



Museums Alaska - Collections Management Fund 2022

Ketchikan Museums

Application

Primary Contact:

Phone:

Email:

Narrative

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Describe your project, the need, and benefit to your institution and community. Answers should be concise, and include detailed numbers where appropriate (for example, number of collections to be cataloged, or estimated length of time to catalog an item).

Please carefully review the current guidelines.

TIP: Click on the question mark next to each question to see guiding questions.

Please provide a short summary of your project.

(250 character limit)

This project would replace the last of the 1980's and 1990's inefficient, incandescent lighting in the lower level gallery of the Totem Heritage Center, allowing us to meet light level standards and provide a higher level of collections care.

What is the problem you are solving?

(1000 character limit)

The current outdated lighting in the lower level of the Totem Heritage Center does not allow us to meet standards for collections care within exhibit spaces while safely allowing visitors to move through the gallery. The fixtures are decades old and routinely have issues, which is a safety concern for the irreplaceable totem poles and artifacts in the gallery. The totem poles are either painted or contain traces of paint and are considered sensitive.



Addressing this need is an identified goal within our strategic plan. During the 2017 renovation of the Tongass Historical Museum, a Juno lighting system with Soraa lamps were selected for both of our facilities for its flexibility in addressing lighting needs for improved collections care, enhanced visitor experience and lower environmental impact. This project would replace the last of the inefficient and harsh lighting with efficient LED fixtures and lamps, allowing us to meet collection standards.

Describe the steps of your project and who will be involved.

(5000 character limit)

The Curator of Exhibits and Senior Curator of Collections have already identified the lower level gallery of the Totem Heritage Center as an area of concern for light levels due to the sensitive nature of the totem poles. Based on our use of the same brands of light fixtures and bulbs in other galleries, we are confident that an upgrade will allow us to bring light levels within current standards. Once funds are secured, the Curator of Exhibits will order, receive and install the new fixtures and bulbs. Next, the Curator will assess light levels and





Museums Alaska - Collections Management Fund 2022

Ketchikan Museums

Application

Primary Contact:

Phone:

Email:

adjust as needed. The Curator will conduct light assessments regularly and in response to any gallery changes to ensure that levels stay within standards and that artifacts are not affected negatively by light.

What are the goals and benefits of the project?

(2000 character limit)

The goal of this project is that the totem poles and artifacts in the lower level gallery of the Totem Heritage Center are stable and not being degraded by light. The totem poles in this gallery are irreplaceable and are held in trust by the State of Alaska for the descendants of the villages from where they were collected. The City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Museums' Totem Heritage Center are responsible for providing a safe and secure environment for this collection. This project will help meet that critical responsibility.

How will you evaluate the project?

(1500 character limit)



Evaluation will focus on successfully meeting recommended light levels. Adjustments will be made with quantity of fixtures and filters (already on hand) until levels are within a safe range for collections care.

If this is an emergency situation, please explain why.

(1500 character limit)

Our project is critical for long-term collections care, but is not an emergency situation.

Is there anything else the review committee needs to know about your application?

(1500 character limit)



Our operational budget has been cut or frozen for several years as the City of Ketchikan had other infrastructure priorities prior to the pandemic and then in response to the pandemic shut down of the cruise ship industry in Southeast Alaska. Being able to utilize grant opportunities such as the Collections Management Fund are crucial to our ability to do more than just keep the doors open. The Totem Heritage Center will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2026 and we look forward to continuing to invest in the Center, and the collections it houses, well into the future. Something as simple as lighting has an impact well beyond collections care. Thousands of students – adult and youth – have participated in our Native Arts Studies Program since 1976. These students use this lower level gallery extensively as an educational space and for inspiration in their own artwork. Giving them the best possible experience while also caring for the totem poles and artifacts is a critical link between honoring the past and continuing the long standing artistic traditions of Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian heritage.

You must click "Save Work" at the bottom of each page.