



Alutiiq  
MUSEUM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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# Alutiit Kasitat

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Alutiiq Museum

Winter 2026

## How KITA is Impacting Alaska Native Artists

Kita is the Alutiiq word for the phrase, “Let’s go!” and it’s also the name of our new grant-funded project from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA). KITA, or the Kodiak Island Traditional Arts Project, will focus on enhancing the Alutiiq arts economy to allow more Alutiiq artists to make meaningful income to support their families. The primary goals of KITA are Artist Development and Capacity Building, Legal Education and Public Awareness, and Tourism Integration and Economic Expansion. The KITA project will take place over the course of three years.

Through the KITA project, the museum will provide Teaching Artist Trainings, Artist Enrichment Trainings, and two college courses to bolster artists’ knowledge of both arts and business. Teaching Artist Trainings, in collaboration with the Kodiak Arts Council, let artists learn from an instructor how to teach their art form to others. Artist Enrichment Trainings are workshops where an Alutiiq artist teaches fellow artists how to make art in their preferred style or medium. The two courses at Kodiak College will provide students with knowledge on Alutiiq arts and business.

Art is at the heart of Alutiiq culture. Bringing Alutiiq artists together to help them hone their craft and business skills will benefit Alutiiq culture and community for generations to come. It’s important to keep old traditions and art techniques alive, so they may be passed down to future generations, while also fostering new traditions and techniques. Through Alutiiq arts, our community learns about our history, traditions and beliefs, and younger generations of Alutiiq artists gain inspiration to hone their own craft. The KITA project will support the local Alutiiq artist economy by providing opportunities for Alutiiq artists to grow and adapt new skills, allowing them to better support their families.

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**Do you have more questions about KITA?  
Contact our Project Coordinator Veronica.**



**Veronica Johnson**

Project Coordinator  
veronica@alutiiqmuseum.org



## Cama'i—Hello,

As daylight continues to lengthen in Sun'aq (Kodiak), we look forward to the warmer days of spring. Here at the Alutiiq Museum we are planning an exciting year of workshops, exhibit tours, and community events that will celebrate the arts and living culture of the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people.

I invite you to explore with us, wherever and whomever you may be. Traditional culture has an important role in the modern day - reminding us of the importance of family, traditions, and connection to the land. The Alutiiq Museum create spaces for each of us to experience reflection, learning, and community. This year, plan to visit us—in person or online as we continue to connect Alutiiq culture.

*Utakalirciqamken - We will wait for you.*

Isiik April G.L. Counciller, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

### Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

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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 Corp.
Vice Chair	Peter Boskofsky, At-large
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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.

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### ALUTIIQ MUSEUM STAFF

Executive Director	April Laktonen Counciller, PhD
Director of Advancement	Djuna Davidson
Dir. of Archaeology & Special Projects	Molly Odell
Dir. of Language & Living Culture	Dehrich Chya
Curator of Archaeology	Patrick Saltonstall
Curator of Collections	Amanda Lancaster
Exhibits Manager	Alexandra Painter
Project Coordinator	Veronica Johnson
Lab Coordinator	Wesley Pyle
Gallery & Retail Manager	Chyian Heine
Store Coordinator	Amelia Boger
Communications Coordinator	Sydney Mutch
Chief Curator Emerita	Amy Steffian
Gallery & Retail Intern	Eileen Carlsen
Gallery & Retail Intern	Marissa Campbell
Gallery & Retail Intern	Julia Tousignant



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*Shop Local. Shop Alutiiq.*



# Membership Matters

Museum memberships are an investment in the history that shapes a community. When you donate through a museum membership, you become part of a foundation for shared stories about heritage and living culture. Excitement, learning, and creativity are woven into the stories people share about exploring the Alutiiq world through our exhibits. These experiences are only possible through the generosity of our supporters.

Museum memberships are a meaningful way to continue this cycle of sharing stories and building connection to Alutiiq heritage and living culture. With individual memberships starting at only \$40 a year you can support our work and visit the museum all year without paying an admission fee. Members also receive a 10% discount for purchases of museum merchandise and publications.

**Become a member today!**

[alutiiqmuseum.org/give/membership/](http://alutiiqmuseum.org/give/membership/)

## WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

Members only benefits like early access or reduced fees.

## FREE ADMISSION

Come visit us!

## 10% OFF

All logo items in the Museum Store.

## Jewelry Acquisition

With funding from the Alaska Art Fund, via Rasmuson Foundation, the Alutiiq Museum recently purchased several pieces of jewelry from two Alutiiq/Sugpiaq artists. From Port Lions-based artist Yvonne Mullan, the museum acquired 4 sets of beaded earrings. The museum also purchased a woven cone necklace from Mariah Stapleton, a Kodiak-based artist. The jewelry from both artists will be added to the museum's permanent collection. Mullan's earrings are expertly crafted with even stitches and beautiful designs that use natural materials, flower motifs, and Alutiiq cultural elements. Stapleton's necklace has a cone-shaped pendant made from wax linen woven over a wooden form. The bands encircling the cone resemble the intricate patterns found in Alutiiq embroidery and are an example of using layered designs to represent the Alutiiq universe.



*Beaded earrings by Yvonne Mullan*

## Field Trip Season



Spring is traditionally field trip season! We welcome school groups of all grade levels at the Alutiiq Museum, free of charge. Our renovated and expanded exhibits allow students to explore Alutiiq/Sugpiaq heritage through cultural values, meeting educational standards for local history and culture. Let us know if your class has been studying any particular topics you'd like us to touch on during the tour! Camiku tang'rciqamken! – We hope to see you soon!

**Learn more at [alutiiqmuseum.org/museum/visit/](http://alutiiqmuseum.org/museum/visit/)**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Meet Our Interns

Through a special collaboration with Kodiak Area Native Association's Workforce Development program, the Alutiiq Museum is hosting three interns who are providing support for the museum. Eileen Carlsen, Marissa Campbell, and Julia Tousigant are our Gallery & Retail Interns working alongside our store staff to learn about customer service, artist support, and retail management. We are excited to have them on our team.

Eileen is originally from Karluk and raised her children here in Kodiak. She has been with the museum since October. Marissa is a Kodiak High School senior whose family is from Ouzinkie, and she joined the team in November. Julia is a recent Kodiak High School graduate who grew up in the City of Kodiak and the rural community of Chiniak. Julia started her internship in December.

We are excited to have their support to serve patrons in our gallery and at both of our locations. There will be continued opportunities for internships and interested individuals can contact Director of Advancement Djuna Davidson ([djuna@alutiiqmuseum.org](mailto:djuna@alutiiqmuseum.org)) for more information.



*Alutiiq Museum interns Eileen Carlsen and Marissa Campbell*