scraped to soften. The number of pelts used in each parka varied by species and parka design. One style took 150 cormorant neck skins! Known today as the snow falling parka, this black garment is the inspiration for many of the parkas worn by Alutiiq men and women. They feature tassels with tufts of ermine fur that move like snow when people dance.

Two new crafts make felt examples of snow falling parkas. Designed by Alutiiq artist Hanna Agasuuq Sholl, one activity makes a parka ornament. The other activity creates a parka for a doll. Both feature paper templates and simple supplies—felt, pipe cleaners, a plastic bead, and glue.

The parka ornament is appropriate for young crafters. By cutting and layering black and red felt, and adding decorations of pipe cleaners, crafters build a flat parka that can be used as a decoration.

The doll parka is more complicated. It requires sewing, though not a sewing machine. Crafters make front and back panels for a parka, again cutting and layering felt, decorating with pipe cleaners, and then sewing the sides together. This parka fits a Glitter Girls doll, but it can be modified to fit other dolls.

Both activities were tested by Kodiak educators at a spring workshop. Many educators are planning to share the activity with their students and display their doll *atkuk*—parka in their classrooms. Free downloadable instructions for each craft are available on the craft page of the museum's website (<https://alutiiqmuseum.org/museum/education/crafts/>). They were developed with support from the Munartet project and the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

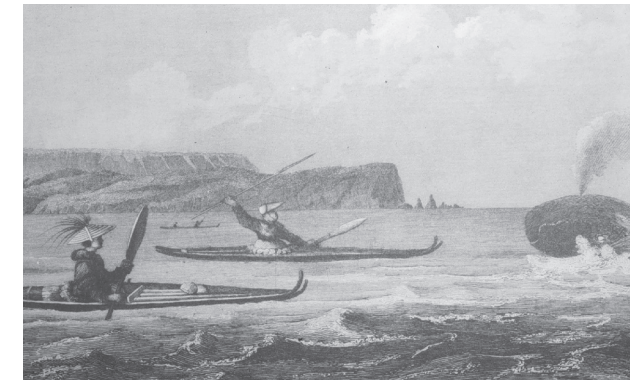


Educators with their parka crafts

Whaling Display

When you think of Alaska Native whaling, you might picture men in wooden canoes pursuing a humpback whale, or a crew in a skin boat paddling toward a bowhead. The Nootka and Inupiaq peoples hunted this way. They worked in teams to harvest and tow home giant sea mammals. Alutiiq whale hunting was much different. A lone paddler aimed a poisoned-coated lance at his prey. A well-placed strike sent a dose of deadly nerve toxin into the whale, eventually causing it to drown and wash ashore.

Alutiiq whaling techniques and the valuable resources whales provide are the subjects of a new display at the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Produced by the Alutiiq Museum with support from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the two-panel presentation is the latest edition to the center's gray whale exhibit. Stop by the Visitor Center, Tuesday to Saturday between Noon and 5 pm to enjoy this new feature.



Kodiak Whale Hunters, from E.D. de Mofras, 1844

Honor Wall

Is there a culture bearer in your life—a family member, Elder, or mentor who has deepened your connection to the Alutiiq world? Honor this person by adding their name to the Alutiiq Museum. One wall of our new lobby will feature a tile display of supporters. Add your own name to a tile, or the name of a person, family, boat, business, or organization you would like to honor. To purchase a tile, make a donation on the renovation page of our website and share the acknowledgment you'd like.

alutiiqmuseum.org/museum/renovation



A Gift of Family History

Cheri Haarstad knew little about her Alutiiq heritage until 2017, when her husband Daniel began genealogical research. Important clues to Cheri's family story came from the Internet and an old family photo album. Inherited from Cheri's mother Mary Ann Johansen, the fragile album held images of family members, Alaskan places, and the Kodiak Baptist Orphanage.



Dorothy, Agnes, and Zoe after rummaging in the attic, Kodiak Baptist Orphanage, ca. 1927. Haarstad Collection, AM1078.

Investigation revealed that the Berestoff family had deep roots in Kodiak and Afognak and that by the early 20th century they were living in Seldovia and Kenai. Daniel discovered that Cheri's grandmother Olga Berestoff Johansen was born on the Kenai Peninsula in 1909 and that she was descended from Feodor Berestov, a chief of the Seldovia Tribe. Sadly, Olga's parents, Konstantin Berestoff and Oleyana Dolchok, passed away when she was just a toddler. Following their deaths, Olga and her older sister Marina were sent to the Kodiak Baptist Orphanage. Although Olga never spoke of her time on Woody Island, photos in the album preserve many images of her daily life. About half of the album depicts the orphanage.

During their research, the Haarstad's connected with staff members. Daniel mentioned the family photo album and agreed to share it for scanning to preserve its fragile contents. The cherished family heirloom received expert care. It was old, with well-used black paper pages holding family images. Underneath the pictures, many handwritten notes identified people and places, probably in Olga's script. Staff gently scanned the pages and sent the album back to the Haarstad's.

The Haarstad's shared the album to preserve their photos for future generations—of their own family and others. Daniel and Cheri want the children raised in orphanages and boarding schools to be remembered. If you would like to preserve your Alutiiq family photos, contact Amanda Lancaster, amanda@alutiiqmuseum.org. We can scan your originals and return them with digital copies. If you agree, we will add copies to the museum's collections.