

ART ACQUISITION FUND

2008 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of the Art Acquisition Fund is to encourage museums¹ in Alaska to purchase the work of accomplished Alaska artists for their collections, support living, practicing Alaska artists through these purchases, and provide a rotating collection of art for the Rasmuson Foundation offices.

The Fund is supported through a special fund established by the Rasmuson Foundation and is administered by Museums Alaska on behalf of the Foundation. All inquiries must be directed to the Project Administrator (see below, Where to Apply).

Eligibility:

1. Only Alaska museums and Alaska Native cultural centers are eligible to participate in the Art Acquisition Initiative. An institution's qualified auxiliary or support group may act as the agent for purchasing if it is impossible for the museum to do so directly.
2. A museum must be qualified under Section 501(c)3) of the IRS Code of 1986, and that are classified as (1) public charities under Section 509(a) of the IRS Code or (2) as units of government, in selected cases.
3. A museum must have a history or tradition of collecting or exhibiting art and be able to store and care for all works published.
4. To be eligible in 2008, a museum must have submitted a "Letter of Intent to Apply" to the Project Administrator by March 1, 2008.

The Application:

Museums should use the simple two-part application form. **Part I** needs to be completed **only** with the initial application for 2008. **Part II** of the Application Form should be completed for each work of art sought for purchase.

When to Apply:

Applications may be sent to the Project Administrator at any time prior to the deadline.

¹ For the purposes of this application and the Art Acquisition Initiative in general, the term *museum* includes cultural centers that meet conditions of eligibility stated in these guidelines.

The 2008 deadline for applications is Friday, November 21, 2008.

Funding Limits:

Applicants are notified of the funding “cap” in the “Invitation to Apply” letter. The “cap” funding limit for this year has been established in accordance with a formula that ensures that all qualified applicants will be able to budget for expenditures up to this amount, in keeping with standard acquisition procedures, without being pressured to apply for funds before they run out.

Please contact the Project Administrator with any questions or concerns.

Selection Criteria:

(These are stipulations in addition to whatever selection criteria and process the individual museum uses in its normal acquisition process.)

1. Artwork must meet the general mission and specific goals and criteria stipulated in the applicant’s adopted collections policy.

Note: Selections of artwork by museums is not a uniform process. For the purposes of the Fund, what does apply to all applicant museums, is the relationship of the selection to the stated goals and guidelines of the museum’s adopted collections policy and collections plan.

2. Artwork must be by a living, “established” Alaska artist. ^{Note 1}
The artwork must represent current work of the artist. ^{Note 2}

Note 1: For the purposes of the Fund, an “established” artist is one whose work has been shown or is currently being shown in (1) a juried exhibition, (2) an exhibition sponsored by a museum, a non-profit or for-profit gallery, or the Alaska State Council on the Arts, or (3) is in a museum, library collection, or the ASCA “Art Bank,” (4) has been awarded a “1% For Art” commission, (5) has had work accepted for sale by a gallery, or (6) has been purchased by a corporation/business for its public spaces. In cases of traditional native artworks that do not appear in these forums, please contact the Project Administrator.

Note 2: For the purposes of the Fund, “current” is understood to be recent work, generally no older than 4 or 5 years and preference is given to works no older than 2 or 3 years. Because the program focuses on **contemporary art**, it is necessary for the rationale for collecting these items address their importance as works of “contemporary art” and specifically how these pieces fit into the museum’s collecting plan for “contemporary Alaska art. While it is difficult to define the concept precisely, the usual characteristics of “contemporary art” envisioned by this program are that a work of art not only is recent, but demonstrates innovation, a distinctive style, a fresh artistic statement, something that explores the use of

media (new or traditional), or exemplifies a new, creative idea, is the artwork “of the moment?”. Many Alaska Native artists use traditional materials and are inspired by traditional forms, motifs, and concepts, so it is necessary to explain how these works, otherwise so traditional, are not replicas.

