



MUSEUMS ALASKA

40 YEARS OF STRENGTHENING MUSEUMS ACROSS ALASKA

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

READ MORE



ABOUT US

Museums Alaska is a statewide professional association that strengthens museums and cultural centers and enhances public understanding of their value through training, networking, grant programs, and advocacy.

In 2023, we celebrated our 40th anniversary!

[Learn more about us](#)



From the President

For the past six years, I have had the honor of helping Museums Alaska evolve and expand its capacity to better serve museums and cultural centers across the state. During this time, the organization has made significant strides in enhancing its services, and this is just the beginning. Although I will be stepping down from the Board, I am confident in the leadership of our capable Director and dedicated Board, and I am optimistic about the future of both the organization and our museum community.

In 2023, Museums Alaska listened closely to our membership and began reassessing its membership structure, programs, services, and its position within the broader cultural heritage sector. As a result, we updated our membership levels and rates to better support the needs of our museum professionals while ensuring the organization's long-term growth. We also evaluated our website's effectiveness and decided to transition to a new platform in 2024 (from Wild Apricot to Salesforce), which will better serve our members and support the expansion of our virtual programming—exciting plans are in store for the year ahead.

Museums Alaska has continued to provide financial support for the diversification of collections statewide, as well as the preservation efforts of our professional community through the Art Acquisition Fund and the Collections Management Fund. We also expanded our support by partnering with The CIRI Foundation to address the needs of the Alaska Native artist community. Through the Access to Alaska Native Collections (AANC) program, we are helping facilitate research visits to museum collections storage across the state, with additional support from the Henry Luce Foundation.

Looking ahead, the organization is primed for success, with growing community partnerships, increased statewide advocacy, and an exciting slate of programs, both virtual and in-person, including our next statewide museum conference in Fairbanks.

Though I will miss my time with Museums Alaska, I am excited to continue engaging with its programs and services as a member and to see the organization adapt to the evolving needs of our professional community.

Tsin'aen (Thank you) for your continued support of Museums Alaska,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Ortega-Chiolero". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "S." and the last name "Chiolero" being more prominent.

Selena Ortega-Chiolero, President



From the Director

I feel like I will say this every time I write one of these letters, but what a busy year!!

The year 2023 was filled with important events like Advocacy Day in DC; an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) convening; the bi-annual Foraker Summit where I saw a few of our museum colleagues; a special event between the Smithsonian Institution and First Alaskans Institute on building better relationships with Alaska Native communities; the Alaska Historical Society conference, where I got to know a bit more about where Museums Alaska came from; and a board retreat with Foraker to talk about our future. What is the future of Museums Alaska? It's a tough question, but we're getting closer to an answer.

Speaking of grants, Museum Alaska managed our two long-standing grant programs, the Alaska Art Fund and the Collections Management Fund—awarding over \$300,000 to museums and cultural centers across the state. A huge thank you goes out to Rasmuson Foundation to continuing to fund these important grant programs. They also agreed to fund two anniversary videos for the grants that we began working on this year.

We also began a new grant program with The CIRI Foundation called the Access to Alaska Native Collections program. The purpose of the program is to pay for the travel expenses of Alaska Native artists and culture bearers seeking to visit collections, removing a major barrier that Alaska Native people face in visiting and learning from their ancestors belongings. In the first cycle, we awarded six grants, and in the second cycle, the Henry Luce Foundation provided additional funding for the program, so we were able to award 11 more grants to artists and culture bearers. It's been a wonderful program that both museums and artists seem to value.

Other happenings in 2023, include the official launch of the Alaska Heritage Emergency Network (AHEN), with Museums Alaska as a founding member, and a continuation of the Alaska Native Boarding School Survey project. Internally, we conducted a new CRM and website platform search and began the work to move off of our current platform. And I continued my work on the Coalition of State Museum Association's (COSMA) board.

But perhaps the most prominent project of the year, was the celebration of our 40th anniversary! Can you believe we're 40? I wasn't here at the impetus of Museums Alaska, but I know some people reading this do remember the beginning of our organization. I hope you're proud of how the organization has grown and evolved over the years. As someone who's been in this position for two and a half years now, I can say, unequivocally, that it is an honor to serve such a wonderful community of museum and cultural center professionals, and I'm sure everyone before me felt the same way.

As we close out 2023, I'm looking forward to 2024, and what the new year will bring.



Dixie Clough, Director

[GET IN TOUCH](#)

2024 Board



Selena Ortega-Chiolero
Outgoing President



Sarah Owens
Vice President



Patricia Relay
Treasurer



Bethany Buckingham Follett
Secretary &
Incoming President



Ashley Bivin
Incoming Secretary



Betany Porter
Director



Christine Carpenter
Director



Nadia Jackinsky-Sethi
Director



Kelly Gwynn
Director

Election Results: 2024 Board Members



Cindi Lagoudakis



Sara Hay

Cindi Lagoudakis was elected to fill the final year of Kelly Gwynn's term. Sara Hay was elected to a full three-year term.

Ashley Bivin and Christine Carpenter were also re-elected to serve their first three-year terms from 2024–2026.

