

## 2016 Conference

## Keynote Speaker:

## Trevor Jones

*Nebraska State Historical Society (Lincoln, NE)*



Trevor Jones, Nebraska State Historical Society  
CEO and Executive Director

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**Museums Alaska** is excited to announce that Trevor Jones from the Nebraska State Historical Society will be our keynote speaker in Juneau, challenging us to re-examine our collections in terms of their cost to our organizations and if and how they are supporting our mission.

2016 Conference Theme --  
*Mission Possible: Creating Opportunity.*

The 2016 Museums Alaska conference will be in Juneau, at a new facility that brings under one roof the state library, archives, and museum in an amalgamation of programs that offers an exciting glimpse of the potential for bold vision in Alaskan institutions. As the state faces a changing econom-

ic landscape, the conference provides an opportunity to explore flexible, forward-thinking in (re)affirming or reimagining our institutions' mission.

From board management and development, strategic planning, new buildings, capital projects, exhibits, and collections, to non-traditional partners, artists, audiences, producers, and consumers -- how are we creating opportunity to advance our mission?

Trevor Jones is Executive Director and CEO of the Nebraska State Historical Society. He was previously Director of Historical Resources at the Kentucky Historical Society where he made its collections digitally available to a wide audience, created innovative exhibitions, and increased use of the Society's programs

throughout the state. He has worked with collections management at several AAM accredited institutions and has helped museums of all sizes rethink how artifact collections support their mission. He is a founder of the group Active Collections and believes that museum collections have the power to tell amazing stories.

Trevor holds BA degrees in history and German from Grinnell College, an MA degree in history and Certificate in Museum Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Project Management Professional (PMP) certification from the Project Management Institute.

He can be reached at [trevorjoneskhs@gmail.com](mailto:trevorjoneskhs@gmail.com)

# Director's Note



Bianca Carpeneti,  
Museums Alaska Executive  
Director

Happy summer! I hope this finds you well and enjoying the season. Read on for an update on Museums Alaska's various programming.

## Membership

Members who renewed by 3/01/16 were entered into the annual drawing for a 2016 basic conference registration. This has been a popular offering for the past four years since Museums Alaska instituted it in 2013. The winner of the drawing was the Tanana-Yukon Historical Society – congratulations! If you haven't yet renewed, see page 11 for more information.

## Advocacy

Museums Alaska's Advocacy committee met on March 21 for an update on the status of HB52 (Museum Construction Grant Program), sponsored by Representative Bob Herron (D-Bethel). Basically, the Legislature this session established critical priorities, focusing on a number of large scale issues (criminal justice reform (SB 91), oil & gas tax credits (HB247), and addressing the \$4.2 billion deficit facing the state (capital and operating budgets, along with numerous revenue bills introduced by Governor Walker). Though legislative support for HB52/SB61 was positive, the committee recognized the challenge of passing them at this time.

Moving forward, the committee identified several potential goals to support robust messaging and strategy for successful legislation in 2017:

- Documenting field's need,
- Presenting the legislation's foresight in building fiscal partnerships, and
- Presenting realistic planning timelines.

## Grant Programs

*Collections Management Fund* - The CMF had 16 applications, and the grant review committee awarded \$55,467 to 11 applications covering a range of projects. See the full list on page 5.

*Art Acquisition Fund* - The first round of Art Acquisition grants – totaling \$93,595 – was awarded. The AAF review committee met for its second time, using a scoring matrix and group discussion to determine awards. The major recent shift is the process of digitizing the AAF application, a conversion that has had both challenges and benefits and generated good questions about the application process. Thanks to the museums and cultural centers that have used the system and provided feedback – every bit helps to improve the process.

## 2016 Conference

The Conference Program Committee received a robust slate of proposals for sessions and workshops at the fall con-

ference. Based on feedback from last year's conference attendees and this year's theme (*Mission Possible: Creating Opportunity*) the committee has established a schedule of presenters and workshops. Keep an eye on the 2016 Conference tab on the Museums Alaska website for more information as it becomes available. We look forward to seeing you this fall.

Applications for the conference scholarship will open in July. This year, the Board has continued and amplified their commitment to supporting attendees through the Donna Matthews Professional Development Fund. Don't forget: you must have a Museums Alaska membership (one applicant per organizational membership), so renew today.

## Network Transition

Museums Alaska is reviewing their communication plan, which includes transitioning away from the quarterly *Network* and focusing instead on more frequent and shorter bulletins that build the organization's website, blog, and social media presence. We remain committed to providing you with relevant and timely content – if you have suggestions or ideas you'd like to see explored and implemented, please be in touch.

