

## PRESS RELEASE

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Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository  
215 Mission Road, Suite 101, Kodiak, AK 99615  
(844) 425-8844, [alutiiqmuseum.org](http://alutiiqmuseum.org)



### CONTACT:

Djuna Davidson, Director of Advancement  
[djuna@alutiiqmuseum.org](mailto:djuna@alutiiqmuseum.org)

### Lynn Walker Named Alutiiq Museum Volunteer of the Year

KODIAK— Every January, the Alutiiq Museum reflects on the many people who gave their time and talents to our previous year’s projects. Then, on Valentine’s Day, we select one outstanding contribution for our Volunteer of the Year award. For 2024, that recognition goes to Lynn Walker, a museum lover, graduate student, and the Curator of the Kodiak History Museum.

Originally from Michigan, Lynn moved to Fairbanks in 2016 to work on a PhD at the University of Alaska and then to Kodiak in 2021 to pursue her research. Even before she became an islander, Lynn volunteered at the Alutiiq Museum. She gave her time to a community archaeology project, excavating on Near Island and assisting with lab work.

This past year, Lynn supported the museum’s renovation. She served on the volunteer Exhibits Advisory Committee for months, reviewing text and designs for upcoming exhibits. With her background in exhibit development, Lynn was a remarkable resource. She read draft panels, attended long meetings, and brought thoughtful comments from her knowledge of local history. She was a reliable evaluator, and her insights enhanced the displays. Lynn also gave her time to our collections move, sharing her expert knowledge of artifact handling. She helped to move ancestral objects and artwork into the new storage vault, aiding the safe transition of collections.

“Lynn’s commitment to service made a meaningful impact on the Alutiiq Museum in 2024,” said the museum’s Executive Director April Laktonen Counciller. “Museums are complicated organizations with a need for expertise in many areas. Volunteers provide essential support whether it’s chaperoning a school group, building artifact boxes, or contributing to committees that help to evaluate our work.”

For Lynn, volunteering is a way to support organizations she cares about. She said, “Volunteering is something I am quite passionate about . . . a way to get even more involved at a meaningful level. I may not be able to donate money, but I can donate my time, my skills, and my perspective.”

She also recognizes that volunteering helps her learn. “I really enjoyed my time both providing my own feedback and hearing the input of others. It helped shape how I approach topics in my work . . . I feel like a lot of people don’t understand what a museum does until they volunteer.”

To learn more about volunteering at the museum, please contact Djuna Davidson (844-425-8844; [djuna@alutiiqmuseum.org](mailto:djuna@alutiiqmuseum.org)). The Alutiiq Museum welcomes all volunteers, and no previous experience is necessary.

The Alutiiq Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and living culture of the Alutiiq, an Alaska Native people. Representatives of Kodiak Alutiiq organizations govern the museum with funding from charitable contributions, memberships, grants, contracts, and sales.

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