

# Relationships

## 2018 Museums Alaska Program Schedule

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

### **WEDNESDAY, 8:30-12:00PM**

**Half-Day Workshop:** *Collections as Springboards for Community Conversation*, Cultural Center

Megan Cacciola, Director of Public Programming, Alaska Humanities Forum

Every object, every film, every work of art in a museum can act as a springboard for meaningful community conversation in which participants discover personal connections to collections and to one another. This half-day workshop will allow participants to partake in a model conversation and learn the important design elements for satisfying community conversation.

### **WEDNESDAY, 8:30-4:30PM**

**Full-Day Workshop:** *Care of Clothing and Textiles*, Museum Lab

Sarah Owens, Conservator, Anchorage Museum

This workshop provides an opportunity to meet with a Textile Conservator and discuss how to identify damage and prevent its future occurrence. The first half of the workshop will include: materials and structure of textiles, fiber identification, agents of deterioration, documentation and handling. Methods for the care and stabilization of textiles will be shared including cleaning and stitched support. Each workshop participant will get to make their own sampler of textile conservation stitches (basic knowledge of sewing is desirable but not essential). The second half of the workshop will focus on the storage and display of textiles and clothing, and the use of archival materials. The workshop participants will get the opportunity to make their own padded hangers and 'sausages' for storage; 'soft' mounts for internal support of accessories, padded boards for display of flat textiles, and learn more about mannequin modifications for the display of 3-dimensional clothing.

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## 2018 Museums Alaska Program Schedule

Thursday, September 13, 2018

### **THURSDAY, 7:00-8:00AM**

**MA Breakfast Roundtable:** *Museums Alaska Grant Programs: Art Acquisition Fund & Collections Management Fund Changes in 2018*, Polar Café

Della Hall, Executive Director, Museums Alaska

Three morning breakfast roundtables will be led by Museums Alaska on the changes to the Art Acquisition Fund and Collections Management Fund grant programs and application process.

### **THURSDAY, 8:30-10:00AM**

**AHS Keynote:** *Thinking Together about Public History*, Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, Old St. Joe's Hall

### **THURSDAY, 10:30-12:00PM**

**MA Session:** *A Legacy for Posterity: Relationship Building and Deepening with the Veterans History Project*, NWC Salmonberry

Monica Mohindra, Head of Program Coordination and Communication, Library of Congress Veterans History Project; Karen Lloyd, Director Library of Congress Veterans History Project; and Bill Noomah, Educator, Homer, Alaska

An exploration of the ways to connect to content of and create inroads of participation with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP) for museums, libraries, educators and cultural organizations. Discussion will include demonstration of practical implementation in a classroom or educational setting, as well as tips for connecting with communities to generate veterans oral histories. Also we can expand or contract the proposal to best fit the needs of the conference. For instance to the above proposal we could add a second section focusing more on the conducting of interviews.

### **THURSDAY 10:30-11:15AM**

**MA Session:** *Incorporating Indigenous Languages into Alaskan Museums*, NWC Coho

Aaron Leggett, Curator of Alaska History and Culture, Anchorage Museum; and Heather McClain, Sealaska Heritage Institute

This session will highlight the Anchorage Museums recent efforts to incorporate the indigenous

language of its place into the overall branding and identity throughout the institution. This presentation will show how multiple areas of the museum have used Dena'ina as way to create a sense of place and encourage the use of language by visitors. Heather McClain will present on the Sealaska Heritage Institutes new exhibition based on a native place names inventory project.

**THURSDAY 11:15-12:00PM**

**MA Session:** *Do Museums Influence Communities or Communities Influence Museums? How One Museum Experienced Both*, NWC Coho

Bethany Buckingham Follett, Curator, Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center; and Selena Ortega-Chiolero, Cultural Development Assistant for Chickaloon Village Tribal Council

The Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center created the Old Town Autumn Fest to fit a need in the community and was able to build partnerships with local businesses and non-profits for the event. Then a local business used the museum as a backdrop for two Alaskan Made movies and to celebrate, the museum changed a permanent exhibit to continue the experience. Listen to the nuts and bolts as to how a museum with two staff members continues to influence and be influenced by their community.

**THURSDAY, 1:30-3:00PM**

**MA Session:** *Creating Exhibit Labels*, NWC Coho

Sarah Asper-Smith, Owner/Exhibit Designer, ExhibitAK; Christine Carpenter, Exhibit Designer, ExhibitAK; and Anjuli Grantham, Public Historian

This session focuses on the process of writing and designing clear, concise, and interesting exhibit labels. From developing content to the size of the font, there are many decisions that can help make the information in a museum relatable and legible. Bring your ideas, and our presenters will help you to best communicate the interesting stories of your museum to your visitors.