Best wishes,

*Bianca*

# President's Message

Happy summer everyone!

Preparing for summer season here at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum is always a rush of activity, new exhibits, increased hours of operation and new programs are set into motion and realized as we pull from community history, resources, and our collections to partner and reflect on our community through history, art and culture bearers. No doubt many of you are on the same seasonal ride.

Board members Hayley Chambers and Molly Conley have been working diligently with the conference committee and the

Alaska Historical Society to build our joint Juneau conference, *Mission Possible: Creating Possibility*.

It's a fitting theme for all of us within our organizations and the communities and state we live in. The conference will offer us the ability to reflect on our achievements and vision our organizations forward, an exercise that is critical for success and one that can be as sobering as inspiring. I look forward to hearing how your institution creates community through your mission when we come together in September. Meanwhile, happy spring and summer and enjoy the ride!



**Jane Lindsey,  
Museums Alaska President**

## Juneau hosts 2016 conference!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The annual MA/AHS joint conference will be in Juneau  
**September 21 - 24,  
2016.**



# Museums Alaska Grants in 2016

Museums Alaska is pleased to administer two funds for the Rasmuson Foundation: the Art Acquisition Fund and the Collections Management Fund. Each have two grant cycles during the year. Apply for the next cycle [online](#) starting in August. Please be in touch if you are interested and would like more information about the program.

Art Acquisition Fund applications have moved online.

## **NEXT DEADLINES:**

Collections Management Fund — **September 30, 2016**

Art Acquisition Fund — **October 15, 2016**

## **2016 ART ACQUISITION SPRING AWARDS:**

Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository	\$10,000
Anchorage Museum Association	\$2,700
Clausen Memorial Museum	\$2,700
Cordova Hist'l Society & Museum	\$7,450
Sheldon Jackson Museum	\$12,210
Pratt Museum	\$2,000
Juneau-Douglas City Museum	\$3,935
Ilanka Cultural Center	\$5,000
Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center	\$25,000
UA Museum of the North	\$22,600

*Congratulations to the awardees!*

*Partnership*



# Museums Alaska and Rasmuson Foundation Support Collections Care and Preservation

## COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT FUND GRANTS 2016

*Thank you to all the applicants for their submissions. The Grants Committee was pleased to see the range and scope of the projects in the Spring round of applicants, and it looks forward to the Fall round (due September 30, 2016). In total, \$100,000 will be awarded to Alaska museums and cultural centers.*

**Alaska State Museum** \$3,000 for Conservation Training and Support in Sitka

**Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository** \$7,995 for Collections Security Improvements

**Cordova Historical Museum** \$4,800 for Casework for Tedishoff Bear Gut Parka

**Sheldon Jackson Museum** \$1,685 for Yup'ik Mask and Small Artifact Reshousing Project

**Hammer Museum** \$3,647 for Conservation Assessment

**Juneau Douglas City Museum** \$2,740 for \$9,210 for Metal Tool & Object Assessments for Juneau-Douglas City Museum, the Dorothy Page Museum, and the Museum of Alaska Transportation (collaboration)

**Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center** \$4,678 for Archives Storage Expansion Project, Phase II

**Sitka Historical Society** \$4,100 for Museum Collections Documentation & Refinement Project-Phase 4

**Wrangell Museum** \$3,689 for Wrangell Museum Textile Collection Preservation Project

**Kodiak Maritime Museum** \$3,916 for Re-housing the Uganik Cannery Collection

**Kodiak Historical Society** \$8,747 for Building Meaning: Moving Collection



A collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America.

*Join with the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families to become a Blue Star 2015 Museum by providing free admission to active duty military personnel and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day.*



# Farewells

## *Lisa Bykonen, Sheldon Jackson Museum*

*By Jackie Fernandez*

Lisa Bykonen, Museum Protection and Visitor Services Supervisor at the Sheldon Jackson Museum, in Sitka, retired February 1st after 23 years at the Museum. She began in December of 1993 as Museum Security Clerk and worked her way to Supervisor in 2009. Between 2010 and 2013, she and other Security staff helped guide the museum through periods of time between Curators. Lisa was an individual strong in organizational, research and administrative skills. With her goes much institutional memory and memories shared with the many staff she worked with during her 23 years at the Museum. Like all who have worked at the Sheldon Jackson Museum she left with mixed feelings-love of the job, but ready to move on. At the end of May, Lisa and two other women will be making a second kayak trip into Glacier Bay-she's come full circle. She originally came to Alaska as a kayak guide but once in Sitka decided to "settle down" and by doing so enriched the operations of the Sheldon Jackson Museum.



