

NO LIMITS:



*Museums define
the Future*

WESTERN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

MUSEUMS ALASKA

2008 Annual Meeting

September 17-21, 2008

Anchorage, Alaska



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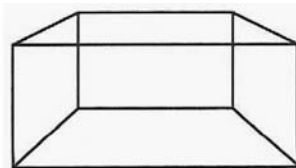
WESTERN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

GREEN INITIATIVE

The Western Museums Association actively seeks to incorporate environmental sustainability and green practices in its operations, programming and activities. With this initiative, we hope inspire our members to institute similar methods in their own institutions.

Remember this year we're rewarding you for bringing your own bag; come to the registration desk and show your old bag to be entered into a drawing for a Complete Registration Package for the 2009 Annual Meeting in San Diego, California, Sunday October 25 - Thursday October 29, 2009.

Recycle - Making it easy! In the conference registration area you will find boxes for you to turn your plastic name-badge holder. We appreciate your efforts to help us minimize the production and presence of plastic in our environment.



MUSEUMS
ALASKA

The Statewide
Museum Association

NO LIMITS:

Museums Define the Future

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to Anchorage, Alaska -- a land without limits. The largest and most rugged of our states, Alaska is known for its vast wilderness landscape. The people who make the state their home have attitudes as unconstrained as their environment. As diverse as the population of Alaska is, its residents have one thing in common: a spirit of individualism that bends or breaks the rules that the rest of the country lives by. "We don't care how everyone else does it -- we'll do it our way," is an often-heard refrain. We can learn a great deal from Alaska. As open minded as we would like to believe we are, we museum professionals often surround ourselves with artificial rules and limits that stifle the potential and possibilities of our institutions. What rules have we imposed on our collections and exhibits? What regulates our institutional mission? What limits are there on our very definition of what a museum is? In an ever changing society, museums must undergo evolution to remain relevant. But change is often stifled by the artificial limitations of our museum traditions.

With great pleasure that we welcome you to the joint conference of the Western Museums Association and Museums Alaska. When we last met in Anchorage, in 1998, we had an exciting visit, a landmark gathering during which we learned much from each other. Change has been constant in the intervening decade. We have many new museum members to share with you and many new members of both organizations with whom to network. Both of us, as new directors, are looking forward to meeting each of you in person.

We hope that you have planned to partake of some of the unique adventures and sightseeing before or after the meetings. Several of you are taking advantage of the interesting and exciting things to do for significant others and families before, during, and after the meetings. We hope that you enjoy your time in Anchorage and go home having

John Lewis, Executive Director
Museums Alaska

Elida Zelaya, Interim Executive Director
Western Museums Association

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Donna Jonaitis
Executive Director, Retired
University of Alaska Museum of the North

Kurt Zwolfer
Education Specialist
Idaho State Historical Society

HOST COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

John Wolf
Museum Momentum

Norm Legasse
Executive Director
Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum

WESTERN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION STAFF

Valerie Huaco
Publication and Media Manager

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following individuals have been instrumental in the planning, development and support of this conference. Thank you to all for the generous gifts of time and resources toward our 2008 annual meeting.

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Ed Prohaska, Chief Financial Officer,
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Yvonne Sharpe, Operations
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Curator/Manager, Alaska Heritage
Museum at Wells Fargo

Eleanor Haddin, Assistant Curator
Collections and Exhibits, Alaska
Native Heritage Center

Marilyn Knapp, Chief Curator/Histo-
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Museum at Rasmuson Center

Aaron Leggett, Dena'ina Cultural
Historian, Alaska Native Heritage
Center

Donna Matthews, Anchorage
Museum

Dave Morgan, Curator, Alaska
Aviation Heritage Museum

Suzi Jones, Deputy Director,
Programs, Anchorage Museum at
Rasmuson Center

Monica Shah, Conservator,
Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson
Center

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Special thanks to Melissa Rosengard for her continuing support.

Thank you Bronze Sponsors
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Museums Alaska thanks Wells Fargo and ConocoPhillips for their support

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION DESK

Delegates should pick up their badges and final program at the registration desk located outside the Alaska Ballroom. Registration is open during the following hours beginning September 17: Wednesday 11:30 am - 5:00 pm; Thursday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm; Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm; Saturday 8:30 - 11:00 am.

EXHIBIT HALL: The exhibit hall is located in the Alaska/Denali rooms. Opening Reception, Wednesday 4:45 pm - 6:00 pm; Thursday 8:30 am - 12:15 pm/1:45 pm - 4:30 pm; Friday 10:00 am - 2:30 pm (Closing Reception and Silent Auction, Friday 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm).

TICKET EXCHANGE

Exchange tickets for evening events and meals will be given to you with your badge. When you receive your program and badge, please check for tickets. There are no refunds on events. To sell a ticket to another delegate, come to the registration desk for an individual location.

BADGES

Badges must be worn for admission to all conference events including sessions, the exhibit hall, meals, and evening events. We appreciate your understanding that our volunteers are trained to deny access to any delegate not wearing a badge. Conference badges are not transferable.

SESSION ROOM LOCATIONS

Room plan is included in all registration bags. The final program lists the room assigned to each session and event. Registration is in the Alaska Ballroom foyer; the Alaska Ballroom will hold the Exhibit Hall (Alaska/Denali Rooms) and the General Session (Aleutian Room).

PERFUMES / CELL PHONES

Cell phones must be on silent during presentations. Please refrain from wearing strongly scented products to meetings for the comfort of all delegates.

SILENT AUCTION

Delegates may drop off donations for the silent auction at the registration desk. Bidding on silent auction items closes at 2:15 pm on Friday at the Exhibit Hall Closing Reception.

MESSAGE BOARD

Delegates may post messages, job opportunities and exchange tickets on a message board located in the Exhibit Hall. There is no charge for this service, however we ask that you be mindful of the limitations on space to accommodate all posters. Commercial advertising is not allowed on the board, nor is material of a commercial nature on tables unless arranged in advance with the WMA.

SCHEDULE

Sessions identified by **101** are particularly relevant to new professionals and museum staff who need basic training, or those who need to refresh their skills.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

For cancellations received by the WMA office after September 1, WMA guarantees events with payments to vendors, and for this reason, no refunds will be given for any reason. WMA is not responsible for notifications sent and not received.

Unlimited Possibilities!

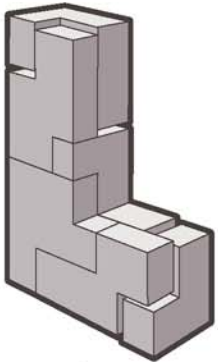
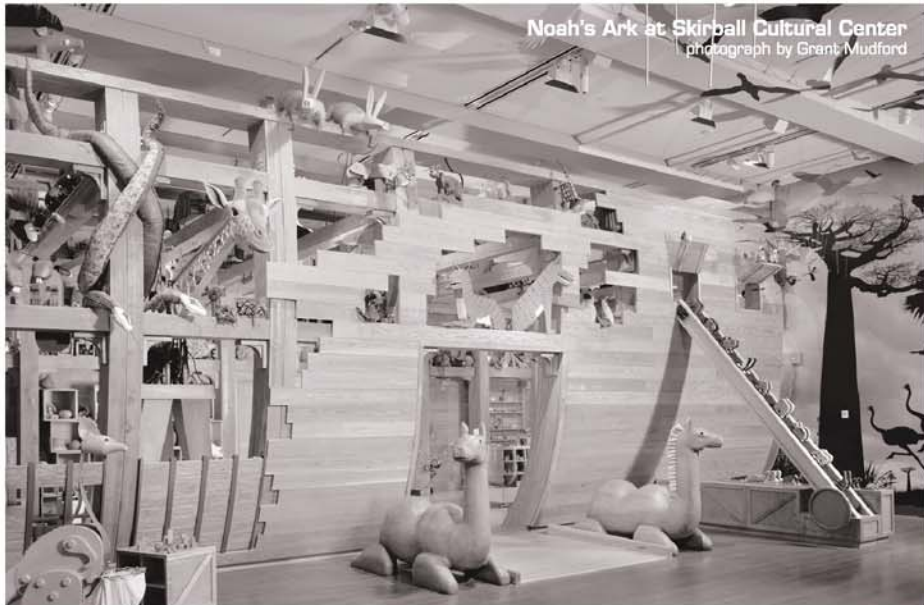


Lexington's design, development and fabrication expertise were essential to two outstanding GREEN projects this year: the multi-award winning **Noah's Ark at the Skirball Cultural Center** and the **LEED-certified Roseville Utility Exploration Center**.

