

## Cama'i Hello,

On May 22, the newly renovated Alutiiq Museum will open to the public. I am proud of our enhanced facilities and the years of thoughtful work they represent. It takes vision, perseverance, and a great team to complete a major renovation. The Alutiiq Museum's supporters stepped up in a very big way.

Our board of directors recognized the urgent need for additional space and worked diligently to advocate for the project, attract support, and provide guidance. Our staff tackled novel challenges—like moving our entire collection, worked in unusual conditions, and found ways to continue serving without access to the building. Our community rallied around the cause. You asked us to expand our public spaces to share more of the Alutiiq world, and then you helped us raise over \$14,300,000 to make it happen. For a small, rural Alaskan organization, this is a major achievement.

It is now time to celebrate our accomplishments and our thirtieth anniversary. Please join us for a weekend of free public events to kick off our next thirty years of service in the new Alutiiq Museum. *Atgurtukut tang'rluci.*—We are excited to see you. You made it possible.

With gratitude for your outstanding support,

April Isiik Counciller  
Executive Director



## 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.

### ALUTIIQ HERITAGE FOUNDATION BOARD

Chair	Lorena Skonberg, Ouzinkie Native Corporation
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The Alutiiq Heritage Foundation (d.b.a. Alutiiq Museum) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and 509(a) public charity, funded with charitable contributions, memberships, grants, investments, and contracts. **Tax ID #92-0150422**

### 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
Curator of Archaeology	Patrick Saltonstall
Curator of Collections	Amanda Lancaster
Exhibits Manager	Alexandra Painter
Exhibit Apprentice	Veronica Johnson
Museum Generalist	Wesley Pyle
Gallery & Retail Manager	Chyian Heine
Store Coordinator	Amelia Boger

Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

ALUTIIQ HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
215 MISSION RD STE 101  
KODIAK AK 99615

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## The New Alutiiq Museum

Thirty years ago, the Alutiiq Museum opened to the public. It was a milestone. The modest space, just 6000 square feet, became the foundation for three decades of service to Kodiak, the growth of the museum's award-winning programs, and a community cultural awakening that involved people of all heritages. Now, thirty years later, the museum will open again with new facilities—a renovated building with over 17,000 square feet dedicated to its impactful work. Completed this May, the renovation is carefully tied to community needs and the museum's services.

In 1995, the museum cared for about 150,000 cultural belongings—artifacts, photos, archives, recordings, and artwork. Today, that number has swelled to 260,000. A larger collections vault, a sacred storage area, a dedicated laboratory, and an enhanced library will support the care of these items, allow the museum to continue repatriating cultural belongings, and support heritage research.

Collections and research fuel public programs and community education. The entire first floor of the renovated museum will share the Alutiiq world. There is now a large exhibit hall, as well as a Living Culture Gallery for short-term displays. Here, the museum can share a more comprehensive introduction to Alutiiq history and culture and invite community members to display artwork. There was no place for workshops, gatherings, and presentations in the original museum. Now we have a classroom that can seat 100.

In the years since the museum's founding, a generation of young people have connected to Alutiiq heritage at the Alutiiq Museum. Many don't remember the time when Native traditions were hidden from view. The renovation has helped the museum grow with its programs, so that cultural learning can light the future.

## Grand Reopening

Join us to celebrate the completion of the museum's renovation. Everyone is invited to attend these free public events sponsored by Matson and Kodiak Diesel Service. Learn more on the events page of our website. All are welcome.

### Opening Celebration

May 22, 4:00–8:00 pm

Explore the new exhibit hall, see Our Ancestors—watercolor paintings by Cheryl Lacy, enjoy dance performances, receive a beaded necklace, and wear your regalia for pictures on our red carpet.

### Alutiiq/Sugpiaq Film Festival

May 23, 10:00 am – 5:30 pm

Nine films explore how Alutiiq communities in the Kodiak Archipelago are reawakening traditions and celebrating their culture, language, and arts. Find a schedule and program on the events page of our website.



### Native Arts Market

May 24, Noon – 5:00 pm

Shop directly from Native artists in our workshop. Shop Local. Shop Alutiiq. Featuring Skyler Gertz, Kathy Johnson, Susan Malutin, Mariah Stapelton, Brandy Thomas, and Diana Velez.

## Mani'iwik Exhibit Hall

Six colorful galleries form the museum's new exhibit hall, a 2200 sq ft space rich with Alutiiq/Sugpiaq stories about ancestry, harvesting, social life, spirituality, history, and cultural reawakening. In Alutiiq, the exhibit hall is called *mani'iwik*—place to bring some out and show. This term captures both the function of the hall and the expansion of objects available to visitors. The new space shares over 600 cultural belongings from the museum's collections, fusing cultural values, ancestral artifacts, historic photos, quotes from community members, and contemporary artwork into presentations that emphasize cultural continuity. Dehrich Chya, a member of the exhibit team, explained.