Congratulations to all of our new and reelected board members!

Board Convening

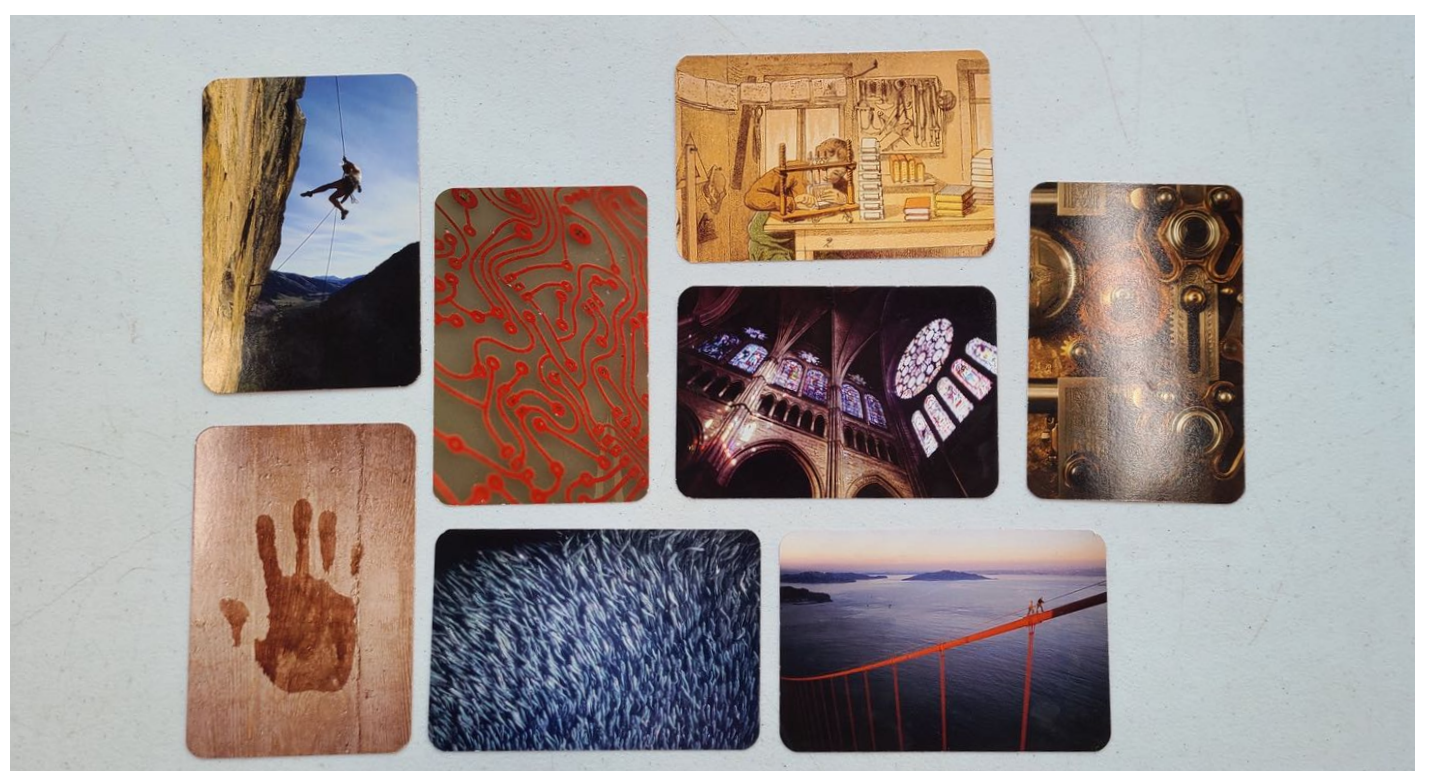
In 2023, the Museums Alaska board met in Anchorage to continue our strategic planning and begin a conversation about fundraising—all facilitated by Laurie Wolf at The Foraker Group. We were kindly hosted by the Alaska Botanical Garden and were able to visit two museums while we were there.

Thank you to the Alaska Botanical Garden for hosting our meetings.



Thank you to Leslie and the Alaska Jewish Museum (pictured) and the Alaska Fire Service Museum for having us over for a tour.

Thank you to Laurie and The Foraker Group for leading our strategic planning session. Pictured are the board and staff's hopes for Museums Alaska's future (in emotive images).



The board retreat was made possible with support from Rasmuson Foundation through our Tier 2 grant.

Highlights

Networking & Webinars

We hosted several online networking events and webinars on a variety of topics this year.