Garbage Pile
interactive exhibit

Lexington offers proven, award-winning, environmentally sensible exhibit creation. We are your full-service design/build partner for:

- Design Guidance • Technical Expertise • Custom Fabrication



Lexington

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phone: 818.768.5768 | www.lex-usa.com

Wednesday

September 1

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION OF
Hilton Anchorage, Alaska Ballroom f
11:30 am - 5:00

PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Registration required. An additional surcharge of \$50 will be charged to preconference workshop attendees not registered for the annual meeting.

1 Do It Your Way - In-House Exhibit Development and Renovation Sponsored by the National Association for Museum Exhibition

9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Opportunity to lunch as a group. Location: Anchorage Museum

Developing/renovating exhibits seems to require limitless talent and funding, but many projects can be done well with in-house staff and resources. And it can be fun! Workshop participants will use real exhibits at the Anchorage Museum to engage in minds-on, hands-on activities that address every aspect of exhibit development: envisioning new exhibits, addressing interpretation, managing project, fielding community input, incorporating evaluation techniques, designing, and fabricating. Join us for an engaging day in a beautiful institution where you can get the tools you need to do it your way! Moderator: Wendy Meluch, Evaluation Consultant, Visitor Services; Presenters: Marilyn Knapp, Curator of History, Anchorage Museum; Alice Parman, Museum Consultant/Organizational Specialist; Megg Sohn, Megg Sohn Designs.

2 Demystifying Accreditation

Sponsored by American Association of Museums and Alaska State Museums

9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Lunch break, lunch not provided. Location: Anchorage Hilton, King Salmon Room, 2nd floor

Accreditation is a goal for your museum, this workshop will take you one step closer. Through presentations and hands-on exercises, you will learn effective approaches for each step in the process, from preparation through the final decision, with an emphasis on the Accreditation Study; the accreditation standards in plain English and how they apply to your museum; and, how museums of all sizes and types can pursue accreditation. Moderator: Julie C. Hart, Assistant Director, Accreditation, American Association of Museums; Presenters: Deborah Merritt, Director, Museum Advancement & Excellence, American Association of Museums; Scott A. Carrlee, Curator of Collections, Museum Services, Alaska State Museum; Angela J. Linn, Ethnology Collections Manager, University of Alaska Museum of the North; Heather Beggs, Executive Director, Pratt Museum.

3 Fundraising for Conservation Projects

9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Lunch provided. Location: Anchorage Hilton, Dillingham Room, 2nd floor

Workshop participants will learn how to select and make the best arguments for funds to implement an institution's conservation project. They will also learn how to research funding sources, approach foundations and government agencies, and fulfill grant-maker requirements. Expectations. The basic elements of a successful proposal will be presented in detail, with case studies of successfully funded projects. A limited number of individual consultations will be available free of charge during the afternoon for registered workshop participants. Moderator: Maria McWilliams, R.C.W.R. Alaska State Representative/Registrar, Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center.

4 Working Group Meeting for State Museum Associations

9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Lunch on your own. Location: Anchorage Hilton, Katmai Room, 2nd floor

Registrations required. Open to state museum association representatives. Don't miss this opportunity to discuss current issues, share projects and services that you provide for your members, and to plan for the future year. Facilitator: MJ Koreiva, Board of Directors & Marketing Committee, Oregon Museums Association

PRECONFERENCE EXCURSIONS

Registration required.

1 Portage Excursion

9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Motorcoaches depart from the 3rd Street entrance to the Hilton Anchorage.

Take a ride down the Seward Highway along scenic Turnagain Arm with a final destination of the Begich-Boggs Visitor Center located at the West end of Portage Lake. Surrounded by the Chugach National Forest, America's second largest national forest, you have access to six different hikes and opportunities for viewing majestic mountains, embedded glaciers and Alaskan wildlife.

Wednesday

2 Eagle River Nature Center

9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Motorcoaches depart from the 3rd Street entrance to the Hilton Anchorage.

A short 45 minute bus ride delivers you to the Eagle River Nature Center, gateway to the Chugach State Park. Join one of the Center's naturalists to see a bit of wild Alaska as s/he leads you on the handicap accessible trail through the birch forest to the Eagle River viewing platform. The mountain views are spectacular and September is a prime time to see spawning salmon.

3 The Native Village of Eklutna

9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Motorcoaches depart from the 3rd Street entrance to the Hilton Anchorage.

Located 26 miles from downtown Anchorage, the Native Village of Eklutna is home to the oldest building in Anchorage, the Eklutna Church. The church and cemetery at Eklutna date to the late 19th Century. The inhabitants of the Native Village of Eklutna are part of the Dena'ina Athabascan tribe that have occupied Cook Inlet for well over a thousand years. Prior to the Dena'ina adopting Russian Orthodoxy, they cremated their dead. Under the growing influence of church law, villagers started to bury the dead and erect "spirit houses" over the graves. These "spirit houses" were painted according to a person's matrilineal clan. In addition, a person's prized possessions were put in the spirit house to provide comfort for the journey to the afterlife. Join Aaron Leggett, a member of the Native Village of Eklutna and local historian, as he explains the significance of Dena'ina places throughout the Anchorage Bowl, gives a guided tour of the cemetery, and explains the true meaning of these spirit houses and the recent efforts that are underway to give overdue recognition to Anchorage's indigenous inhabitants.

EXHIBIT HALL OPENING RECEPTION

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Alaska/Denali Rooms.

Open to all registered delegates; included in basic registration. Begin your Anchorage networking! Meet corporate partners and sponsors and your colleagues over hosted hors d'oeuvres and beverages.



Image courtesy Aviation Heritage Museum

Evening Event

Preregistration

EE1 AVIATION HERITAGE MUSEUM WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm Motorcoaches depart from the 3rd Street entrance to the Hilton Anchorage. The evening includes buffet meal and a drink ticket; cash bar also available.

Swing to the sounds of the Big Bands and into the past as Alaska celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the end of the WWII Aleutian Campaign. Enjoy some Alaskan BBQ from the Sourdough Mining Company while you're surrounded by vintage aircraft and period vehicles to get you "In The Mood" for the combined Western Museums Association and Museums Alaska Conference. Spend some downtime networking with your fellow attendees as you take a "Sentimental Journey" through the Alaska Bush Pilot and Aircraft exhibit and enjoy the new Alaska Military Aviation Expeditions and Aleutian Campaign exhibits at the Aviation Museum. If artifact restoration is your flavor the aircraft restoration facility will be open for ogling the latest restoration projects and chatting with the volunteers. For those that enjoy watching floatplane activities you can picnic along the South shore of Lake Hood and enjoy what the busiest seaplane port in the world has to offer.

