



## For Immediate Release

Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository  
215 Mission Road, Suite 101, Kodiak, AK 99615  
Phone (844) 425-8844, Fax (866) 335-7767  
Home page: <http://www.alutiiqmuseum.org>

DATE: May 19, 2025  
CONTACT: Amy Steffian, 844-425-8844  
[amy@alutiiqmuseum.org](mailto:amy@alutiiqmuseum.org)

### Outdoor Mural Celebrating Alutiiq Heritage Added to New Museum Addition

KODIAK—The Alutiiq Museum has unveiled *The Fire of Living Culture*, an outdoor mural featuring an original piece of digital artwork by Sugpiaq artist Todd Metrokin. The 13 by 35-foot vinyl wall hanging is displayed on the outside of the museum's new addition—a workshop space created as part of a recent building renovation. The mural features bold graphic shapes shown in high contrast. The drawing is intended to capture attention from a distance and draw viewers toward the museum.

The mural project was part of the museum's efforts to add cultural imagery to its building. Executive Director April Counciller explained. "For this month's Grand Reopening, we wanted to share a large piece of contemporary artwork—as a celebration of our living culture and a visitor aid. In the past, people have had trouble finding the museum. The mural is part of an effort to help people locate our building and feel welcome. We have also added a new sign to the front of the museum, and our name and petroglyph logo now appear above the front door."

Metrokin's artwork mixes local scenery and cultural images—a woman holding a burning naniq—oil lamp, men paddling kayaks, the cultural hero Raven, a berry picker, and a float plane. He said, "My design concept connects our past to our future—from creation (represented by the raven) to our ancestors to modern life and beyond—through the enduring flame of the naniq. The naniq's flame echoes through time and grows richer in colors as it reflects a culture continuing to grow. This represents the resilience of our people and is meant to act as a counterpoint to the notion that our culture is only a reflection of the past. It is a living, evolving blend of experiences, knowledge, and creativity that we bring forward and enrich with each generation."

The museum selected Metrokin's design through a competitive process. First, tribal artists were invited to submit examples of their work. From fifteen submissions, a volunteer review committee picked three artists to create draft mural designs. Then, the committee selected Todd's concept as the winning entry. A grant from the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA), funded by the US Forest Service, supported the project. The mural will be displayed for the coming year.

Todd Metrokin grew up in Kodiak and has spent his entire life creating art. He tells stories through his illustrations, using ancestral symbolism to create a modern graphic language. His work ranges from minimalist illustrations to dramatic collages. Each piece is grounded by a strong composition with layers of pattern and details that invite the viewer deeper into the story. Metrokin currently works in Spokane as a creative director in advertising.

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.