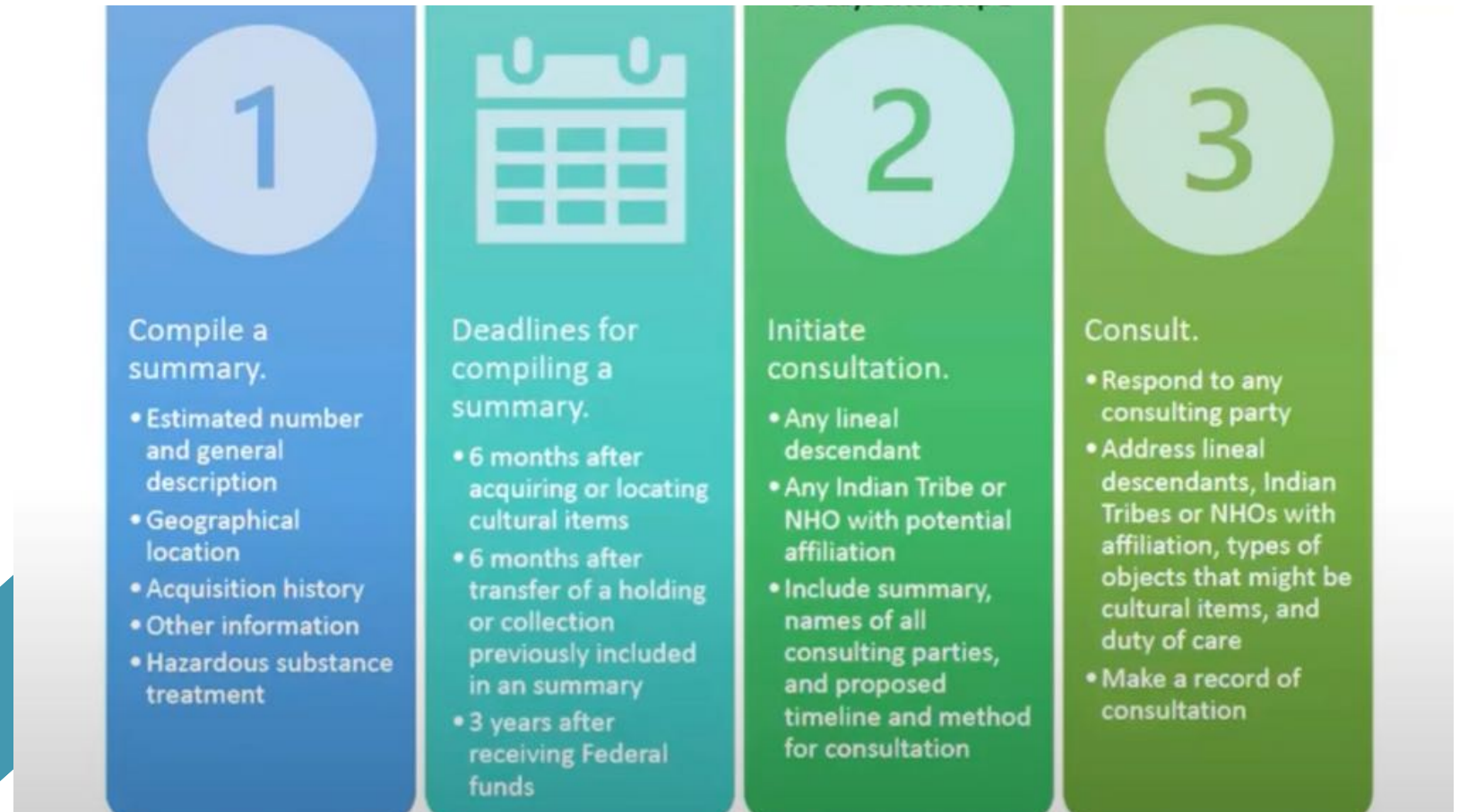
40th Anniversary

2023 marked our 40th Anniversary! We launched a fundraising campaign and auction in celebration.

Awards

We presented three awards to colleagues across Alaska for their exceptional work during our Annual Meeting.

Networking & Webinars



Screenshot from the NAGPRA Updates Webinar.

In 2023, we hosted 11 events, including 10 Emerging Museum Professionals (EMP) networking events, some of which were webinars designed to help our EMPs meet their learning goals for the year. The entire field was invited to these webinars, and we all enjoyed learning together from a range of amazing speakers.

In the months when we didn't have a webinar speakers, we enjoyed talking and catching up with colleagues across the state.

Webinar Links



Fran Ritchie (NPS) presenting a webinar on taxidermy cleaning.

Thank you to all of our amazing 2023 webinar leaders! The recordings can be found on our YouTube page.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

The Care and Cleaning of Taxidermy

- Fran Ritchie, Conservator at the National Park Service

TUESDAY, JULY 18

Unlocking the Motivations of Museum Members

- Rosie Siemer, founder and CEO of FIVESEED and Principal Research of the Member Motivations Study

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Cassette Digitization Panel

- Bob Curtis-Johnson, Owner and Principal Consultant of SummitDay
- Hayley Chambers, Senior Curator of Collections at Ketchikan Museums
- Nikkita Shellikoff, Cultural Heritage Assistant at the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Museum Hazards 101

- Gina Agron, museum consultant from Alaska Occupational Safety and Health (AKOSH)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Collection Databases 101

- Amanda Lancaster, Curator of Collections at the Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

NAGPRA Overview and Regulation Updates

- Melanie O'Brien, Program Manager, NAGPRA at the National Park Service

40th Anniversary



**40 FOR 40
CAMPAIGN**



**40TH
ANNIVERSARY
AUCTION**

In 2023, we celebrated our 40th anniversary!