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION OF
Hilton Anchorage, Alaska Ballroom from
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

EXHIBIT HALL OPENING
10:15 am - 12:15 pm
1:45 pm - 4:30 pm

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

10:00 am - 10:30 am; *Aleutian Room*

Annual Meeting Welcome - David Porter, President, Board of Directors, Western Museums Association and Executive Director, Chukotka Heritage Partners.

Anchorage Welcome - Pat Wolf, Museumomentum, and Norm Lagasse, Executive Director, Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum, and Alaska Aviation Heritage Committee Co-Chairs

Guest Speaker Carl R. Nold, Chair, American Association of Museums Board, and President, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Awards - Bruce Eldridge, Executive Director, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, WMA Board member, will present the following awards:

Charles Redd Center Western Museums Association Award for Exhibition Excellence: The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum *Cahuilla Cowboys - Making Our Marks*. Accepting the award: Dawn L. Johnson, Assistant Curator, and Michael Hammond, Executive Director.

Director's Chair Award - Sarah Kennington, Registrar, Fowler Museum at UCLA. Sarah Kennington served as the chief registrar for the Fowler Museum at UCLA from 1982 - 2008. Her professional service has included positions on the executive boards of the Western Museums Association, the California Association of Museums, ArtTable, and the Registrars Committee – Western Region; as well as the Advisory Committee of the Museum Loan Network and consultations with the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, the County Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles, and the California Association of Museums.



Keynote Speaker - James Pepper Henry is a member of the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma and Muscogee Creek Nation. He is the director and CEO of the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, and CEO of the Anchorage Museums Association. He was previously Associate Director for Community and Constituent Services at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Pepper Henry has been active in Native American repatriation efforts for the Kaw Nation as director of the tribe's Kanza Museum, tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and as the former Repatriation Program Manager for the National Museum of the American Indian. He has worked to promote Native American art, culture, and heritage as curator at the Institute of Alaska Native Arts in Fairbanks, Alaska, Interstate Fire House Cultural Center in Portland, Oregon, and as interim curator of American Indian Art at the Portland Art Museum.

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

10:30 am - 11:15 am; *Alaska/Denali Rooms*

Please come to the exhibit hall to continue discussions with our corporate members, view auction items (or to plan your bidding strategy!), chill with your colleagues, and partake of light refreshments.

A 101: An Introduction for Conference Newcomers

10:30 am - 11:00 am; *Aleutian Room*

Join the WMA staff, board members and other delegates to learn about ways to participate in WMA, such as proposing a topic for next year, writing an article for the newsletter, and making the most of all the ways to network! Chair: Erin Black, Curator, Fairbanks City Museum, WA.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:15 am - 12:45 pm

Alternative Spaces for Programs and Marketing in Second Life and Other Virtual Worlds *Dillingham Room, 2nd Floor*

This session is an introduction to virtual worlds like Google's Lively, Active Worlds, and Second Life (SL) that together boast millions of online users. These serious and playful spaces attract a highly diverse, international demographic including artists, programmers, people with disabilities, educators, builders, and others. The library and university fields are far ahead of museums in taking advantage of this technology for serious educational and marketing applications. Using SL as a primary example, this session is an exploration of a few creative museum and heritage sites and the opportunities therein to expand boundaries outside a real world context. Session participants with SL avatars are encouraged to bring laptops and log on during the session for an "in world" experience. Moderator: Springs Coronet, Founder, West Museums Rock; Presenters: Patio Plasma, Project Director - Destination Museums, Exploratorium; Johnnie Mohr, SL Artist & Architect.

Community Relevance: Museums Reaching New Audiences, *Katmai Room, 2nd Floor*

With extensive experience in breaking traditional museum boundaries and promoting institutional change, the panel will address a range of a discussion on various methods of providing relevant experiences for today's diverse audiences. Discussion topics will include the role of voices on the relevancy of today's museums; models for drawing and retaining new audiences while remaining true to the institutional mission; and, strategies for working within institutional context towards strategic change as it relates to audience. Moderator: Leah Melber, Assistant Professor, Museum Education Consultant, California State University, Los Angeles; Presenters: Robert A. Lafferty, Nadine and Robert A. Skotheim Director of Education, The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens; Deland Anderson, Humanities Scholar, The Pratt Museum; Linda Abraham-Silver, President and Executive Director, Great Lakes Science Center.

Curating Sacred Objects: Some Thoughts from Alaska *King Salmon Room, 2nd Floor*

Cultural centers and museums in Alaska care for Native and Russian Orthodox sacred objects. In keeping with the special nature of these objects, the institutions, in partnership with tribes and spiritual leaders, have developed innovative procedures governing storage and handling, display, and ceremonial access. This presentation will highlight examples from Kodiak's Alutiiq Museum, Sitka National Historical Park, and the Alaska State Museum in Juneau. Moderator: Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections, Alaska State Museum; Sue Thorsen, Curator, Sitka National Historical Park, National Park Service; Sven D. Haakanson, Jr., Executive Director, Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository.

Research Centers within Museums - Reaching Beyond Traditional Limits *Iliamna Room, 2nd Floor*

National and university museums abound in North America. How can they be distinctive and stand out from the crowd? One way is to create a research center in a specific area related to the museum's discipline thereby bringing national recognition to both the center and the museum. In this session museums describe the catalyst for such a center, how it has progressed and become known, and the academic and financial implications. Moderator: Rosalind Bedell, Human Resources and Volunteer Manager, Nevada Museum of Art; Presenters: Carolyn Brucken, Deputy Director, Institute for the Study of the American West/ Assistant Curator for Western Women's History, Autry National Center; Christine Conte, Director, Center for Sonoran Desert Studies, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum; Michael W. Hager, President & CEO, San Diego Natural History Museum.

Making A Good Impression - Measuring Outstanding Customer Service and Library Services *Lupine Room, Lobby Level*

Outstanding customer service is critical to a museum's success, giving it an edge over other tourist attractions or leisure facilities. We'll provide you with tools, strategies, and new ideas for successfully competing for the public's time, attention and money. We'll provide you with tools, strategies, and new ideas for successfully improving customer service - from front-line greeters to the challenge of dealing with antagonistic visitors. Moderator: Norma Gurbuz, Curator, City of Lancaster Museum/Art Gallery; Presenters: Katch Bacheller, Executive Director, Alaska Museum of Natural History; Stephanie Weaver, Visitor Experience Consultant, Experienceology.

AFFINITY GROUP LUNCHEONS

12:15 pm - 1:55 pm

preregistration required

1 **Native American Luncheon** *Spruce Room, Lobby Level*

2 **Development & Membership, Public Relations & Marketing Luncheon** *Chart Room, 15th Floor*

Presentation by Dawn Wellman, 2008 recipient of the WMA /Charles Redd Award for Exhibition Excellence for *Cahuilla Cowboys: Living Our Marks* at The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Mess Around: Come Play! *Dillingham Room, 2nd Floor*
 Come play! Artists experiment with images and materials to communicate through their artwork. This hands-on session is an opportunity for you to place yourself in the role of the artist. Take away an educational and artistic product. No experience necessary, no pressure and no judging. If you miss the session, go to the exhibit hall where the materials will be available for your hands-on time. Moderator: Melanie Fales, Curator of Education, Boise Art Museum; Presenter: Terra Feast, Associate Curator of Education, Boise Art Museum.