“In many places, the displays illustrate the roots of our traditions and then show how they continue. For example, you can see tools our ancestors used to hunt bears, learn how Alutiiq hunters used their knowledge of animal behavior as sport hunting guides, and enjoy contemporary Native art featuring bears.”

Other notable features include touchable petroglyph replicas, a play space filled with toys, audio stations with recordings of Alutiiq legends, a touch screen display of historic village photos, and a creation station. Here, visitors can make an art card inspired by petroglyph designs. Keep the card or add your design to a display. For those who cannot visit the museum in person, there are video tours led by staff and a downloadable gallery guide available on the exhibits page of the museum's website.

The exhibits took three years to create. Tribal members David Tucker and Veronica Johnson assisted Exhibit Manager Alex Painter with construction with grant support from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, EVOS Trustee Council, US Bureau of Indian Affairs, Native Village of Afognak, American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, GCI Gives, and the Coast Guard Spouses Association of Kodiak.

### Educators Open House

June 2, 10:00 AM

Tour our new exhibit hall with staff members. Learn about our educational resources and browse displays. Supported by the Munartet Project and the Alaska State Council on the Arts.



## Qayaq Kayak



Kayakers in the Kalruk River, 1889. Albatross Collection, National Archives.

For over a decade, a kayak display has been a popular feature of the Alutiiq Museum's gallery. Objects are powerful storytellers, and when people stand beside our boats, they can appreciate their size and construction. They can envision what it was like to sit in the boat's cockpit and pull a thrashing fish from the water. Moreover, they learned about ingenuity—how our ancestors transformed driftwood and animal skin into sophisticated watercraft.

To continue sharing Alutiiq/Sugpiaq boats, we built a large display in the center of our new exhibit hall. This 18-foot, custom-built, plexiglass case features two Alutiiq boats—a kayak frame crafted by Alutiiq artist Alfred Naumoff and a complete 19th-century kayak returned to Kodiak by Harvard University. The boats are stacked dramatically in the case. Emerson Boatworks, a Kodiak company, helped to make the case and the kayak mounts, lending their 21st-century boat-building talents to sharing ancestral Alutiiq technology. Rounding out the displays are kayaking clothing and gear—a gutskin jacket and a bentwood hat, a bailer, paddle, and harpoon, and a set of hunting amulets.

“This new display provides even more access to Alutiiq boats,” said Exhibit Manager Alex Painter. “Visitors can walk around the watercraft to see them from many angles. Plus, we have panels between the boats with different information on each side.”

To learn more about kayaks and see this display, you can watch a video tour with curator Patrick Saltonstall linked to the subsistence page of the museum's website. Quyanaa—thank you to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology and the National Park Service for supporting production of the display.

## Welcome Center

The Marketplace, a shopping center in downtown Kodiak, has been the home of the Alutiiq Museum Store for the past year and a half. While renovating our Mission Road building, we rented a storefront to continue supporting artists and connect to our patrons. This centrally located cultural space has been enormously popular. People love having a place downtown to shop for artwork, ask cultural questions, and connect with our knowledgeable staff. Many have asked us to stay.

With help from the Koniag and Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA), we will continue to operate at the Marketplace with features our patrons enjoy. When the Alutiiq Museum Store moves back to its home on Mission Road, our Marketplace space will become a cultural welcome center. Here, visitors will find an orientation to the Alutiiq /Sugpiaq world, learn about opportunities for cultural tourism, and shop from museum store merchandise. Through KANA, the welcome center will provide job training for people interested in careers in retail, tourism or heritage preservation, and it will direct visitors to the museum's gallery and Alutiiq businesses.

The new Alutiiq Museum Store in our home on Mission Road will open on May 22nd, as part of the museum's reopening celebration. Then, the welcome center in the Marketplace will open in June, after a short closure to prepare for its new role. Soon, Kodiak will have two locations to connect with the heritage and living culture of the Alutiiq People.



Alutiiq Museum Store at the Marketplace

## Major Donors

Donald W. Clark, EVOS Trustee Council, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Kodiak Area Native Association, Koniag, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, Rasmuson Foundation, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, Anonymous, City of Kodiak, Museums Alaska, US Bureau of Indian Affairs



Shop Local.  
Shop Alutiiq.



#### Locations

Alutiiq Museum  
215 Mission Road

Kodiak Marketplace  
111 West Rezanodd Dr. Suite 12

#### Store Hours

Tuesday - Saturday  
10am - 5 pm