In June, we ran our 40 for 40 campaign, with a goal of 40 donations for our 40th anniversary. Our community is so generous and amazing, so we reached 41 donations totaling \$3,065.

In October, for our official 40th anniversary, we ran an online auction featuring generous donations from adventure companies, artists, museums, and museum community members. It was a huge success that enabled us to reach our fundraising goal for the year and create one of, if not the largest, scholarship funds in our history. We raised over \$9,000, the majority of which went towards scholarships for our future conferences.

Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in our campaign and auction, and helped us celebrate 40 years of serving the museum and cultural center community in Alaska!

Auction Donors

Thank you to our 2023, 40th Anniversary Auction donors!



ANCHORAGE MUSEUM



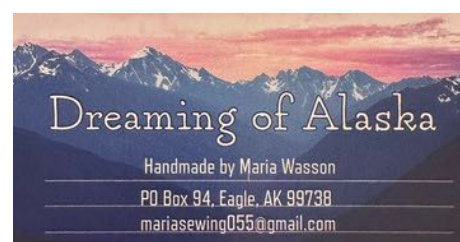
FRIENDS of the ALASKA STATE LIBRARY, ARCHIVES & MUSEUM



ArtCare



EXHIBITAK



linda infante lyons



Janice Klein
Copper Snail
Lacie Stiewing
Rico Worl
Sarah Asper-Smith



2023 AWARDEES

**THESE AMAZING COLLEAGUES
RECEIVED OUR 2023 AWARDS!**

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE FIELD



Faith Revell

This year's awardee was Faith Revell, Curator of Education and Public Programs, Valdez Museum and Historical Archive! Patty Relay presented the award:

“In 2011, I hired Faith Revell as the Valdez Museum & Historical Archives first Curator of Education & Public Programs. Since that time, Faith has embraced the role of Community Connector. In addition to working with the schools to bring students to the Museum, she collaborated with local agencies like Valdez Adventure Alliance, the public radio station, artists, the senior center, scholars, historians and the fisheries just to name a few. As her former supervisor, I would say Faith spearheaded a culture of inclusivity welcoming all to the Museum as well as embracing the philosophy that the whole community is part of the Museum. [Read More.](#)”

MIDNIGHT SUN AWARD



CJ Jones

Our very first Midnight Sun Awardee is CJ Jones, consultant and former executive director of the Haines Sheldon Museum! Bethany Buckingham Follett presented the award:

“CJ served for 21 years as director of the Sheldon Museum in Haines and has served on the Haines Volunteer Fire Department as a firefighter and EMT2 since 1983.

She has instructed many emergency preparedness courses and drills and worked in law enforcement. In 2016 CJ served as interim director of the Museum of the Aleutians and recently came back to the Haines Sheldon Museum to help with their reaccreditation process.

CJ has been a quiet, kind, and passionate leader in our field for decades – always promoting our work and its purpose. She has lobbied in Juneau for our museums and cultural institutions. CJ is always ready to help and go where she is needed, anywhere in the state. Every time I talk with CJ or see her in passing at various activities and events I always learn something new about her experiences. and CJ always has a bit of knowledge and information to impart to me that helps me move forward in my own museum and emergency preparedness work. I am sure each of you have your own adventures with CJ, and if not, no worries, I am sure she will be there to assist you when you need it or least expect it. [Read More.](#)

AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



Sue Deyoe and Dixie Clough with Sue's award.

Our Lifetime Achievement awardee is Sue Deyoe, former executive director of Talkeetna Historical Society! Christine Carpenter presented the award:

“When Sue was hired by the Talkeetna Historical Society, the museum was on the verge of folding. With Sue’s guidance and vision, not to mention tenacity and passion, she has brought the museum to be a much loved part of the community. Under Sue’s tenure, the museum was able to start an endowment; develop a master plan for the many historic buildings owned by the museum in town; install a walking tour; foster an excellent working relationship with the National Park Service; and create a thriving year-round tour program. After many years of service, Sue retired this year, and I think it would be remiss to not acknowledge her dedication to the historical society, museum, Talkeetna community, and Alaska museum field.”

Other Programming & Partnerships

Grants

We managed three grant programs in partnership with Rasmuson Foundation, The CIRI Foundation, and the Henry Luce Foundation.

Advocacy

We traveled to DC to participate in AAM's Museum Advocacy Day.

Other Activities

We partnered on several major statewide initiatives and programs.

Grants



Fly Specimen Digitization at University of Alaska Museum of the North.

In 2023, Museums Alaska continued to manage its two long-standing grant programs in partnership with Rasmuson Foundation—the Alaska Art Fund (AAF) and the Collections Management Fund (CMF). Both grants opened for two cycles and over \$300,000 in grant funds were disbursed to museums and cultural centers across the state.

Museums Alaska also began a new grant program in partnership with The CIRI Foundation. The Access to Alaska Native Collections (AANC) grant program opened for two cycles, with additional funding provided by the Henry Luce Foundation in the second cycle. In total, over \$60,000 was granted to artists and museums.