Funding Collections Care Into the Future *Katmai Room, 2nd Floor*
 This session will demonstrate that fund raising for collections care need not be a drain on an institution's resources; rather it is an opportunity to attract new support and the interest of donors, funding agencies, and the public. Participants will learn about connecting to Collections, a national initiative launch by the IMLS, hear case studies from peers, and get tips on researching funding elements of a successful proposal from a seasoned development professional. Moderator: Kara West, Assistant Director for Collections Services, Balboa Art Conservation Center; Presenters: Marsha Semmel, Deputy Director for Museums, Institute of Museums and Library Services; Sandra Narva, Senior Program Officer, Institute of Museums and Library Services; Hal Fischer, Development Officer, Balboa Art Conservation Center; Katie Oliver, Director, Baranov Museum/Kodiak Historical Society; Kathryn Hurtley, Executive Director, Valdez Museum and Historical Archive.

The Performance Management Program: A National Visitor Survey from AASLH *King Salmon Room, 2nd Floor*
 Discover how twelve museums across Alaska defined their future using the American Association for State and Local History's Performance Management program. Performance Management helps institutions measure visitor satisfaction and opinions through a national standardized survey. Speakers will present an overview of the Performance Management program, tips on how to develop and fund a Managed Group in your own state, and fascinating examples from the Alaskan Survey results. Moderator: Scott Carlee, Director of Museum Services, Alaska State Museums; Presenters: Cherie Cook, Project Director, American Association for State and Local History; Debora Wilcox, Director of Evaluations, Center for Nonprofit Management.

Stronger Together - The Development of a Community Museum *Iliamna Room, 2nd Floor*
 This case study will emphasize the strengths and challenges of community partnerships from fundraising to project completion. The Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center in Fairbanks, Alaska incorporated the needs of three partners and the community through an integrated design process. The Tanana Chiefs Conference, Alaska Public Lands Information Center, and the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau worked together to create a center that is the gateway to interior Alaska, representing the diverse people that live there. Moderator: Bianca Message, President, André & Associates Interpretation & Design Ltd.; Presenters: Cindy Sumaker, Project Director, Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitor's Center; Charles Bettisworth, Bettisworth North; Dixie Alexander, Cultural Exhibit Development, Athabaskan Designs.

Museums and Blogs, Podcasting, and YouTube: Part 1 The What & Uses *Lupine Room, Lobby Level*
 If your museum is "live" - now what? In this first part of the double session, find out how you can utilize your website more effectively. Panelists will discuss what type of technology they use and how it enhances their programs. Attendees will gain an understanding of blogging, podcasting, YouTube and flicker and how these technologies can tap the potential of the 21st century. Moderator: Irene Rodríguez, Associate Director of Education, Palm Springs Art Museum; Presenters: David Porter, Executive Director, Clackamas Stage Partners; Emily Spallina, Education Program Manager, Palm Springs Art Museum; Humberto Kam, Senior Manager of Communications, Monterey Bay Aquarium.

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm *Alaska/Denali Rooms*

Ice cream! You scream! We all scream for ice cream! Come to the exhibit hall for cool conversation, visit our vendor booths, and enjoy some ice cream treats.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Stories Without Limits: The History of a Small Community *Dillingham Room, 2nd Floor*
 In a small community, history often resides only in memory and anecdotes. In recording the community history for the first time, museum curators and historians attempt to corroborate dates, uncover meaningful events, and unite common experiences. Reluctant oral history participants must be convinced that "Your story is the community history." Museum curators and historians discuss

Thursday

approaches, successes, and missteps in the inaugural recording of a small community's history. Moderator: Samantha Kimpel, Director, Novato History Museum; Presenters: Cheryl Hinton, Director/Chief Curator, Barona Cultural Center and Museum; Elaine Hughes, Director, Ak-Chin Him-Dak EcoMuseum and Archives.

Behind-the-Scenes Tours and Beyond *Katmai Room, 2nd Floor*
Access to museum collections behind-the-scenes is often limited to major donors, scholars, and fellow museum professionals. This session examines innovative approaches which redefine the conventional boundaries between public areas and off-limits collection areas. Participants will learn about benefits reaped by three institutions after expanding access to collections, including increased public engagement for collections projects, enhanced public engagement, and opportunities for in-depth programming. Panelists will share practical and philosophical issues encountered and candidly discuss what worked and what didn't. Moderator: Angela Linn, Collections Manager, Ethnology & History, University of Alaska Museum of the North; Presenters: Elaine Hughes, Collections Manager, Museum of Northern Arizona; Paul Smutko, Senior Collections Manager, Museum of International Folk Art; Juliette McKinridge Pool, Aquarium Adventures, Assistant Manager, Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Define Your Future with IMLS Grant Opportunities *King Salmon Room, 2nd Floor*
This session will open with an overview of IMLS grant opportunities. Panelists from the Alaska State Museum and Hoonah Indian Association will discuss the application process; the projects for which they have received IMLS funding; and their experiences working as IMLS field and panel reviewers. This presentation will appeal to museum professionals and staff in a variety of museum settings who have responsibility for or are interested in obtaining grants. Ample time will be provided for Q&A. Moderator: Marsha Semmel, Deputy Director for Museum Services/Director for Strategic Partnerships, Institute of Museum and Library Services; Presenters: Marsha Semmel, Deputy Director for Museum Services/Director for Strategic Partnerships, Institute of Museum and Library Services; Presenters: Marsha Semmel, Deputy Director for Museum Services/Director for Strategic Partnerships, Institute of Museum and Library Services; Presenters: Marsha Semmel, Deputy Director for Museum Services/Director for Strategic Partnerships, Institute of Museum and Library Services; Presenters: Marsha Semmel, Deputy Director for Museum Services/Director for Strategic Partnerships, Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Listening Session: Your Chance to Shape AAM's Future *Iliamna Room, 2nd Floor*
A major part of AAM's role as the national association representing museums of all types and sizes is to benefit the museum field as a whole, not just individual museums or just AAM members. Come for updates on AAM's activities like the new Center for the Future of Museums and Museum Advocacy Day and stay to tell us how what AAM can do for you. Helping the field to develop and promulgate standards, wrestling with current ethics issues, engaging in advocacy regarding funding and policy, and promoting diversity and leadership at all levels are all things that affect every museum in the country. This is your opportunity to give input as we move forward, particularly on issues that affect museums in the west. Is what we are doing appropriate and effective? Are there needs you have unmet that we ought to address? Join us for this moderated discussion, learn what's new, and help shape AAM's future. Moderator: Julie Hart, Senior Director, Museum Standards & Excellence, American Association of Museums; Jill Connors-Joyner, Assistant Director, Museum Assessment Program, AAM; Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied, Director of Government Relations, AAM; Carl F. Lippert, Chair of the AAM Board.

Museums and Blogs, Podcasting, and YouTube: Part 2 Create Your Own Script *Lupine Room, Lobby Level*

What are the steps needed to upload a podcast on your website? In this very hands-on session, you will "research," script, read, record, and hear your potential podcast. Bring current information and in-house research to use for your podcast. Moderator: Irene N. Rodriguez, Association of Education, Palm Springs Art Museum; Presenters: David Porter, Executive Director, Clackamas Heritage Center; Emily Spallina, Education Program Manager, Palm Springs Art Museum.

Evening Event

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM at Rasmuson CENTER THURSDAY 9/18

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Limousines depart from the 3rd Street entrance to the Hilton Anchorage.

The Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center is undergoing a major expansion, adding 100,000 square feet to the current structure. Despite life in the "construction zone" the Museum continues to offer a full range of exhibits and programs including *Yup'ik Innaqpiallerput (The Way We Genuinely Live): Masterworks of Yup'ik Science*, an exhibition which will be spotlighted in the annual Exhibit Critique (Session I1). Yup'ik dancers will perform, demonstrations will be held, and members of the Yup'ik steering committee will guide visitors through the exhibition. The Yup'ik science exhibition was in planning for more than five years and includes objects from twelve U.S. museums and the Ethnologisches Museum of Berlin. Curator for the exhibition is Dr. Ann Fienup-Riordan. We will also see the Museum's Alaska History Gallery, the Children's Gallery, the Art of the North Gallery and a special exhibit featuring work by visiting artist Michael Joo of New York City. In addition, the Museum's Library and Archives, which houses 400,000 historic photographs of Alaska and the North will be open. Don't miss the Museum Shop!



Photo courtesy Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center

Friday

Friday
September 19

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION OF
Hilton Anchorage, Alaska Ballroom f
8:30 am - 4:30

EXHIBIT HALL OF
10:00 am - 2:30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

0 am - 10:30 am

Creating Open-Ended Exhibits + Real World Experiences *Dillingham Room, 2nd Floor*
Creating open-ended exhibits that allow for play and exploration with the real world is always a challenge in our goal-focused institutions. How can we allow visitors to interact with paint, sand, soapy water, microscopes, and horse saddles in a constructive way? We'll review some innovative projects and talk about how open-ended exploration requires us to relinquish control over our institutions and change our institutions' mindset. What makes this type of exhibit successful and how do we measure it? Moderator: Nathan Lee, Senior Exhibit Designer, Quatrefoil Associates; Presenters: Devon Hamilton, Senior Scientist, Physics Content Coordinator, Agents of Change Initiative, Ontario Science Centre; Stephanie Lile, Head of Education, Washington State Historical Society.

Limitless Fundraising: Is E-Philanthropy a Tool for Reaching a World-Wide Range of Donors? *Katmai Room, 2nd Floor*
Online networking and the role of the Internet in museum marketing and outreach is currently the focus of many discussions in the museum community, but not much has yet been said about the use of the Internet for development and fundraising. What is e-philanthropy and is it a viable fundraising solution for museums that will allow museums access to a larger range of donors, or is it a pie-in-the-sky idea? Moderator: Allyson Lazar, Principal, Orinda Group, LLC; Presenters: Amanda Fredrickson-Banks, Independent Museum Professional; James Leventhal, Director of Development & Marketing, Judah L. Magnes Museum; Stephanie Leida, Membership Coordinator, Boise Art Museum.

Successful Design Projects: How to Be an Excellent Exhibit Client *King Salmon Room, 2nd Floor*
How do you want to create innovative, forward-looking exhibits that help your institution thrive in the future? One important step lies in knowing how to be an "excellent client." Design professionals in all fields report that one of the secrets to a successful design project is the client. What makes an excellent client? This panel presents case studies highlighting the exhibit design and fabrication process from start to finish, from first spark to first visitor - from the perspective of exhibit designers and fabricators, with the focus on the important role of the exhibit client. Moderator: Redmond Barnett, Head of Exhibits, Washington State Historical Society; Presenters: Charles Davis, Partner, EDX: Edquist Davis Exhibits; Susan Fisher, Senior Accounts Director, H. B. Stubbs; David Jensen, Principal, Jensen and Associates, Ltd.

Political Forecasting: The Future for Museums *Iliamna Room, 2nd Floor*
January 2009 brings the beginning of a new Congress, the inauguration of a new President, and the prospect of a reauthorization of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Museum professionals have an opportunity to work with lawmakers and a new administration to propose changes to the law that establishes the purpose of IMLS and its programs and activities. In addition to a report on plans for reauthorization and other museum-related policy issues at the federal level, panelists will offer practical advice about interacting with lawmakers to get your message heard. Moderator: Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied, Director of Government Relations, American Association of Museums, and local elected officials invited.

EXHIBIT HALL BREAK

10:30 am - 11:00 am *Alaska/Denali Rooms*

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

0 am - 12:30 pm

New Ways of Being "Museum:": Redefining Boundaries with Libraries and Archives *Dillingham Room, 2nd Floor*
Cultural, economic, demographic, and technological forces of the new millennium challenge deep-seated museum traditions as never before. In order to transform challenges into opportunities, museums throughout North America are examining new institutional identities and adopting new business models. One such innovation involves the integration of museums, libraries, and archives. This session explores the viability of such innovation for institutions large and small, public and private, new and old. Moderator: Gail Anderson, President, Gail Anderson & Associates; Presenters: Steven L. Olsen, Associate Managing Director, Church History Department, LDS Church; Phyllis Rabineau, Vice President for Interpretation & Education, Chicago History Museum; Paul Perry, CEO, Royal British Columbia Museum.

Volunteers Without Limits - Will or Should Volunteers Do Anything & Everything? *Katmai Room, 2nd Floor*

There are always jobs about which volunteers are enthusiastic, but there also are those that nobody wants to do. Conversely, there are jobs that, as staff, we might like to ask volunteers to do to save money and staff time, but cannot. How can we persuade volunteers to do almost anything or, alternatively, insure they are protected or dissuaded from jobs not suited to them? Panelists will discuss their experiences and methods to find volunteers' limits. Moderator: Rosalind Bedell, Human Resources and Volunteer Director, Nevada Museum of Art; Presenters: Joyce E. Jensen, Director of Education, Naval Undersea Museum; Paula Rampe, Manager of Volunteer Programs, Asian Art Museum.

Beyond Grass Shacks and Igloos: Infusing Museums with Authentic Native Perspectives *King Salmon Room, 2nd Floor*

Four Native museum professionals from Hawai'i and Alaska will share their diverse experiences at an astronomy center, natural history museum, cultural, and heritage center in developing programs that incorporate indigenous knowledge systems. Panelists will share their successes and challenges in meeting the needs of local communities and visitors by infusing programs with authentic native perspectives that honor the host culture yet also establish meaning for broader audiences. Moderator: Noelle Kahanu, Project Manager, Bishop Museum; Presenters: Kathy Ahgeak, ECHO Project Manager, North Slope Borough; Ka'iulani Kimura, Associate Director, Imiloa Astronomy Center; Eleanor Hadden, Assistant Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Alaska Native Heritage Center.

Security on a Shoestring *Iliamna Room, 2nd Floor*

Security is an issue that affects all public institutions. Objects, displays, buildings and grounds need protection as do staff and visitors. An effective security system relies as much upon procedures and policies as it does on an alarm system. During this session, presenters will discuss security issues and effective measures that will help your institution ensure that it is well protected from vandalism and theft. Moderator: Jen McLerran, Director, Assistant Professor, Art History, Northern Arizona University Art Museum; Presenters: Wilbur Faulk, Executive Vice-President, Cultural Property Protection Group; Lisa Golisek, Museums Security and Visitor Services Coordinator, Alaska State Museum.

Planned Giving For Everyone *Birch/Willow Rooms, Lobby Level*

Planned giving is the fastest growing form of philanthropy and yet many institutions have not seized their opportunities. Institutions with long-term donors, regardless of gift size, have planned giving prospects. With minimal preparation, museums can establish basic programs and lay the groundwork for a more sophisticated and active program to follow. This session will cover the establishment of a program, popular vehicles, prospecting techniques, and trends in planned giving. Moderator: Joe Brennan, Director of Facilities, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Presenters: Robert Glavin, President, Robert Glavin Inc./Professor, UC San Francisco; Joy Atroch, Deputy Director of Advancement, Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center; Glen W. Bobo, Director, Wealth Management Group, The Wilson Agency LLC, Steve Mahoney, Consultant, The Foraker Group.