*A party for Lisa Bykonen to celebrate her years of service to the Sheldon Jackson Museum.*



*Gift from staff made by Abel Ryan.*

## *Ketchikan Museum bids a fond farewell to Director Lacey Simpson*

*By Hayley Chambers*

Lacey Simpson first joined the Museum Department as Program Coordinator in March 2009, and was promoted to Senior Curator of Programs in November 2011. Upon the retirement of long-standing Director Michael Naab, Lacey became the Museum Director in October 2013. Throughout her seven years of service, Lacey has brought dedication and hard work, never hesitating to roll up her sleeves to do whatever needed to be done, as well as bringing creativity and insight to every role she has taken. Her vision, her enthusiasm, and her ability to inspire have enabled her to bring positive changes to the Museums at every step.

Under Lacey's leadership, Ketchikan Museums have made tremendous strides in connecting to the community through public engagement that has served to transform our role in Ketchikan and beyond. The Museums have also embarked on a capital improvement program for the Tongass Historical Museum that will improve the safety of collections as well as expanding space for exhibits to better share Ketchikan's history. She also led the effort to have also reinstate a Curator of Exhibits position helping ensure that staff can meet the needs of the expanded Museum into the future.

Please join us in wishing Lacey our heartfelt thanks for her many contributions to Ketchikan Museums and to the Ketchikan community. We wish her well as her family begins a new chapter in Winthrop, Washington.



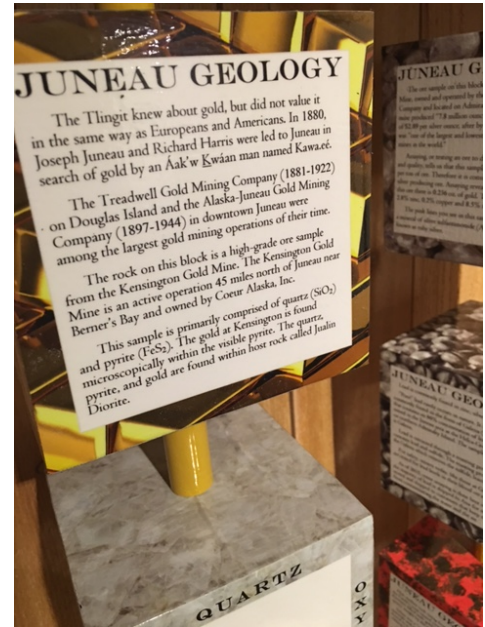
*Lacey Simpson, outgoing Director at the Ketchikan Museum*

# New interactives at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum installed new interactives in their geology, rocks and minerals exhibits. They also have three companion books to go with the exhibit: *Tlingit Uses of Rocks*, *Juneau Mining History*, *Rocks and Minerals*.



Photos courtesy of Jane Lindsey.





# Sesquicentennial Commemoration

By Sarah Lawrie  
Executive Director, Greater Sitka Arts Council



There are specific moments that shape the future beyond anything that could have been foreseen at the time. The *Transfer of Alaska* was one of those moments, not only for Sitka and Alaska, but also for the United States and the World. Consequently, 2017 is an exciting year, as it marks the 150th Anniversary of the Transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States with a grand *Sesquicentennial Commemoration*.

March 30 is officially recognized in Alaska as Seward's Day. On this date in 1867, Russia and the United States signed the *Treaty of Cession* agreeing to the sale of vast Alaskan lands. That same year, on October 18, now known as *Alaska Day*, the official transfer ceremony took place in Sitka, or New Archangel, which had been the capital of Russian America since 1808. The Russian Flag was lowered, the American Flag was raised, and Alaska became a US territory. Today, historic sites from Alaska Native culture and from Russian occupation remain in Sitka as reminders of our heritage.

The Sesquicentennial Committee views the *150th Anniversary of the Transfer* as an opportunity to commemorate, rather than celebrate, Alaska's history, and we encourage all to share their different perspectives about the *Transfer* and its impact.

The Sesquicentennial Committee will officially "kick off" the commemoration on March 30, 2017, the date of the date of the *Treaty of Cession*. Then, throughout the year, Sitka will host numerous community activities that promise to provide interest for community members and visitors alike. In culmination of this special year, the Alaska Day Festival Committee will host their annual weeklong series of events surrounding *Alaska Day*, October 18, 2017.