2023 GRANTS STATS

\$389,623.78

TOTAL FUNDS DISBURSED

40

GRANTS AWARDED

16

**CMF GRANTS AWARDED TO 16
ORGANIZATIONS**

7

**AAF GRANTS AWARDED TO 6
ORGANIZATIONS**

7

ARTISTS SUPPORTED THROUGH AAF

17

**ARTISTS & ARTIST GROUPS
SUPPORTED THROUGH AANC**

CMF RECIPIENTS

The Collections Management Fund, established in 2013 in partnership with Rasmuson Foundation, responds to needs of the Alaska museum community to enhance collections management through professional expertise, training, and access to conservation materials and supplies.

Round 1 Grants - \$118,810.59

\$19,931.09 - The Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository will de-install exhibits and move 453 artifacts to storage in preparation for their renovation. The Qumluglluku–Store It project will support a safe, organized, and tracked unmounting and re-storage of these objects.

\$19,567 - The University of Alaska Museum of the North will digitize ~15k historic fly specimens. Most of these are biting flies and thus of great importance to science and the public because of their potential for disease transmission.

\$19,532 - The Haines Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center will work with a conservator to determine whether fluctuating humidity is causing damage to museum collections. The project funds preparation, execution and follow-up for an onsite condition inspection, workshops, and reporting by the conservator.

\$14,155.75 - The Kodiak History Museum will partner with the Alutiiq Museum to catalog ca. 1,100 artifacts excavated by Dr. Donald Clark over 50 years ago. The artifacts have never been inventoried. The project will make them accessible for research and display.

\$20,000 - The Cape Fox Cultural Foundation will display and reintroduce to the Village of Saxman, the 1899 Edward H. Harriman Expedition artifacts repatriated by the Sanyaa Kwáan (Cape Fox Tribe) belonging to the Teikweidi and Neix.ádi Clans.

\$5,741.25 - The Valdez Museum & Historical Archive will improve VMHA's artwork storage which will, in turn, improve preservation conditions, increase accessibility, establish baseline for future conservation, and allow the curator to identify cultural and historic holes in collection.

\$19,883.50 - The Sealaska Heritage Institute will improve storage for the flat textile collection. This includes contracting a textile conservator to assess the collection and provide training to SHI's Collections Manager and Summer Intern, and a workshop for local organizations.

Round 2 Grants - \$122,613.19

\$8,404.33 - The Sheldon Jackson Museum will bring in Yup'ik culture bearer Chuna McIntyre and State conservator Ellen Carrlee to advise on how to best address bead disease in Yup'ik material in a culturally sensitive and appropriate way.

\$20,000 - The Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitor Center will retain an exhibits expert to review the existing offerings, engage with partners of the facility on their needs and expectations of the exhibits, and facilitate community feedback so that an exhibits plan can be developed to update outdated exhibitions.

\$6,588.86 - The Kodiak Maritime Museum, with the help of the Kodiak History Museum, will photograph, pack, and move Kodiak Maritime Museum's Uganik Cannery Collection to new storage space, and monitor the new space.

\$19,994.02 - Ketchikan Museums will improve collections storage at the Tongass Historical Museum by purchasing two storage cabinets for textiles.

\$14,920 - The Bristol Bay Historical Society will complete a collections assessment and rehousing project which aims to sort, group, catalog, store, and engage their tribal and community residents in the society's collection to increase stability, access, and contextual knowledge.

\$20,000 - The Alaska Native Heritage Center will support off-site storage of critically important cultural objects for the Alaska Native community amidst a renovation project that is improving the existing storage spaces and main exhibition space at ANHC.

\$15,682 - The Fairbanks Children's Museum will improve their exhibits and collections storage that serve their camps and class attendees.

\$11,500 - The Jensen-Olson Arboretum will update their plant collection database by funding a project-based contractor, and purchase collections software and equipment to support the work.

\$5,523.98 - The Alaska Jewish Museum will catalog new museum acquisitions such as books, photos and artifacts into Past Perfect; box and shelve newly acquired historical artifacts and photos for the archives room; and add documents to their print history files.

AAF RECIPIENTS

Since 2003, Museums Alaska has administered the Art Acquisition Fund (AAF) in partnership with Rasmuson Foundation, a program to support Alaskan museums in their efforts to acquire contemporary art created by living Alaskan artists. In 2022, the Art Acquisition Fund was renamed the Alaska Art Fund (AAF) to account for the expanded nature of the program.

Round 1 Grants - \$40,000

\$25,000 - Sealaska Heritage Institute will purchase a child's Chilkat robe made by Shgendootan. The robe is made of Merino wool, yellow cedar bark, sea otter fur, ermine skins, cotton canvas, deer leather, and a fragment of jacket. The fragment comes from a jacket manufactured by Neiman Marcus. The design was at the center of a lawsuit that SHI filed in 2020 alleging that Neiman Marcus had "falsely affiliated garments sold by them with Native artisans through its use of the term "Ravenstail" (Yéil Koowú)...and unlawfully infringed the copyright of a famous Northwest Coast artist". The robe documents an important historical and legal event in SHI's history and will be a resource for future generations studying intellectual property rights of Native art, design, and cultural materials. It is also a continuation of a Tlingit tradition of reusing and revitalizing old regalia and turning it into something new.