AFFINITY GROUP LUNCHESES

12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

preregistration required

13 **Registrars Committee-Western Region Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon** *Chart Room, 15th Floor*

14 **Curators, Exhibit Designers, Evaluators, & Educators Luncheon** *Aspen Room, Lobby Level*

Presentation by the 2008 recipient of the WMA/ Charles Redd Award for Exhibition Excellence, Dawn Wellman, Assistant Curator, Agua Caliente Cultural Museum

15 **Directors Forum Luncheon** *Spruce Room, Lobby Level*

Topics: Provocateurs seeded in the luncheon will briefly present current events and issues for open discussion.

16 **Museums Alaska Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon** *Fireweed Room, Lobby Level*

EXHIBIT HALL CLOSING RECEPTION & SILENT AUCTION

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm *Alaska/Denali Rooms*

This is your last chance to chat with our corporate partners! It is also your last chance to record a final bid on those fabulous auction items that caught your eye! Winning bidders must be present to pay for and take away auction items. All proceeds go to the Linda Chin Professional Development Fund.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

0 pm - 4:00 pm

Building and Renovation of Museums: Headaches and Blessings Panelists and audience members openly discuss their successes, challenges, and shared resources for building projects both big and small. Moderator: Marilyn Nes, Director, Suquamish Museum; Presenters: Beth Takegawa, Executive Director, Wing Luke Asian Museum; Michael Hammon, Executive Director, Aqua Caliente Cultural Museum; Wanda Chin, Exhibition & Design Director, University of Alaska Museum of the North; Marilyn Wandry, Elder and Suquamish Foundation Board Member.

Breaking Through the Barrier: Perspectives on Institutional Audience Development *Katmai Room, 2nd Floor*

Museums are searching for ways to attract younger and more diverse audiences; however, expanding visitorship without alienating constituents or meeting resistance from within is often easier said than done. How do museums build new audiences - especially when the efforts of individual staff may not be sufficient to create lasting change? Join a panel of speakers who will discuss their strategies for breaking through to new visitors. Moderator: Lisa Sasaki, Associate Director, Education, Japanese American National Museum; Presenters: Aimee Chang, Director, Academic & Residency Programs, The Armand Hammer Museum of Art; James McEnthal, Director of Development & Marketing, Judah L. Magnes Museum.

Living History, Alaska Style: How the Alaska Native Heritage Center Promotes Experiential Learning *King Salmon Room, 2nd Floor*

The Alaska Native Heritage Center focuses on programs, people, and the physical environment, as do "living history museums" in other parts of the country, but its program contrasts with established institutions such as Plymouth Plantation in important ways. Center visitors are similarly enveloped in a "village" setting, but ANHC cultural interpreters maintain their own identities, rooted in both the present and past. In addition, seasonal programs engage Alaskans of all ethnicities and extend institutional reach beyond indigenous audiences to appeal to heavy tourist traffic. Moderator: Patricia Partnow, Vice President of Cultural & Educational Services, Alaska Native Heritage Center; Presenters: Steven Alvarez, Director of Education and Strategic Initiatives, Alaska Native Heritage Center; David George, Director of Public Programs, Alaska Native Heritage Center; Loren Anderson, Cultural Programs Manager, Alaska Native Heritage Center.

The Well-Designed Visit: Keeping Visitors Comfortable, Happy, and Coming Back *Iliamna Room, 2nd Floor*

A museum visit should be pleasurable, both inherently and in support of learning - but can become painful without simple elements such as seating, legible signage, and spaces to recharge and refresh. This panel will examine designs and attitudes that do and do not promote visitor comfort, pleasure, and engagement through the lens of universal design. Universal design is the creation of environments usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without adaptation or specialization. Moderator: Steve Tokar, Designer/Developer, Steve Tokar Productions; Presenters: Stephanie Weaver, Visitor Experience Consultant; Jon Betthausen, Executive Director, Columbia Memorial Space Center, Downey; Beth Katz, Registered Nurse.

Museums and the Web *Birch/Willow Rooms, Lobby Level*

The web is an important means for museums to reach out to real, potential, and cyber visitors is through the web. The web is also a great source of information about museum programs and exhibits. As important as this medium is, to use it properly requires skill and knowledge always found at a museum. This panel will present three different ways museums have used the web to improve and enhance their activities. Moderator: Kerynn Fisher, University of Alaska Museum of the North; Presenters: Humberto Kam, Senior Manager of Digital Communications, Monterey Bay Aquarium; Judy Scotchmoor, Assistant Director, University of California Berkeley, Museum of Paleontology; Roger Topp, New Media Producer, University of Alaska Museum of the North.

Changing the World, One Partnership at a Time *Lupine Room, Lobby Level*

Museums can play a vital role in addressing critical issues for their communities and the planet, but they cannot do it alone. This session provides two case studies of unconventional partnerships that are broadening museums' reach and promoting shared environmental goals. One involves an urban natural history museum and a respected publisher; the other a community museum and a national park. Both offer lessons in how mission-driven collaborators can pool their expertise to vastly increase their audiences, impact, and effectiveness. Moderator: Ellen Ferguson, Community Relations Director, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture; Presenters: Heather Beggs, Director, Pratt Museum; Helen Cherullo, Publisher, The Mountaineers Books; Mary McBurney, Sustainability Manager, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve; Erin Younger, Associate Director, Burke Museum.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

5 pm - 5:35 pm

Easy Start to Your Own Exhibit Evaluation Group *Iliamna Room, 2nd Floor*

Learn the easy steps to creating your own group for sharing and learning within your museum community. Evaluating exhibits from different points of view of a variety of museum professionals consistently improves our methods. One such success in San Diego has gone from a very simple process to engage museum professionals from all levels. You will take away a concise sheet for a plan to create your local group so you can bring this valuable tool home. Facilitated by Megg Sohn of San Diego Exhibits & Evaluation Group.



courtesy Alaska Native Heritage Center

Experience the diversity of Alaska's Native peoples. It is also a place where people have the opportunity to work with Alaska Native masters on projects such as skin sewing and ivory carving. Your evening at the center will include an Alaska seafood dinner as well as a dance performance by Imamsuat, a multi-generational group of Alutiiq (Alutiiq) people from the Alaska and Lower Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak & Afognak Islands, and Prince William Sound. You will have the opportunity to stroll through the Hall of Cultures where artifacts represent the 11 groups of Alaska Natives. In addition, several Alaska Native guides will be on hand to give you a tour around the lake and to six village sites where you can go to see dwellings and learn how each group of Alaska Natives adapted their lifestyle to Alaska's challenging climate. You will also have the opportunity to explore the Alaska Native Heritage Center Gift Shop where you can find a wide selection of books relating to Alaska and Alaska Natives, as well as authentic Alaska Native art created by artists from across the state of Alaska.

Evening Event

EE3 ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE CENTER

FRIDAY 9/1

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Motorcoaches depart from the 3rd Street entrance to the Hilton Anchorage.