**MA Session:** *Examining Our Strengths - Is Our Museum Up To The Challenges*, NWC Salmonberry

Michael Haller, Executive Director, Alaska Veterans Museum

Do we think we're in the 'Museum Business'? Are we possibly committed to an institutional standard(s) that are choking our life right out of us? A couple of nighmarish questions that should be considered (and there are more). Who do we consider the most important people in the life of our museum? How do we interact with them? This session will examine the critical need to know who we should be working with and for; and, will look at the key points to systematically improving our relationships.

**THURSDAY, 3:30-5:00PM**

**MA Session:** *Museums Alaska Annual Meeting*, NWC Coho

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## 2018 Museums Alaska Program Schedule

Friday, September 14, 2018

### **FRIDAY, 7:00-8:00AM**

**MA Breakfast Roundtable:** *Museums Alaska Grant Programs: Art Acquisition Fund & Collections Management Fund Changes in 2018*, Bering Sea Bar & Grill

Della Hall, Executive Director, Museums Alaska

Three morning breakfast roundtables will be led by Museums Alaska on the changes to the Art Acquisition Fund and Collections Management Fund grant programs and application process.

### **FRIDAY, 8:30-10:00AM**

**MA Keynote:** *The Joy in Our Work*, Marieke Van Damme, Old St. Joe's Hall

We museum workers know (and studies confirm) that our institutions directly contribute to the well-being of a community. We provide education, but we also give opportunities for social interaction, beauty, understanding, and so much more. There is great joy in our work. Unfortunately, while the product the public sees is inspiring, behind the scenes the work can be grueling. Many issues haunt some in our field: perpetually under-resourced staff, no professional human resources department, low pay with poor benefits, and more. The result is often burn out and high turnover. How can we get our joy back? Join Marieke Van Damme, founder of the Joyful Museums project, for a look at the role we all play in promoting positive workplace culture in our museums.

### **FRIDAY, 10:30-12:00**

**MA Session:** *Moving from Competition to Collaboration - Creating Better Partnerships in Your Region*, NWC Coho

Bethany Buckingham Follett, Curator, Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center; Selena Ortega-Chiolero, Cultural Development Assistant for Chickaloon Village Tribal Council; Sue Deyoe, Manager, Talkeetna Historical Society & Museum; and Sherry Jackson, Director, Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry

This session will provide attendees a hands-on/group interaction on how to build relationships with other museums and non-profits in their regions based on the Valley Association for Local History and Culture (VALHC) model. This model was developed and used within the Matanuska-Susitna Valley Museums and Cultural Entities. Format will include power point presentations and panel discussion of how the Mat-Su Museums came together as an organization to work together for visitors to the area. Also a focus on how two museums used

their relationship and resources to leverage funding opportunities for shared grants and projects. After presentations, the group will break out into smaller discussion groups based on government museums and non-profit relations, non-profit museums and local business relations, and non-profit museums with other non-profit organization relations and non-profit museums and cultural entity relations.

**MA Session:** *Cannery Life: Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, the Pacific Rim, and Beyond*, NWC Salmonberry

Katie Ringsmuth, Project Director, NN Cannery History Project

This presentation will explore the people and cultures from around the world that became involved in cannery industry of Alaska. Through the decades, cannery work can be traced to the influences of laws and regulations, social and economic factors, and, of course, by natural resources. These influences ever driving us to come together in work and play at remote self-sustaining complexes. Through the NN Cannery History Project, former cannery workers share stories of their cannery experience making it clear that although groups of common origins generally stuck together, cultures were not only shared, but embraced by each other. We will be sharing collected tales from the project archives, and engaging the audience and guests to join the conversation so we may all grow a greater understanding of how the long hours and strenuous labor of individuals and cultural groups coalesced into one larger common venture considered the cannery life.

**FRIDAY, 12:00-1:15PM**

**MA Lunch Roundtable:** *Constant Engagement - The Quest To Improve The Museum's Communications and Functions: What Is The Right Amount?*, Husky's

Michael Haller, Executive Director, Alaska Veterans Museum

Determining the 'right mix' of communications to the public, the staff, volunteers, partners, collaborators, funding groups and individuals is a relentless challenge. But there are many useful and effective methods that deserve conversation, exploration, and consideration. Adapting to changing environments and conditions is critical to the mission success of our museums.

**MA Lunch Roundtable:** *Building Togetherness with Icebreakers*, Milano's

Sarah Harrington, Executive Director, Kodiak Historical Society

Icebreakers provide the perfect tool for Board, staff, and volunteers to create meaningful connections and inspire togetherness. Explore a collection of team-building icebreakers that work well in any situation to ensure everyone gets off on the right foot. Join this fun and engaging session to test new icebreakers that are quick and easy, that help a group relax, and a few more challenging examples to help bridge the distance.