\$15,000 - The Alaska Museum of Science and Nature will commission James Havens to add recently discovered ichthyosaurs to the museum's large painting of plesiosaurs and mosasaurs (both swimming reptiles) entitled *The Talkeetna Mountains / Cretaceous Oceans*. James will complete the work during museum hours to allow the public to ask questions and learn more about these new discoveries.

Round 2 Grants - \$41,200

\$15,500 - The Alutiiq Museum will commission a set of 11 watercolor paintings of Alutiiq ancestors from Alutiiq artist Cheryl Lacy. These paintings will be inspired and informed by historic watercolors of Alutiiq people painted by Russian artist Mikhail Tikhanov in 1818. Lacy will reinterpret the paintings, capturing portraits of early 19th-century Kodiak Islanders in a way that celebrates each person in a fresh, decolonizing style.

\$11,000 - The University of Alaska Museum of the North will purchase two masks carved by artist Kathleen Carlo-Kendall, *Love on the Other Side* and *Enaa, Enaa*, which will join earlier Carlo-Kendall masks in their collection, allowing the museum to demonstrate the evolution of the artist.

\$7,500 - Ketchikan Museums will purchase *DaKl'aweidi (2023)*, a vest made by Tlingit artist Christy Ruby composed entirely of legally harvested sea otter fur from the Ketchikan area. Christy Ruby is an artist not currently represented in the collection and her vest is applicable to three categories of collecting priorities: Social History (especially women's and Indigenous history), Outlying Areas (her hunting territory spans from Ketchikan to Prince of Wales), and Culture and Art (harvesting and endangered materials).

\$4,700 - Ketchikan Museums will purchase two pieces of engraved silver jewelry from local master artist, Norman Jackson. The purchase will increase the limited number of engraved silver objects in their collection—none by a Tlingit artist, nor any from a Ketchikan artist. These pieces are by a Tlingit artist who is also from Ketchikan, allowing the museum to improve their collection representation in multiple ways.

\$2,500 - The Alaska State Museum will purchase *The Extinguishing* by Gail Friday to improve their collection through the unique subject matter, by adding a prominent Alaskan artist to their collection, and by representing art created during this time period.

AANC RECIPIENTS

In 2023, Museums Alaska developed the Access to Alaska Native Collections (AANC) grant program with The CIRI Foundation. The program expanded in the second round with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation. By paying travel costs, the program removes the largest barrier preventing Alaska Native artists and culture bearers from visiting and learning from their ancestors' work in museums.

Round 1 Artist Grants - \$16,000 Round 1 Museum Grants - \$5,000

\$2,500 - Erin Ggaadimits Ivalu Gingrich (Nome Eskimo Community) was awarded a grant to visit the **University of Alaska Museum of the North** to visit a variety of collections to help her expand her artistic practices.

\$2,500 - Golga Oscar (Yup'ik Nation - Kasigluk Traditional Council) was awarded a grant to visit the **Anchorage Museum** to explore different forms of the Yup'ik collection ranging from headwear to footwear and capture them through the lens of photography.

\$2,500 - Nicolette Corbett (Orutsararmiut Native Tribal Council) received a grant to visit the **Alaska Native Heritage Center** where she will be studying the piluguk/kameskak collection from the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Region.

\$2,500 - Raktenga Elaine Kingeekuk (St. Lawrence Island Yup'ik) was awarded a grant to visit the **Alaska State Museum** to collaborate with conservator Ellen Carrlee on gut conservation and care.

\$2,500 - X'unei Lance Twitchell (Tlingit, Haida, Yup'ik) was awarded a grant to visit the **Totem Heritage Center and Tongass Historical Museum** in Ketchikan to study with Nathan Jackson while continuing to document his life and work through video and photo.

\$3,500 - Qaadâ Chloe Bourdukofsky and Carter Price (St Paul Tribe and Qawalangin Tribe) were awarded an Access to Alaska Native Collections grant to visit the **Museum of the Aleutians**. At the museum, they will visit the archives and pieces that include their family history and art.

Round 2 Artist Grants - \$40,700 Round 2 Museum Grants: \$5,300

\$5,200 - Two artists in the Squirrel Skin Cohort – Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone (Iñupiaq and Kiowa) and **Merna Nasek'taq Wharton** (Yup'ik) – were awarded a grant to visit the **University of Alaska Museum of the North** to view the skin sewing collection.

\$3,500 - James Hart (Lingít) was awarded a grant to visit the **Anchorage Museum** to view formline art.

\$3,500 - Dena Ayakaq Drake (Yup'ik/Athabascan) was awarded a grant to visit the **Alaska State Museum** to study quillwork, fur sewing, and snow goggles.

\$2,500 - Melissa Shaginoff (Ahtna and Paiute) was awarded a grant to visit the **Alaska State Museum** where she will visit with Dene footwear and bags, which she has been interested in since visiting the Smithsonian Institution.

\$2,500 - Laine Rinehart (Tlingit/Taos Pueblo) was awarded a grant to visit the **Anchorage Museum** to view the weaving collections, particularly any unfinished pieces to better view techniques.

