



Access to Alaska Native Collections Grant Guidelines

About the Access to Alaska Native Collections Grant

Museums Alaska is currently accepting applications for the Access to Alaska Native Collections (AANC) program. This program responds to the needs of the Alaska Native artist community for access to Alaska Native collections in museums by supporting research visits to museum collections storage in Alaska. As such, Alaska Native artists will be invited to propose a visit to a participating museum's collection that has a clear benefit to the artist and the development of their work.

The grant will cover travel costs for the collections visit such as flights, ferries, mileage, per diem, lodging, parking, taxis, and family care needs up to \$2,500. There are six grants available.

The grant program is made possible with funding from The CIRI Foundation's *A Journey to What Matters: Increased Alaska Native Art & Culture (JWM)* funding and is administered by Museums Alaska on behalf of the Foundation. All inquiries must be directed to the [Museums Alaska Director](#).

Eligibility is limited to Alaska Native artists located in the state of Alaska.

Application Open and Close Dates:

Open - Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Close - Friday, March 3, 2023

Application Draft Review Deadline: February 17, 2023.

Funding will be sent out in early April 2023 and has to be spent by July 31, 2023, so please plan your travel accordingly.

Grant Amount:

Awards up to \$2,500 for artist travel expenses.

Museums chosen for collections visits will also receive a stipend to cover costs of hosting artists.

About Museums Alaska

Museums Alaska is a statewide professional association that strengthens museums and cultural centers and enhances public understanding of their value through trainings, networking, professional development opportunities, grant programs, and advocacy. Museums Alaska provides services to museums, cultural organizations,

and professionals across Alaska. Membership is open to all people interested in preserving and sharing Alaska's heritage.

Museums Alaska also administers two grant programs funded by the Rasmuson Foundation: The Alaska Art Fund and the Collections Management Fund. Details on these programs and other resources can be found on the Museums Alaska website at www.museumsalaska.org.

Applicants should be aware that many of Museums Alaska's board of directors work in the museum field. Members of the board have a duty to disclose any possible conflict. A current list of the Museums Alaska board of directors can be found on our website (www.museumsalaska.org).

Participating Museums

The Access to Alaska Native Collections (AANC) program is designed to meet the needs of Alaska Native artists and increase access to museum collections. The program seeks applications from any Alaska Native artist to visit one of the following Alaska museums for a collections study project:

- **Alaska Native Heritage Center - Anchorage**
 - Please find a brief description of their collections below. If you think they may have a collection you'd like to visit, but would like more information, please contact [Angie Demma](mailto:Angie.Demma@alaska.gov) (907-330-8067).

The Alaska Native Heritage Center cares for a collection that reflects Alaska Native cultural groups from all five regions of the state. The permanent collection accounts for about 3,000 objects, archives, library books, and photographs. Most recently, over 1,700 cultural belongings were gifted to the Center after the closing of the Wells Fargo Museum. The objects and belongings include fine art, utilitarian objects and tools, regalia, watercraft, instruments, historical photographs, the Institute of Alaska Native arts archival files and photos, and library materials.

The education collection consists of about 500 objects and will be used up in the course of its life. It includes regalia

and objects that are handled at the life-size village sites that are interpreted at the point of contact with Europeans.

- **Alaska State Museum - Juneau**

- [Click here to read a brief description of their collections.](#) If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Steve Henrickson (907-465-4826).

- **Anchorage Museum - Anchorage**

- [Please use their online collections search](#) to find collections items that you may like to visit. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Monica Shah (907-929-9240).

The museum's collections are divided into four areas: historical photographs; art; cultural and historical heritage items; and library resources.

- Historical photographs include images from the late 19th century to today.
- The art collection represents a survey of visual arts in Alaska from the 18th century to the present, with a strong collection of contemporary Indigenous art.
- The largest component of the heritage items are cultural belongings of Athabascan, Inupiaq, Yup'ik, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, Sugpiaq, Unangan, Tlingit, Tsimshian, and Haida peoples.
- Library resources include books, maps, periodicals, Alaska artist files, and subject vertical files that include a variety of ephemera related to Alaska.

- **Haines Sheldon Museum - Haines**

- [Click here to read a brief description of their collections.](#) They also provided some additional information below. If you think they may have a collection you'd like to visit, but would like more information, please contact Zack James (907-766-2366).

In terms of rare pieces of art and items of cultural patrimony, we primarily steward Tlingit objects. This includes carvings, bentwood boxes, many miniature totems, a significant number of spruce root basketry pieces including 20 gallon plus bags. There are several hundred pieces of hide and bead work as well, and 288 pieces of ivory, mostly art, and mostly collected from various places in Western Alaska around the year 1900

[Click here to see a list of catalog records related to the search term 'Tlingit'.](#) It's not a comprehensive list and omits objects of unknown or non-Tlingit manufacture. If you have questions, or would like more information, please contact Zack.

- **Ketchikan Museums - Ketchikan**
 - [Click to read a brief description of their collections.](#) If you think they may have a collection you'd like to visit, but would like more information, please contact [Hayley Chambers](#) (907-228-5708).
- **Museum of the Aleutians - Unalaska**
 - [Click to read a brief description of their collections.](#) If you think they may have a collection you'd like to visit, but would like more information, please contact [Karen Macke](#) (907-581-5150).
- **University of Alaska Museum of the North - Fairbanks**
 - [Please use their online collections search](#) to find collections items that you may like to visit. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact [Angela Linn](#) (907-474-1828).