**FRIDAY, 1:30-3:00PM**

**MA Session:** *Museums + Communities: Collaborative Exhibits and Reciprocal Relationships*, NWC Coho

Amy Phillips-Chan Director, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum; Kirsten Anderson, Deputy Director, Anchorage Museum; Sarah Asper-Smith, Owner, ExhibitAK; and Lisa Ellanna, Director, Katirvik Cultural Center

Processes of engagement between museums and communities in Alaska are resulting in collaborative exhibits that offer new perspectives and alternative narratives, which give local knowledge and cultural self-representation greater validity within museum spaces. Fresh approaches to interpretative strategies including multi-media interactives, immersive experiences, and online platforms are providing avenues to share multiple stories, cultivate vibrant dialogue, and increase access to collections. This session explores recent exhibit developments in Alaska with a shared focus on collaborative meaning-making, intercultural communication, and reciprocal museum-community relationships.

**MA Session:** *Keynote Follow-up: I Like My Job, But...*, NWC Salmonberry

Marieke Van Damme, Joyful Museums

Museums can be difficult workplaces. Come with your issues about workplace culture and share your stories in a safe setting. Together we will troubleshoot possible solutions you can use back at work on Monday.

**FRIDAY, 3:30-5:00 PM**

**MA Session:** *Building Community Connections Using Stories of the Past: Introduction to Alaska History Day Program*, NWC Coho

Amanda Dale Program Coordinator, Alaska Humanities Forum

This year the Alaska Humanities Forum has taken over coordination of the Alaska History Day program, which is a contest for students in grades 6-12. Students spend months creating and researching history projects and presenting them in one of five formats: exhibit, website, film, performance, or paper. Museums, particularly those in smaller communities, can be a key partner with schools, teachers and community members in this long-running and growing program in a variety of ways, including visiting classrooms, inviting students to museum collections, proposing topics, hosting local contests, and assisting with judge recruitment and orientation. Come and learn about the program, hear about existing successful museum partnerships, and consider what your organization's role could be for Alaska History Day in your community.

**FRIDAY, 3:30-4:15PM**

**MA Session:** *Cross-disciplinary Collaboration: Efforts in Curation, Conservation, and Preservation at the Dick Proenneke Cabin Site*, NWC Salmonberry

Nicole Peters, Art Conservator, Peters Art Conservation Services; Daniel Papke, Preservationist, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park; and Katie Myers, NPS Museum Curator for Alagnak Wild River, Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, Katmai National Park and Preserve, and Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

The Richard L. Proenneke Cabin Complex is located in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve on the southeastern shore of upper Twin Lakes, Alaska. The site is recognized nationally for its stature as an excellent example of an Alaska bush log cabin. The site is only accessible by float plane in the summer. Currently, efforts are being put forth by the NPS curatorial division, NPS preservationists, and conservators in order to develop a comprehensive preservation plan for the objects housed in this historic cabin and the outbuildings. This has proven to be a complex project requiring cross-disciplinary collaboration due to the unique preservation issues of the backcountry environment and its effect on the historic cabin objects. This presentation features a three-point perspective from NPS Curator Katie Myers, NPS Preservationist Daniel Papke, and conservator Nicole Peters, and how each member of the team dealt with logistical and ethical issues encountered throughout the project.

**FRIDAY, 4:15-5:00PM**

**MA Session:** *"Nay' dini'aa Na' Hwt'aene Ugheldze' Xuk'anotta Nene' (Nurture the Land and People) Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, NWC Salmonberry*

Bethany Buckingham Follett, Curator, Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center; and Selena Ortega-Chiolero, Cultural Development Assistant, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council

Presenters have been involved in a three year grant project with the Nay' dini'aa Na' Hwt'aene Ugheldze' Xuk'anotta Nene' (Nurture the Land and People) project. Partners have been assisting the Tribe in collecting information and artifacts, organizing and preserving cultural history and artifacts, training local tribal members in tourism and presentations, developing cultural resources, fostering local partnerships, and promoting community relations. Partners will discuss their organization and their contributions to the project and explain how other communities can create their own programs and build relationships.

# Relationships

## 2018 Museums Alaska Program Schedule

Saturday, September 15, 2018

### **SATURDAY, 7:00-8:00AM**

**MA Breakfast Roundtable:** *Museums Alaska Grant Programs: Art Acquisition Fund & Collections Management Fund Changes in 2018*, Milano's

Della Hall, Executive Director, Museums Alaska

Three morning breakfast roundtables will be led by Museums Alaska on the changes to the Art Acquisition Fund and Collections Management Fund grant programs and application process.

### **SATURDAY, 9:30-11:00AM**

**MA Session:** *Museum Q&A*, NWC Coho

Monica Shah, Director of Collections and Chief Conservator, Anchorage Museum

A session to stimulate discussion and questions among museum colleagues.