Kodiak Island Traditional Arts (KITA) Project Kicks Off

KODIAK, AK—The Alutiiq Museum is proud to announce a new artist services project for the Kodiak Archipelago. Funded by the Administration for Native Americans, this project will provide support and training to Tribal artists to increase their income and raise Alutiiq arts awareness in the tourism industry. Director of Language and Living Culture at the museum, Dehrich Chya says, "We are excited that this project will allow us to collaborate with some of our partners. We will work with KANA's workforce development program, as well as the Kodiak Arts Council and Kodiak College to offer trainings and resources for artists."

Veronica Johnson has been hired to coordinate the project, entitled "Kodiak Island Traditional Arts." The acronym, KITA also means "Let's Go!" In Alutiiq. Johnson is excited to explore how Alutiiq arts can help grow the Kodiak tourism economy. "People don't often recognize Alutiiq arts as a key part of Kodiak, but by the end of the project I hope they will," she says.

Working with Discover Kodiak and other local partners, Johnson will form a Native tourism working group to guide local planning and oversee development of a Native arts regulatory guide to educate the public about laws governing Native arts materials like ivory, feathers, and furs. Those interested in the project are encouraged to email or call the museum to get on the project contact list.

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.