

Cama'i Hello,

Running a museum requires many talents. Our hard-working staff must be skilled at everything from teaching and caring for artifacts to marketing and managing contracts. This summer we added Sharon Anderson to our team as our Director of Operations to manage daily business. Originally from Ouzinkie, Sharon is the daughter of Gene Anderson and Angeline Campfield. She has a master's degree in rural development from the University of Alaska and more than twenty years of experience in non-profit administration. I'm very pleased to welcome Sharon to our staff and for her support with all those behind-the-scenes tasks that keep us running smoothly.

We are also in the process of adding entry-level staff to our team. As I write we are interviewing candidates for an Exhibit Apprentice and a Museum Generalist who will assist staff across departments. There is no better way to grow the next generation of heritage professionals than by providing opportunities for hands-on experiences in the museum.

We invite you to meet our staff members and celebrate recent accomplishments at our upcoming annual meeting. Please join us on August 30, from 4:00–6:00 pm at the National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, for a presentation, refreshments, and activities. The past year has been an extraordinary one for the museum. We look forward to sharing our work. Bring your family and friends. Everyone is welcome at this free event.

Quyanaa,

April Isiik Counciller



Newsletter Sponsors



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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

Executive Director	April Laktonen Counciller, PhD
Director of Operations	Sharon Anderson
Director of Advancement	Djuna Davidson
Chief Curator	Amy Steffian
Dir. of Archaeology & Special Projects	Molly Odell
Language & Living Culture Manager	Dehrich Chya
Education Manager	Leda Beuthin
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Curator of Collections	Amanda Lancaster
Exhibits Manager	Alexandra Painter
Museum Generalist	Wesley Pyle
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Vaulting Ahead

Moving is always an ordeal. There are boxes to find, sorting and packing to complete, trucks to rent, and reorganizing on the other end. Most moves are a bit daunting. But imagine if you had to move an entire museum collection. . . . with tens of thousands of unique and precious objects. . . . in the middle of a construction zone! The Alutiiq Museum mastered this challenge in June.

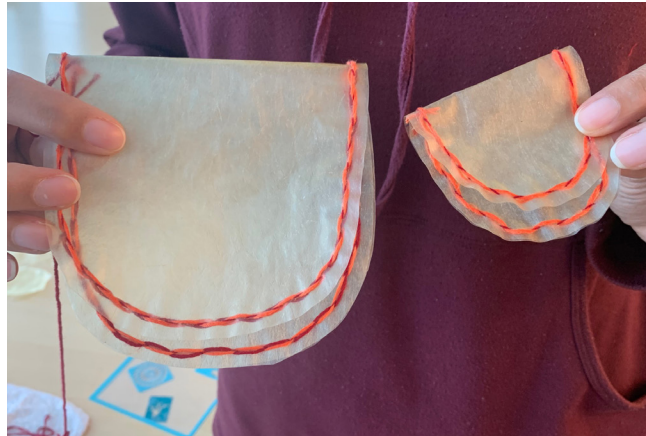
Expanded collections storage is a major feature of our building renovation. For the past eight months, contractors have been transforming our basement into a new laboratory and collection vault. These spaces will support the care and study of Alutiiq objects for decades. During vault construction, we secured our collections in their long-term home, the collection room. When the new vault was complete artifacts, artwork, recordings, files, and furniture had to move downstairs quickly to allow for first-floor demolition.

Curator of Collections Amanda Lancaster planned every step of the big move. It took nearly a year and a grant from the Alaska State Museum. First, she consulted colleagues in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks who had managed similar projects. Then, she wrote a plan, tied the location of every collection in storage to the new vault, created tracking forms, scheduled staff, and ordered supplies.

The carefully choreographed move began in June and took three weeks to complete. Each day staff members, interns, and volunteers assembled at the construction site in hard hats and safety vests to shepherd materials from the first floor to the basement. They packed objects with great care, wheeled them on carts to the elevator, rode to the basement, and unpacked. Each load was carefully tracked to avoid misplacing anything. The move went like clockwork and our holdings are safely secured in their new home. Contractors can now transform the entire first floor of the museum into space for exhibits and education.

Quyanaa to Museums Alaska for supporting staff time and supplies, Koniag and the EVOS Trustee Council for providing helpful interns, and volunteers Niche Barboza, Margaret Greutert, Hannah Wolfe-MacPike, Ronald Painter, Danielle Ringer, and Lynn Walker for their assistance.

Craft Time



Gut bags

Belts, bags, and balms are the focus of the Alutiiq Museum's latest craft activities. With assistance from culture bearers, we've created simple instructions to help you explore Alutiiq/Sugpiaq arts at home, camp, or in the classroom. Each activity is summarized in a downloadable instruction sheet with a list of supplies and illustrated, step-by-step directions.

"Crafting is a great way to practice techniques, like beading and sewing," said Education Manager Leda Beuthin. "The new activities use inexpensive materials you can buy at a craft store or order online. And each sheet includes cultural information, so you can learn about Alutiiq traditions while you create."