We invite you to explore this website to learn more about our plans and how you can join us, as we share, learn, and remember the past 150 years. We welcome your suggestions on how best to observe this unique era.

Our mission is to:

- Celebrate 10,000 years of Sitka and Pacific Northwest Native Cultures,
- Encourage opportunities for researching and sharing history related to the Sesquicentennial,
- Promote community and statewide events which commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Transfer, and
- Inspire visitors to come to Sitka and Alaska.

For more information visits [WWW.AK150.com](http://WWW.AK150.com) or email [jeffbudd3500@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffbudd3500@yahoo.com)

# Job opportunities:

## Alutiiq Museum

**Project Manager, Alutiiq Museum, full time:** manages select grants, assists with language and cultural programs, leads volunteers. Find a full job description and application at <http://alutiiqmuseum.org/news>.

**Collections & Exhibits Specialist, Alutiiq Museum, full time:** cares for collections, develops exhibits. Find a full job description and application at <http://alutiiqmuseum.org/news>.

Application materials can be found on Alexsys or at the links to the Alutiiq Museum's website above. Applications are due this coming Friday – May 27<sup>th</sup> to Director of Operations Russell Armand ([Russell@alutiiqmuseum.org](mailto:Russell@alutiiqmuseum.org)). This is a great opportunity to join our team and I would be happy to answer any questions.

## Valdez Museum

The Valdez Museum is issuing a Request for Proposals for the creation of a large-scale memorial to victims of the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake. Please feel free to distribute this information to the Alaskan arts community. Project details are as follows:

**Project:** Earthquake/Air National Guard Memorial

**Location:** Valdez, Alaska

**Deadline for Entries:** July 1, 2016

**Contact:** Patricia Relay, [director@valdezmuseum.org](mailto:director@valdezmuseum.org), (907) 835-2764

**Amount of Commission:** \$75,000 - \$250,000

The City of Valdez is seeking proposals for the design and implementation of a public memorial to the victims of the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake, and the related deaths of the Air National Guardsmen that followed. The memorial will be located at Dock Point Park in Valdez, Alaska, a location with roadside access, a view of the water, and an adjacent hiking trail. Eligibility is Alaska-only.

For more information, please consult the Valdez Museum web site at <http://www.valdezmuseum.org/earthquake-air-national-guard-memorial/>. The full RFP for the project can be accessed from the page, or directly at <http://www.valdezmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/eqng-rfp.pdf>. Additional inquiries can be directed to Patricia Relay at the address above.

# Pratt Museum

## Museum Director, Pratt Museum

The Pratt Museum seeks an energetic, creative, and compassionate professional to lead our award-winning museum of art, science, and culture. In addition to administrative responsibilities, the Director is responsible for outreach, operations, and program oversight, including strategic planning, development, and completion of a major capital campaign. Applicants should have minimum three years administrative experience in museum or comparable nonprofit setting and possess strong financial management, marketing and fund-raising skills, with the ability to engage a wide range of stakeholders. Salary: DOE. Complete job description available at [www.prattmuseum.org](http://www.prattmuseum.org). Send CV with letter of interest to: Search Committee, Pratt Museum, 3779 Bartlett St. Homer, AK 99603 or [searchcommittee@prattmuseum.org](mailto:searchcommittee@prattmuseum.org). Deadline to apply: July 10, 2016.

## If you haven't already...

Renew your Museums Alaska membership!

**RENEW ONLINE**  
[WWW.MUSEUMSALASKA.ORG/MEMBERSHIP](http://WWW.MUSEUMSALASKA.ORG/MEMBERSHIP)

### Summary of 2016 membership rates:

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Organization</u>
\$20 Student	\$40 Budgets under \$50,000
\$40 Individual	\$60 Budgets under \$100,000
\$60 Professional	\$120 Budgets under \$250,000
\$100 Patron	\$180 Budgets over \$250,000
\$500 MUSE	\$300 Corporate Sponsor

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***FREE admission to Alaska museums and cultural centers, Network newsletter, discounted conference fees, eligibility for scholarships, advocacy for your organization and the sector at the state and national levels, development of new grants for the museum sector.***



**The Statewide Museum Association**

Please note our change of address:

PO Box 20153  
Juneau, AK 99802  
907.306.3409

director@museumsalaska.org

**Renew your membership today at  
museumsalaska.org/membership**

*We couldn't do it without you!*

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Bianca Carpeneti Juneau



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