The Alaska Native Heritage Center is a premier cultural center sharing the rich heritage of Alaska's 11 major cultural groups. The Heritage Center, located ten miles from downtown Anchorage, is situated on 26 wooded acres. More than just a museum during the summer months, the heritage center is transformed into a place where guests get the chance to experience Alaska's Native peoples first hand. During the winter, the Heritage Center goes out to schools in the community where they educate children

Sharing The Journey

Creating Memorable Exhibits

Aspen Historical Society, Atomic Testing Museum, British Columbia Exhibit Design Museum of Mining, British Columbia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, Canadian Sustainability Center, Discovery Centre, Cincinnati History Museum, Columbia Gateway Interpretive Centre, Cuyahoga Falls Historical Center, Detroit Historical Museum, Dr. Seiberling Naturealm Visitor Center, Forest Discovery Centre, Fort Vancouver Center at Mount St. Helens, Fundraising Helens, Fort Apache Heritage Park, Frobisher Bay Interpretive Centre, Grand Ronde Tribal Museum/Interpretive Center, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Hong Kong Museum History, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, Indiana State Museum, Jackson Hole Historical Museum Studies Society and Museum, Jamtlands Lans Museum, Kluane Cultural Centre, Kluu laanas Cultural Interpretation Complex, Lake Louise Visitor Reception Centre, Makah Cultural Center, Maritime Museum of British Columbia, Michigan Historical Museum, Midland Centre for the Arts, Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitor Center, Museum at Campbell River, Museum of Northern British Columbia, Museum of South Texas History, Rio Grande Legacy NASA Starship Gallery, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County: The Time Mirror Hall of Natural American Culture, Nordiska Museet, North Pacific Cannery, Old State House Museum, Oregon Historical Society, Oregon Museum of Oregon Antirning (Angnardik) Visitor Centre, Royal British Columbia Museum, Permanent Galleries, Ontario Museum, Earth Sciences Galleries, Sidney M. Forman Sir Alexander G. Tamastslikt Cultural Interpretive First Division Museum at Cantigny, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Russy, Vancouver Maritime Museum, 302-560 Johnson St. Victoria British Columbia Canada V8W 3C6

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Saturday

Saturday
September 20

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION OF
Hilton Anchorage, Alaska Ballroom fo
8:30 am - 11:00

0 am - 9:00 am

1 Museums Alaska Board Meeting *Lupine Room, Lobby Level*
Open only to Museums Alaska Board of Directors and representatives

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

0 am - 10:30 am

Endowments: Building & Managing While Juggling Everything Else *Dillingham Room, 2nd Floor*
timer in the basics of endowment management, the perils and pitfalls associated with managing an endowment, and the complexities of dealing with your trustees, donors and auditors in regard to this important subject. Come explore the complexities of managing your museum's endowment, with special attention given to endowments under \$50 million. How do we go about investing endowments in a world where there are high investment return expectations, due diligence requirements, and increasingly complex financial instruments to understand? Is there a way to simplify things? Moderator: Alison Sowden, Vice President for Financial Affairs, Huntington Library & Art Collections and Botanical Garden; Presenters: Ed Prohaska, CFO and Vice President of Corporate Development, Monterey Bay Aquarium; Tom Woolley, Managing Director, Commonfund.

Borrowing and Lending: How the Revised Standard Facility Report Can Work for Your Institution *Katmai Room, 2nd Floor*
y museum staff find the prospect of completing or reviewing the Standard Facility Report to be a daunting task, but it is now a requirement for most institutional borrowers and lenders. With regard to the 2008 revision, speakers will explain the report's importance, walk you through its changes and additions, highlight what to look for from a borrower and lender's perspective, and discuss insurance, facility, and environmental recommendations for your institution. Moderator: Christina Kelly Schwartz, Head Registrar, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service; Jeff Minett, Vice President, Henderson Phillips Fine Arts Insurance; Robert Cronenberger, Historical Architect, National Park Service; Holly Young, Pueblo Grande Museum.

Native Definitions: Sustaining Heritage Through IMLS *King Salmon Room, 2nd Floor*
IMLS Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services program promotes enhanced learning and innovation within tribal museums and related organizations. This session highlights projects funded by the grant program and shows how tribes have developed and implemented exemplary methods of cultural preservation to sustain cultural knowledge. Join tribal representatives and present details about their projects in the areas of language preservation, public programming, and art. Moderators: Angela Johnson, Curator, Wanapum Heritage Center; Sandra Narva, Senior Program Officer, IMLS; Presenters: Silis-chi-tawn Jackson, Curator, Paipai Tribal Museum; Mary Beth Moss, Curator, Hoonah Indian Association; Victoria Takamine, Project Director, PA'I Foundation.

Toxic Exhibitions *Iliamna Room, 2nd Floor*
The art is distinctly unhealthy and threatening. By its material content, inherent nature, or its effect on life and the environment, the art presents an extraordinary challenge to an institution wanting to display it. This session will address examples of challenges successfully overcome in a number of institutions. Examples of this phenomenon include the large lead pieces by Anselm Kiefer, and other Ants in a state in which they are banned, formaldehyde preserved works of art and whale skulls. Our knowledgeable panel will describe their solutions to unique challenges curators have placed at their feet. Moderator: Joe Brennan, Director of Facilities, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Presenters: Dean Weldon, President & CEO, Academy Studios; Bob Banghart, Curator of Exhibitions, Alaska State Museums.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

45 am - 12:15 pm

The Way We Genuinely Live - New Experiences in Exhibit-Making *Dillingham Room, 2nd Floor*
Beginning in 2003, a team of Yup'ik Eskimo elders and educators worked with anthropologists, scientists, and museum professionals to create *Yuungnaqpiallerput, The Way We Genuinely Live*. A unique marriage of art, science and ethnography, this artifact-rich exhibition incorporates hands-on science. At its core is the recognition that the Yup'ik way of life - past and present - is grounded in spiritual values and in scientific principles. This innovative approach to creating an exhibition evolved in response to the expressed needs of the people whose science it represents. Our panel will describe this exciting and rewarding exhibit-making process. *Yuungnaqpiallerput* is also the featured exhibit for the Exhibition Critique (session I1). Moderator: Suzi Jones, Deputy Director of Programs, Anchorage Museum; Presenters: Ann Fienup-Riordan, Exhibition Curator, Calista Elders Council; Marie Meade, Yup'ik Elder and Professor, University of Alaska, Anchorage; Alice Rearden, Yup'ik translator and transcriber, Calista Elders Council.

When Disaster Strikes Twice or the Importance of a Disaster Plan *Katmai Room, 2nd Floor*
When disaster strikes twice; Southern California's wildfire disasters have challenged museums, zoos, and historical sites twice in four years. How do disasters change preparedness and staff approaches; what was implemented in California and Alaska? Participants hear a case study from a California institution and a conservator, and an Alaska conservator and disaster consultant. Learn the basics and best practices of a disaster preparedness plan and actual experiences in prevention, preparation, response, and recovery activities. Moderator: Cheryl Hinton, Museum Director/Chief Curator, Barona Cultural Center & Museum; Presenters: Alexandra Harris, Publications Editor, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian; Kara West, Assistant Director of Interpretive Programs/Field Services, Balboa Art Conservation Center, Scott Carrlee, Curator of Museum Services, Alaska State Museum.

Forensic Curation: New Stories from Old Collections *King Salmon Room, 2nd Floor*
Museum collections have "mystery objects" of unknown identity or with limited provenance that have great potential for research and interpretation. Whether motivated by legal proceedings, repatriation requests, outside researchers, or just plain curiosity, museums employ research methods, new and old, to rescue these objects from obscurity. This session, presented by veteran museum researchers, will feature a discussion on methods and findings using examples drawn from several ethnographic and historical collections. Moderator: Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections, Alaska State Museum; Presenters: R. Eric Hollinger, Case Officer, Repatriation Program, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; Terrence Loychuk, Private Researcher and Textile Conservator; Elaine Humphrey, Past President, Microscopy Society of Canada; Chris Dudar, Repatriation Osteology Laboratory Director, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; Stephen Ousley, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology/Archaeology, York University.

