



For Immediate Release

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Alutiiq Museum to Open Renovated Facility with Public Celebration

KODIAK—On May 22, the Alutiiq Museum will reopen to the public. The museum has been closed to visitors since August 2023 to undergo expansion and renovation of its facilities. The multi-year, \$14.3 M project added 3400 square feet to the building and greatly expanded the space available for community education and collections care. The renovation is now complete, and the public is invited to attend a series of Grand Reopening events. The celebration will take place May 22 through May 24 during Kodiak's annual Crab Festival. It also marks the museum's thirtieth anniversary.

"We are excited to share our beautiful new facilities with Kodiak," said Executive Director April Counciller. "Our patrons made this transformation possible. They told us they needed more space for learning. We used their input to attract funding and design a renovation that will support museum services for decades. Our community also stepped up with exceptional support. We raised over two million dollars in our capital campaign. It is now time to welcome everyone back to the Alutiiq Museum."

In preparation for visitors, staff members created an entirely new set of exhibits for an expanded exhibit hall. The displays share over 670 cultural belongings from the museum's collections, fusing Alutiiq/Sugpiaq values, ancestral artifacts, historic photos, quotes from community members, and contemporary artwork into presentations emphasizing continuities in Alutiiq traditions. 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. Staff have also enhanced the museum store, now doubled in size, with new furniture and merchandise. And they developed an honor wall—a glass tile display in the new lobby with the names of renovation donors.

Grand Reopening events will include an evening celebration on May 22, from 4:00 to 8:00 PM, with Alutiiq dance performances, gifts of beaded necklaces, all new exhibits, and a red carpet regalia photobooth. The following day, on May 23, from 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM, the museum will host an Alutiiq/Sugpiaq film festival in its new workshop space, a large addition to the facility designed for cultural events. The festival will feature nine films exploring the Kodiak Alutiiq heritage movement. On May 24, from 12:00 to 5:00 PM, the public is invited to a Native Arts Market, where artists will sell directly to patrons. The artists will include Bianca Doran, Skyler Gertz, Samantha Heglin, Kathy Johnson, Susan Malutin, Native Village of Afognak, Mariah Stapelton, Brandy Thomas, Lisa Truitt, and Diana Velez.

All events are free to the public and include access to the museum's new exhibits, thanks to generous sponsorship from Matson and Kodiak Diesel. Everyone is welcome to attend. Additional information on the events, including a program for the film festival, is available on the events page of the museum website at <https://alutiiqmuseum.org/museum/visit/events/>.

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