Ketchikan Museums consists of two facilities—the Tongass Historical Museum, which features general history of the Ketchikan area (including Metlakatla and Prince of Wales) and the Totem Heritage Center, which houses a collection of original 19th century totem poles. Ketchikan Museums is a department of the City of Ketchikan and cares for a collection belonging to the City as well as the Tongass Historical Society’s collection.

Ketchikan Museums cares for Northwest Coast materials from the late 1800s to the present. Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures are best represented, with additional materials identified as Athabascan, Yupik/ “Eskimo,” Canadian, and unknown. The strengths are from mid-1900s to 1990s.

Highlights include:

* Carved objects- totem poles, canoe fragments, masks
* Weaving- cedar bark and spruce root basketry, Ravenstail weaving, Chilkat weaving
* Utilitarian objects- bentwood boxes, halibut hooks, horned spoons, stone tools
* Moccasins
* Trade beads
* Language and oral history recordings
* Contemporary art