Susan Malutin contributed her sewing skills to two crafts. First, she teaches you how to transform felt, beads, and thread into a dance belt—garments worn at winter festivals. The belt can be sized for any person and leather and glass beads can be substituted for felt and plastic. Susan's second craft is a gut skin bag. Using sausage casings, she leads crafters through the steps to cut and stitch a pouch inspired by an Alutiiq *kakiwik*—sewing bag.

The third activity makes a soothing salve. Herbalist Gayla Pedersen teaches you how to infuse oil with the crushed leaves of yarrow and arnica. Both plants are known for their ability to ease aches and treat bug bites and sores.

To find the instruction sheets, visit the education page of our website and click on the link to crafts. Then watch for a rattle-making activity designed by Hanna Sholl, coming this fall. Supported by the Alaska State Council on the Arts through the Munartet Project.

Story of A Bear Camp



Clara Helgason serves pie to visitors, photo courtesy of Steve Helgason

For over forty years, bear hunters visiting the Helgason camp in Terror Bay were treated to local stories and wild foods. Inside her cozy home, Clara Helgason enjoyed taking care of her guests. Her husband, Kristjan Helgason, led the commercial guiding operation with help from their son Leonard, grandson Steven, and Clara's brother William Baumann, Jr. Hunters traveled to Terror Bay on a small amphibious mail plane for ten-day hunting excursions, but they also met neighbors, learned about subsistence harvesting, and ate Clara's famous meals.

Like many Alutiiq families in the twentieth century, the Helgason's took advantage of new industries to make a living in an increasingly cash-based economy. But the Helgason's camp was unique. The family spent much of the year living in Terror Bay and prided themselves on sharing their way of life.

In the early 1990s, Clara retired from remote life and sold her property to the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. Since then, the house and two guest cabins have started to deteriorate. To preserve and share the unique history of the camp, the Refuge hired the Alutiiq Museum to complete a study. Work began with an archaeological survey of the property to document its features. Then, the museum interviewed family members and friends, collected photographs, and archived historical documents. These materials are being used to develop interpretive signs that will one day be displayed at the camp. While the Helgason's buildings won't last forever, their stories can. You can visit the Our Stories page of the museum's website to learn more about the Helgason camp.

Aula'at Wild People

Arula'at tang'rngutaakait cuumi.
They used to often see bigfoot before.

Stories of giant, hairy, human-like creatures are found in many cultures. Tales of Bigfoots, Sasquatches, Wendigos, Yetis, and wild men are part of folklore in the Americas, Australia, and Asia. Some people think of these extraordinary beings as an undiscovered species found in secluded wilderness. Others argue that they are magical creatures with the ability to change shape or disappear. Alutiiq/Sugpiaq lore combines elements of both.

Among the Alutiiq, these mystical creatures are known as *aula'at* or *arula'at* and they are common in hunting stories. Men tell of odd strangers who appear at their remote camps, and of unexplained footprints, missing food, and loud nighttime thumping. Bigfoot legends may come from stories about people who committed crimes and were banished from their villages. In Alutiiq, *aula'at* means one who runs away. In ancestral society, people who lived alone in the wilderness could turn into dangerous, evil spirits who spoke through whistling. Hunters who have tracked strange footprints report that the impressions disappear as if the creature vanished. Those who try to touch a *aula'at* reach out to find nothing. And one man who shot at a stranger with a long white beard discovered a dead weasel not a person.

Dehrich Chya discusses *aula'at* stories in a recent interview with the Anchorage Museum's Chatter Marks podcast. To hear the interview or to read *aula'at* tales, visit the storytelling page of our website, which was produced with support from the Munartet project.

Support the Renovation

Give for the Future

"We gave because we want this museum to be around for our family near and far. The museum represents the voices and history in our communities that have often gone unheard, and amplifies them for posterity."

– Sven Haakanson Jr.



Give for Connection

"My Family and I made this donation to reawaken a voice that had been dormant for too long. History can reconnect my family and countless others with the amazing knowledge that Our People have and continue to show for generations to come!"

– Albert Simeonoff

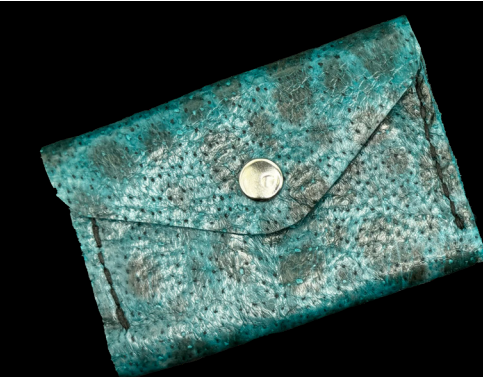


Donate on our website's renovation page at alutiiqmuseum.org/museum/renovation, or contact Djuna Davidson, djuna@alutiiqmuseum.org.



Imaq cungagpiartuq. Nuna cungaguartuq. Kiam atgurt'staanga.

The ocean is really blue. The land is green. Summer makes me happy.



Salmon skin purse & key chain by Lulu Larsen

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