3. Funding preference will be given to works by Alaska artists residing in Alaska. In exceptional cases, the current works of accomplished Alaska artists residing outside of Alaska may be considered.
4. No single piece of art may exceed \$10,000 in price.
5. No artwork may be specifically commissioned for this Fund, nor will artwork designed for permanent exhibition installations be considered.
6. Only visual art will be considered.
7. Artwork may be in any medium.
8. Artwork may include outdoor installations.
9. Replicas of artifacts or copies of original works will not be funded.

Where to Apply:

Send applications and inquiries to:

Museums Alaska
c/o Michael Hawfield
Project Administrator
PO Box 853
Homer, AK 99603-0853
hawfield@alaska.net

For more details on the Art Acquisition Initiative, see the Museums Alaska website: www.museumsalaska.org (see “Art News”)

Purchasing the artwork:

1. Artwork must be purchased directly from the artist whenever possible.
2. Artworks may be purchased through the gallery or museum where the artwork is currently shown.¹
3. Pricing of artwork must be consistent with fair market value. Applicants may be required to justify the price of any particular work of art.
4. No single work of art may cost more than \$10,000.
5. Once the applicant museum has received a letter of approval for its purchase and a payment from Museums Alaska, the museum may proceed with the purchase. Upon completion of the purchase, the museum will become the sole owner of the artwork and will accession the piece in accordance with its approved procedures. Loans and use of images of the artwork (in any format) will be in accordance with the museum's established policies.

Ownership (of artwork and copyright):

Once the purchase is completed, the museum owns the artwork in accordance with its normal accessions policy. The ownership of copyright to works of art may be a separate issue for artists. Should a museum wish to own the copyright to the purchased artwork, the institution should make the appropriate agreements with the artist. The cost of copyright may be included in the overall price of the artwork.

Loans:

The museum lends the artwork in accordance with its normal lending policies.

The special condition of the Art Acquisition Initiative requires the recipient institution to lend its purchased artwork to the Rasmuson Foundation for up to one year after the purchase. This loan agreement must be made between the institution and the Rasmuson Foundation; the Project Administrator will be available to assist in this process. The Rasmuson Foundation recognizes the need for the greatest flexibility in negotiating loans (regarding timing, security, exhibit conditions, etc.).

The Rasmuson Foundation is responsible for the normal expenses associated with borrowing artwork from a permanent collection, in accordance with the lending policies of the museum (e.g., shipping to and from the lending institution, insurance, and installation expenses). **continued**

¹ It is the artist's responsibility to meet whatever contractual or ethical requirements may exist with galleries or other venues that might receive a commission on works sold

The Rasmuson Foundation reserves the right to chose not to borrow any artwork purchased through the Initiative.

Reporting:

1. Museums must submit to the Project Administrator within four weeks of purchase a report that contains the following:
 - a) Particulars of the sale (date of purchase, price, name of artist, title of artwork).
 - b) Bill of sale.
 - c) Copy of registrar's entry into the collection or copy of display label, indicating size, medium, etc..
 - d) Copies of publicity about the purchase (news releases, newsletter stories, etc.).

Acknowledgements:

The museum that purchases a work of art through the Art Acquisition Initiative must acknowledge the support of the Rasmuson Foundation (1) in its records, (2) on a label accompanying the artwork when displayed, (3) in any printed or electronic information materials (catalogs, flyers, websites, etc.) produced to record or promote the purchase, and (4) in any press releases to the museum's local news media announcing the purchase.

Note: it is not necessary to issue a press release every time a work is purchased.

Public acknowledgement of the support of the Rasmuson Foundation should be expressed in the following standard format: "Purchase of this artwork has been made possible through the generous support of the Rasmuson Foundation."

Note: acknowledgement on labels or in photo captions may be shortened to the standard used by the museum

The assistance of Museums Alaska in the purchase of artwork must be acknowledged in press releases.

Other Rasmuson Foundation Grants:

An institution currently utilizing a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation (either Tier 1 or Tier 2) may also apply for support through the Art Acquisition Initiative. An institution that has not completed the requirements for an outstanding grant from the Rasmuson Foundation, however, will not be eligible for the Art Acquisition Initiative until all outstanding obligations to the Foundation have been satisfied.

Overhead or Indirect Costs:

The Art Acquisition Initiative does not fund overhead or indirect costs, including insurance, security, transportation, travel, installation, or conservation expenses.