\$3,000 - Sarah Knudson (Gwich'in Athabascan) was awarded a grant to visit the **Alaska State Museum** where she intends to visit with Athabascan beadwork in the collection to learn about different techniques and the ways in which they have changed over time.

\$5,000 - "Kippiq" Martha Marlene Ann Nielsen (Yup'ik) was awarded a grant to visit the **Alaska State Museum** to study the fish skin and gut collection.

\$2,500 - Alisha Drabek, PhD (Sugpiaq Alutiiq) was awarded a grant to visit the **Anchorage Museum** to study three types of collections in order to grow her artist's practice and honor her Alaska Native heritage: 1) ceremonial hoop rattles, 2) dance fans, and 3) intricate dolls.

\$4,500 - Helena Schmitz (Saskinâ and Curyung Tribe) was awarded a grant to visit the **Alaska State Museums** with her son to assist her in revitalizing a lost culture.

\$3,500 - Cassandra Johnson (Inuit) was awarded a grant to visit the **Anchorage Museum** where she viewed the fancy Inuit parkas and other forms of protection from the outer elements.

\$5,000 - The Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers (Alutiiq/Sugpiaq) were awarded a grant to visit the **Anchorage Museum** where they connected with their Ancestral objects related to dance and ceremony, including hats, clothing, beaded objects, visors, drums, and rattles.

Advocacy



Patricia Relay and Dixie Clough with Senator Murkowski for Museums Advocacy Day.

Advocacy Chair, Patricia Relay, and Museums Alaska director, Dixie Clough, traveled to DC for the American Alliance of Museums' Museums Advocacy Day in late February to speak to Representative Mary Peltola and staff, Senator Murkowski and staff, and the staff of Senator Sullivan.

We requested \$65.5 million for the Office of Museum Services in the Institute of Museum and Library Services, as well as tax incentives for all taxpayers, regardless of itemization, and also robust funding for NEA and NEH.

Other Activities



Opening Remarks by Laura Huerta Migas, Deputy Director of the Office of Museum Services at IMLS Convening on Museum Leadership in Challenging Times.

In addition to webinars, fundraising, grants, awards, strategic planning, and advocacy, we also participated in several statewide programs and initiatives, a national convening, applied for funding to celebrate the anniversary of our grant programs with Rasmuson Foundation, and worked on our own internal growth by beginning the journey to update our website and CRM.

AHEN

In 2023, the idea of an [Alaska Heritage Emergency Network \(AHEN\)](#) became a reality. All founding members, including ourselves, agreed on and signed a charter.

We will be working on planning the future of AHEN — we hope to share resources and assistance when emergencies occur in Alaska, as well as provide training opportunities.

The coalition officially launched in September.

IMLS CONVENING

Immediately following Advocacy Day in DC, Dixie Clough, director of Museums Alaska, was invited to join the IMLS Convening on *Museum Leadership in Challenging Times*, where around 100 museums and associations from across the country came together to discuss topics from the decline of humanities in secondary education and society to funding sources for museums to professional development needs.

IMLS also introduced their plans for an annual museum survey similar to the one they'd been conducting with museums for decades.

The pilot is scheduled for 2024, with the first full survey to launch in 2025.

WEBSITE & CRM REPLACEMENT

In 2022, we realized that we needed to search for a more robust CRM than Wild Apricot to increase our fundraising efforts. In 2023, we began the search and decided on Salesforce because we felt it would grow with us and allow us to have all of our online tools connected to one CRM, including grant management.

Because Wild Apricot was also our website host, we also needed to create a new website. We decided to use Weber & Co and began the design process in 2023.

Rasmuson Foundation was a wonderful partner in allowing us to reallocate funding from our outreach budget to this endeavor.

FAI/SI EVENT

The Smithsonian Institution's *Our Shared Future* Initiative came to Alaska in 2023. They partnered with First Alaskans Institute to host a program for Smithsonian staff and local museums to learn how to build better relationships with Tribes from Alaska Native speakers.

The event was held around the same time as the Alaska Federation of Natives convention. There were representatives from many Smithsonian units as well as a few Alaska museum representatives.

Museums Alaska assisted First Alaskans Institute by inviting museum colleagues in Alaska to attend the convening, and coordinating the travel reimbursements with the attendees from Alaska.

AK NATIVE BOARDING SCHOOL SURVEY

The Alaska Native Boarding School Survey Project continued into 2023. Museums Alaska was one of the three partners in the project funded by an Interlibrary cooperative grant from the Alaska State Libraries. The other two partners were Jessica Ieremia of Sitka Public Library and Benajmin Jacuk of the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

In 2023, we hired a contractor to assist in cultural organization outreach—asking organizations to complete our survey—and building a list of search terms for Alaska Native Boarding Schools for organizations to use when searching their collections.

The grant funded work was completed in May 2023. We are now considering the best place for the information we gathered from the survey.

TIER 1 GRANT

In honor of the 20th anniversary of the Alaska Art Fund (formerly the Art Acquisition Fund), and the 10th anniversary of the Collections Management Fund, Museums Alaska applied for a Tier 1 grant from Rasmuson Foundation to create two 5-7 minute videos featuring interviews with colleagues and artists on the impact of the grants.