Optimizing Your Board *Iliamna Room, 2nd Floor*
What are the challenges of being governed by a board. As nonprofits, we are required to have board governance. For those governed by a municipal or other political entity, an appointed advisory board or commission fulfills a public accountability role. How do we optimize the effectiveness of this group of people? Philosophies vary from institution to institution as to what defines a good board. The trend in best practices has been moving toward smaller, more agile boards. Who should you include on your ideal board, especially if it's smaller? People with content expertise, people with deep pockets, community leaders, or legal council? The panel will look at issues in assessing your current board, developing a prospect list, working out the optimal mix of expertise, and board recruitment. Moderator: Debra Eldredge, Executive Director, Buffalo Bill Historical Center; Presenters: Melissa Rosengard, Board Chair, Bently School; Jim Freight, President, Museum Trustee Association; Donald Luria, Past Board President, Tucson Museum of Art/ Board Member, Museum Trustee Association.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Exhibit Critique: Challenges When Exhibit-Making *Dillingham Room, 2nd Floor*
This perennially popular session investigates current best practices and choices made in creating exhibitions. This year presenters will examine and critique *Yuungnaqpiallerput (The Way We Genuinely Live): Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival* at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center. Yup'ik elders and educators helped guide its development; the National Science Foundation funded it. Three museum professionals bring their experience to bear in dialogue with the exhibit team and the audience. Moderator: Redmond J. Barnett, Head of Exhibits, Washington State Historical Society; Karen K. Kosasa, Director, Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Department of American Studies; Marilyn Jones, Director, Suquamish Museum; Noel Ratch, Department Head, Curatorial Services, Reynolds-Alberta Museum; Ann Fienup-Riordan, Anthropologist/Exhibit Designer, Calista Elders Council and Anchorage Museum; Alice Rearden, Transcriber/Translator, Calista Elders Council; Suzi Jones, Deputy Director of Programs, Anchorage Museum.

Connecting to the Old with the New *Katmai Room, 2nd Floor*
In 2005 the Juneau-Douglas City Museum undertook a multi-year endeavor to interpret one of Juneau's most defining and controversial achievements; establishing Juneau as Alaska's Capital City. The presenters will explore the process that they used to bring life and engagement to civic history. They will discuss the importance of each phase of the project with particular emphasis on the final phase; the collaboration with local middle school students to use digital storytelling and interactive technology to interpret the exhibit in a dynamic and compelling way. Benefit from hearing about the learning curves encountered and the successes achieved by the museum undertaking their first interactive exhibit of this type. Moderator: Alysia McLain, Curator of Public Programs, Juneau-Douglas City Museum; Presenter: Jane Lindsey, Director, Juneau-Douglas City Museum.

Consultants Help Define the Future *King Salmon Room, 2nd Floor*
What is the future of the museum employee setting up a free lance business? Many people who move to consulting are then returning to museums to assist with missions, goals or helping with a specific project. This session will present how the museum professional navigates this change and the paths that lead from employment at an institution to independent status, the pros and cons of consulting and the challenges faced by museums and consultants as they work to help each other reach the desired results. Moderator: Ted Rosenberg, Museum Consultant, Collection Management and Registration Specialist; Gail Anderson, President, Gail Anderson & Associates; Cory Gooch, World Class Registrar.

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MUSEUM SHUTTLE TOUR

Registration required

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm *Motorcoaches depart from the 3rd Street entrance to the Hilton Anchorage; they will circulate among the venues.* Alaska's rich culture has generated numerous smaller museums that focus on specific subject areas. This late afternoon tour lets you see some of these special collections. Buses will shuttle between the following locations to transport folks around town to experience some of the smaller venues that could not host all attendees for an evening event. Around 6:00 pm, the bus shuttle will begin leaving the Hilton for the Evening Event (EE4) at the Alaska Heritage Museum.

Imaginarium Alaska's only hands-on Science Discovery Center, the Imaginarium is designed as a place where people can learn about science by actually doing science. It resembles a living laboratory, where you can stand inside a bubble, ponder the magnitude of the universe in a planetarium, discover ocean life in a marine touch tank, observe and touch exotic reptiles, or learn the principles of physics while playing with specialized toys.

Alaska Museum of Natural History The museum's 10,000 holdings include collections of Alaskan anthropological, biological, geological, historical, artistic, and educational significance. On permanent display, the 4 Alaskan wildlife dioramas, numerous mounted Alaskan birds and mammals, and skeletal examples of moose highlight Alaska biological diversity. The museum's geological materials include minerals, vertebrate and invertebrate fossils and a hadrosaur skeleton cast. The anthropological collections include artifacts from specific sites in the state, most notably the "Broken Mammoth" site.

Russian Orthodox Museum The Museum features artifacts dating from 18th century Russian America, now Alaska. Among the artifacts on display are recently restored processional banners possibly dating to 1794, rare icons believed to have been painted in a school of iconography in the 1800s, personal objects of St. Innocent (Veniaminov), a kayak frame used by missionaries traveling the Nushagak River, and beaded priest's vestments designed and sewn by the Tlingit artist, Emma Marks.

Oscar Anderson House City butcher Oscar Anderson built Anchorage's first permanent frame house in 1915 at a time when Anchorage was a tent city. In those small-town days, Anderson found success in the meat, coal, and aviation businesses. He died in 1944, and the house contains many of the family's original belongings, including a working 1909 player piano around which the structure was built. It is the only house museum in Anchorage.

Alaska Law Enforcement Museum Also called the Alaska Trooper Museum, the permanent exhibit includes historic Trooper uniforms, a restored 1952 Hudson Hornet used as a law enforcement vehicle, and a display about Alaska's first serial killer in the early 1900's. Antique radios, communications devices, handcuffs and leg irons are just a portion of the display of tools available to law enforcement in the early days in Alaska. These artifacts provide a fascinating picture in comparison to today's technology.

Evening Event

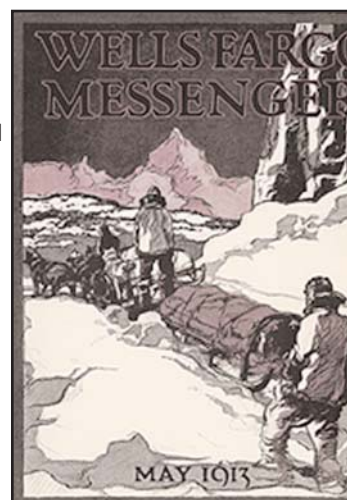
EE4 Alaska Heritage Museum at Wells Fargo

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Motorcoaches depart from the 3rd Street entrance to the Hilton Anchorage; buffet meal, & drink included. Cash bar also available.

Complete your Alaska conference experience and enjoy another opportunity for networking with a reception at the Alaska Heritage Museum. With over 900 artifacts on display, the Alaska Heritage Museum is one of the largest private collections in the State. Originally assembled by the National Park Service, the collection includes items from several major Alaska Native cultures: St. Lawrence Yupik, Inupiaq, Athabascan, Alutiiq, Aleut/Unganun, and Tlingit. The artifacts on display highlight cultural practices such as hunting and fishing, processing game animals, celebrating seasonal activities, and more. The permanent exhibit also includes examples of traditional Native art, a full-size Bering Sea kayak, an outstanding collection of paintings by Alaskan artists, and a 46 troy ounce gold nugget.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2



Courtesy Alaska Heritage Museum
Wells Fargo



Rising Tide:
Museums Embrace Sustainable Practice

Western Museums Association 2008 Annual Meeting

San Diego, California
October 25-29, 2008

Call for Session and Workshop Proposals
Deadline for submissions: October 31, 2008