



## Access to Alaska Native Collections Grant Guidelines

### **About the Access to Alaska Native Collections Grant**

This program responds to the needs of the Alaska Native community for access to collections in museums by supporting research visits to museum collections storage in Alaska. As such, Alaska Native artists and culture bearers will be invited to propose a visit to a participating museum's collection that has a clear benefit to the development of their work.

This grant will cover travel costs for the collections visit such as flights, ferries, mileage, per diem, lodging, parking, taxis, and family care needs.

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

Eligibility is limited to Alaska Native artists and culture bearers. Artists and culture bearers located in the state of Alaska will receive preference for grants, but the program is open to Alaska Native artists living outside of Alaska as well. All participating museums are located in Alaska.

### **Application Open and Close Dates:**

Open - Thursday, August 10, 2023

Close - Friday, September 8, 2023

Application Draft Review Deadline: August 25, 2023.

**Funding will be sent out in mid October 2023 and must be spent by June 30, 2024, so please plan your travel accordingly.**

### **Grant Amount:**

There are four tiers of funding:

#### **\$2,500**

Individual travel for single artists traveling to and from cities, or locations on the road system. If Alaska Airlines flies there or you can drive there, this is the tier to use.

#### **\$3,500 (rural)**

Individual travel for those traveling to and from rural locations. If you have to book a small airline or take a ferry in addition to an Alaska Airlines flight or driving, this is the tier to use.

### **\$5,000**

Multiple artists traveling together in a group to visit collections, or an artist with a caregiver. This tier is for traveling to and from cities, or locations on the road system. If Alaska Airlines flies there or you can drive there, this is the tier to use. (Artists will be consulted on how the funding should be split [or not] between the participating artists.)

### **\$7,000 (rural - multiple travelers)**

Multiple artists traveling together in a group to visit collections, or an artist with a caregiver. This tier is for those who have to book a small airline or take a ferry in addition to an Alaska Airlines flight or driving. (Artists will be consulted on how the funding should be split [or not] between the participating artists.)

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](http://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.

## 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](#) (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**

- [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 [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.
  - You may also request to view the collection on loan from the Smithsonian, which is featured in the [Living Our Cultures exhibition](#).
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- **Cordova Museum - Cordova**
    - [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 [Denis Keogh](#) (907-424-6555).
  
  - **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 matrimony, 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).
- **Sealaska Heritage Institute - Juneau**
  - [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 [Emily Pastore](#) or [Kaila Cogdill](#) (907-463-4844).
- **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 artists. While preference will be given to Alaska Native artists who live in Alaska, the program is open to artists living outside of Alaska as well.

- 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, the Henry Luce Foundation, or Museums Alaska, current panelist, or member of their immediate families.
- Individuals whose work or projects are primarily of a commercial nature.
- Individuals who have formerly participated in the Access to Alaska Native Collections program.

Applicants can also be nonprofit, government, or tribal organizations applying on behalf of a group of artists or students. All of the grant funding must go to the travel and lodging of the visiting artists. No funding can be used for organizational costs. Organizations will be required to submit an expense report after the visit.

### **Application Requirements**

If you do not have access to the internet or a computer, or have difficulty writing your application, you can choose to set up a phone interview. During the interview, you will be asked for all of the information required in the application. If you need assistance in applying, please contact [grants@museumsalaska.org](mailto:grants@museumsalaska.org).

Applicants may only apply for one grant.

All travel must be completed by June 30, 2024.

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
- Grant Funding Tier Choice
- Visitation Budget using Budget Template provided at [museumsalaska.org/aanc](https://museumsalaska.org/aanc)

- Visitation Goal Summary
- 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](https://museumsalaska.org/aanc))
- Artist Resume (optional)
- 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](#) - combining 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.

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.
2. The requested visit is at a museum listed as a participant in 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:

- Submit major travel receipts to Museums Alaska's director: airline and ferry receipts, and accommodation/lodging receipts, if relevant.
- 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.

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), the Henry Luce Foundation, and Museums Alaska 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 should be expressed in the following standard format: "Project made possible with the support of The CIRI Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, and Museums Alaska."

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

## **How to Apply**

The link to the online application form is located on Museums Alaska's website: [www.museumsalaska.org/aanc](http://www.museumsalaska.org/aanc). **Applications and final grant reports must be filled out and submitted electronically.** If you cannot submit the grant due to lack of internet or computer access, please contact [grants@museumsalaska.org](mailto:grants@museumsalaska.org) to work with our grant assistance contractor.

## **Questions?**

Please direct all inquiries to:

[grants@museumsalaska.org](mailto:grants@museumsalaska.org) or [director@museumsalaska.org](mailto:director@museumsalaska.org)  
907-371-4348