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must be Alaska Native and residing in Alaska. Applicants must have been a full-time Alaska resident for the past two (2) years at the time of your application and remain one for the duration of the grant period.

- You must be 18 years of age or older.
- You must be an artist who is currently producing work.
- You must create tangible artwork — at this time, intangible artwork such as dance, music, theater, etc. are not eligible.
 - *If you work in intangible mediums and know of collections in Alaska that would be beneficial for you to visit, please contact the [Museums Alaska director](#). It may be possible to add intangible art collections to future grants.*

Artists at any stage of their life's work, from early to mature, may apply for a grant.

Artists are NOT eligible to apply if they are:

- A current board member, committee member, staff member, or consultant for The CIRI Foundation or Museums Alaska, current panelist, or member of their immediate families.
- Individuals whose work or project is primarily of a commercial nature.

Note: If you plan to travel and/or visit the collections with other people, please contact the [Museums Alaska director](#) before applying to discuss what costs the grant can cover.

Application Requirements

Applicants may only apply for one grant up to \$2,500.

All travel must be completed by July 31, 2023.

Applicants will provide the following information:

- Applicant Email Address
- Applicant Name
- Applicant Phone Number
- Applicant Address
- Applicant Website (if you have one—it's not required)
- Applicant Tribal Affiliation(s)
- Museum Choice
- Visitation Dates
- Visitation Budget using Budget Template provided at museumsalaska.org/aanc
- Budget Support Documentation (i.e. screenshots of pricing)
- Grant Narrative including Artist Information, Visitation Information, and Budget Explanation (more information on what is expected in the narrative can be found at museumsalaska.org/aanc)
- Artist Resume
- Three examples of your artwork

Travel costs covered by the grant include:

- Transportation including flights, ferries, and mileage ([using Alaska's DOA rates](#)), parking, taxis
- Lodging including hotels, airbnb and other such rentals, campsite fees
- Per Diem ([using DOD rates](#) - combine the meals and incidental rates)
- Family care costs including childcare and eldercare
- Miscellaneous - a unique travel need that is not covered by the above categories

If applicants have questions, they are encouraged to discuss their project with the [Museums Alaska Director](#), and to submit a pre-application for review.

Application Review/Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated by a committee of volunteers composed of Alaska Native artists and museum collections professionals. Volunteers will be selected by

the Museums Alaska Director from a list of candidates generated by The CIRI Foundation and Museums Alaska membership. To the extent possible, reviewers will not come from institutions that have been chosen for visitation, or will recuse themselves as needed to prevent conflicts of interest.

Should the program continue, reviewers may serve up to three years. Reviewers will rotate off the committee when their three years have been served and be replaced by new reviewers. After a one-year hiatus, a former reviewer may volunteer to serve on the committee again. Alternate reviewers may be appointed by the Project Administrator if needed to complete a grant review.

Applications will be forwarded to the review committee by the Museums Alaska Director only if they are:

1. From an Alaska Native artist residing in Alaska.
2. Requesting to visit a museum that has previously indicated its agreement to host an Alaska Native Artist through this program.
3. All required information and attachments are present. An incomplete application from an eligible applicant will be returned to the applicant.
4. The visitation is an eligible activity under the grant guidelines outlined herein.

Applications will be evaluated based on the extent to which:

1. The application describes how the proposed visit will enhance the applicant's future work;
2. The visit is well-designed with clear and realistic goals;
3. The proposed budget is adequately justified and supported by supporting materials.

Every applicant will be sent an official notice of the award decisions. If a grant has been approved, a Grant Agreement and associated materials are sent. The Grant Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions of the grant. A signature obligates the grant recipient to conduct the project as described in the proposal and to accept the conditions outlined in the Agreement and these Guidelines. With the receipt of the signed agreement, the grant is "activated."

If significant changes need to be made to a project's grant budget and/or program plans, please contact the [Museums Alaska Director](#) to discuss prior to making changes.

Requirements and Reporting

Grantees will be required to submit a signed grant agreement prior to the disbursement of funds. A final report sharing what was learned as a result of the collection visit must be submitted after the visitation. The final requirements for reporting include:

- Complete a “Share Your Story” submission on The CIRI Foundation’s website: <https://thecirifoundation.org/share-your-story/>
 - Please include one or more images of your trip with your submission.
 - Include an explanation of the visit—why you wanted to visit this collection, how the visit went, what you learned, and how you hope to use what you learned in your artwork and share it with your community.
 - Excerpts of the “Share Your Story” post may be used to share the program results by Museums Alaska, The CIRI Foundation, and the participating host museum on social media, websites, etc.
- Send travel receipts, a final budget report, and an evaluation of your visit to the director of Museums Alaska.

Museums Alaska reserves the right to require return of funds if it deems that the grantee has not complied with the terms of the grant agreement for use of the grant funds, or to comply with any law or regulation affecting the grantee, grant, or Museums Alaska.

Acknowledgements

An artist receiving an award must acknowledge the support of The CIRI Foundation (TCF) in any printed or electronic information produced to record or promote the collections visit (like social media posts, videos, or email newsletters to followers).

Public acknowledgement of the support of The CIRI Foundation should be expressed in the following standard format: “Project made possible with the support of The CIRI Foundation.”

Note: If you use social media to share your collection visit, please tag The CIRI Foundation, Museums Alaska and the participating host museum.

How to Apply

The link to the online application form is located on Museums Alaska’s website: www.museumsalaska.org/aanc. **Applications and final grant reports must be filled out and submitted electronically.**

Questions?

Please direct all inquiries to:

Director
Museums Alaska
director@museumsalaska.org

907-371-4348