

MUSEUMS ALASKA

Museum Construction, Expansion, and Major Renovation Matching Grant Program

Goal

- ❖ Advance legislation to establish a matching grant program for eligible museum construction, expansion, and major renovation projects.

Background

- ❖ Legislation sponsored by Representative Bob Herron mirrors an existing program for libraries in the state: the creation of a ranking mechanism from which financial assistance may be provided, to help build, expand, or renovate existing facilities to present and preserve Alaskan collections that are held in the public trust.

Rationale

- ❖ The Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program has successfully provided communities with the financial assistance needed to help construct and expand public libraries throughout Alaska. Alaskan Museums are also worthy of this assistance.

A 2014 McDowell Group survey for the Foraker Group demonstrates critical infrastructure needs for Alaska's cultural institutions that care for and exhibit our Alaskan collections. Of the 36 museums contacted, 27, or 75%, have identified significant capital improvement* needs within the next five years. The top four priorities are: exhibition space expansion or improvement; increase in facility size; collections storage expansion; and security

2017 marks the 150th anniversary of the 1867 purchase of Alaska. This event offers a unique opportunity to celebrate and support the cultural, social, educational and economic value of Alaska's heritage.

Museums and Cultural Centers are anchor institutions in Alaskan communities of every size. They educate children and adults. They contribute to a community's sense of place and identity through history, art, culture, and knowledge of our natural environment. They contribute to our economy and wellbeing through employment and cultural tourism.

Museums Alaska is a statewide association of Alaska's museum professionals and volunteers whose mission is to provide opportunities for improvement of museum and culture center services in Alaska and to enhance public understanding of the purposes and functions of Alaska's museums and culture centers. Museums Alaska is a CHAMP partner. For more information, please see the Museums Alaska web site at www.museumsalaska.org.



**Alaska Museums with Significant Capital Improvement Needs in the Next Five Years
Actively Planning a Capital Improvement Project***

Museum & Location	Planning Stage	Project Type
Alaska Museum of Science and Nature, Anchorage	Design and construction.	A list of items, including a parking lot upgrade (\$175,000) and electrical upgrades (\$120,000).
Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum, Palmer	Thinking about project and beginning to build a consortium.	Moving and upgrading from current, limited space.
Alaskaland Pioneer Air Museum, Fairbanks	Basic concept in place, preliminary fundraising.	Building expansion.
American Bald Eagle Foundation, Haines	Not available.	Addition of dorm rooms, enclosed flight center on donated property. Security system installation.
Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, Anchorage	Planning, funds partially raised (\$10 million out of \$15 million), design.	Renovation of the Alaska History Gallery. Planning process started in January 2014, de-installation of the exhibits in 2015, and completion 18 months after.
Baranov Museum, Kodiak	Planning, funds have been raised for planning; need to be raised for design/construction.	Permanent exhibit redesign and installation.
Beringia Center of Culture and Science, Nome	Planning.	Capital campaign for new Cultural Center and Tribal Museum Facility.
Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, Nome	Funding secured; in design/construction.	New facility. Building completion projected for 2016.
Cordova Historical Museum, Cordova	Partial plan for funding and actual move to new facility in place.	New facility.
The Dorothy Page Museum, Wasilla	Planning, renovate and move into vacated City Library; return museum to multi-use w/ exhibits.	Facility Remodel.
Duncan Cottage Museum, Metlakatla	Assessment complete, by Alaska State Museums.	Not available.
The Hammer Museum, Haines	Pre-Planning discussions.	Renovation or new facility.
Inupiat Heritage Center, Iliisagvik College, Barrow	Secured funding for project design, in design process. Next step: bond funding decision and voter approval.	Facility expansion. Estimated project completion in Fall 2015.
Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center, Klukwan	Exterior construction complete; funding sought for completion of interior and exhibits.	New facility; estimated project completion 2015.
Pratt Museum, Homer	Schematic design complete, fundraising continues.	New facility.
Sitka Historical Museum, Sitka	Initial planning complete, fundraising plan pending.	Expansion for collections and exhibit space.
Tongass Historical Museum, Ketchikan	Plan complete, funding on hold.	Expansion, building upgrade.
University of Alaska Museum of the North, Anchorage	Discussions just beginning.	Storage improvements. Also new planetarium and science center.
Valdez Museum and Historical Archive, Valdez	Pre-planning discussions.	Renovation or new facility.
Yupiit Piciryarait Museum, Bethel	Proposal complete.	Proposal for a new Repository/ Museum.

Source: Infrastructure Needs Study of Alaska Museums and Capital Improvement Planning Guide/ McDowell Group prepared for the Foraker Group & Museums Alaska survey of Capital Improvement planning 2014; Museums Alaska membership survey

*Significant capital improvements are defined for this study as any improvements over \$500,000. State and federally operated museums are not included in this analysis.