We received the funding (\$25,000), and our video producer, Bitanga Productions, began filming interviews in Ketchikan in late 2023.

Thank you to our Members & Donors

We couldn't do what we do without you!

Individual Members

- Kimberly Arthur
- Sarah Asper-Smith
- Robert Banghart
- Heather Beggs
- Meghan Belin
- Ashley Bivin
- Savanna Bradley
- Marina Briggs
- Christine Carpenter
- Ellen Carrlee
- Hayley Chambers
- Elizabeth Jane Cook
- Angela Demma
- Francesca Du Brock
- Bethany Follett
- Andrew Garner
- Anjuli Grantham
- Margaret Greutert
- Karl Gurcke
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- Amy Phillips-Chan
- Sara Piasecki
- Patricia Relay
- Niko Sanguinetti
- Monica Shah
- Cathy Sherman
- Christine Smith
- Amy Steffian
- Kailee Van Zile

Auction Donors

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- Alaska Seaplanes
- Wings Airways – Taku Lodge
- Out to Sea Expedition Company
- Stan Stephens Glacier and Wildlife Cruises
- Major Marine Tours
- Alaska Railroad
- Salmon Berry Travel and Tours
- Anchorage Museum
- Falcon Inn Bed & Breakfast log lodge, River View House, Pilot Apartment & Hangar
- Dorfman Museum Figures, Inc.
- Liaise Studio
- Rachelle Dowdy
- Interwoven Fibers
- Linda Infante Lyons
- Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum
- Pier One Theatre
- Lacie Stiewing
- Cooper Landing Historical Society and Museum
- Alutiiq Museum
- ArtCare
- Dreaming of Alaska
- Janice Klein
- Copper Snail
- Rico Worl
- Sarah Asper-Smith

Organizational Members

- Alaska Botanical Garden, Inc.
- Alaska Childrens Museum (Emerging)
- Alaska Native Heritage Center
- Alaska State Museums
- Aleutian Pribilof Islands Assn.
- Alpine Historical Society
- Alutiiq Heritage Foundation/Alutiiq Museum
- American Bald Eagle Foundation
- Anchorage Museum
- Aunt Claudia's Dolls, a Museum
- Chilkoot Indian Association
- Chugach Heritage Museum & Archaeology
- Clausen Memorial Museum
- Cooper Landing Historical Society and Museum
- Eagle Historical Society and Museums
- Haines Sheldon Museum
- Homer Society of Natural History, Inc
- Jensen-Olson Arboretum
- Juneau-Douglas City Museum
- Kodiak Maritime Museum
- McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum
- Municipality of Anchorage - Public Art Program
- Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry
- Palmer Museum of History and Art
- Pioneer Air Museum
- Preservation Alaska
- Resurrection Bay Historical Society
- Salcha Community Museum
- Sitka Historical Society & Museum
- Skagway Museum
- Talkeetna Historical Society
- Tanana Yukon Historical Society
- Tenakee Historical Collection
- Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association, Inc.
- Wasilla Museum and Visitor Center
- Willow Historic and Wildlife Foundation
- Wrangell Museum

Donors

- Marie Acemah
- Roxana Adams
- Gina Agron
- Aelin Allegood
- Sarah Asper-Smith
- Nancy Bird
- Ashley Bivin
- Beth Buckingham Follett
- Annie Calkins
- Rosemary Carlton
- Christine Carpenter
- Gwen Carpenter
- Hayley Chambers
- Wanda Chin & Terry Dickey
- Dixie Clough
- Elizabeth Jane Cook
- Perri Dahl
- Megan Dean
- Ann Dowdy
- Shina DuVall
- Ember Farber
- Lynn Follett
- Anjuli Grantham
- Kelly Gwynn
- Della Hall
- Sarah Harrington
- Michael Hawfield
- Sara Hay
- Ron Inouye
- Cynthia Jones
- Debra King
- Janice Klein
- Cynthia Lagoudakis
- April Laktonen Counciller
- Angela Linn
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- Heather McClain
- Selena Ortega-Chiolero
- Sarah Owens
- Louis Packer
- Sara Piasecki
- Betany Porter
- Diana Pritchard
- Patricia Relay
- Natalee Rothaus
- Shehnnaz Saleem
- Nadia Sethi
- Monica Shah
- Cathy Sherman
- Amy Steffian
- Shelly Uhlir
- Margaret Webster

Grantmakers

- Rasmuson Foundation
- The CIRI Foundation
- Henry Luce Foundation

2023 STATS

84

Members

Thank you to all of our 2023 members!

1.6K

Facebook Fans

We love our Facebook followers!

69.7K

Facebook Reach

It looks like our posts reached new people!

1K

Instagram Fans

Hello to our awesome Instagram followers!

437

Email Subscribers

Woo-hoo! So many ways to stay in touch with us!

28

Emails Sent

Doing the most to keep everyone up-to-date!

52

Donors

Thank you to everyone who went above and beyond with a donation!

1

Staff Member

We have one staff member working with our awesome board to make everything happen!

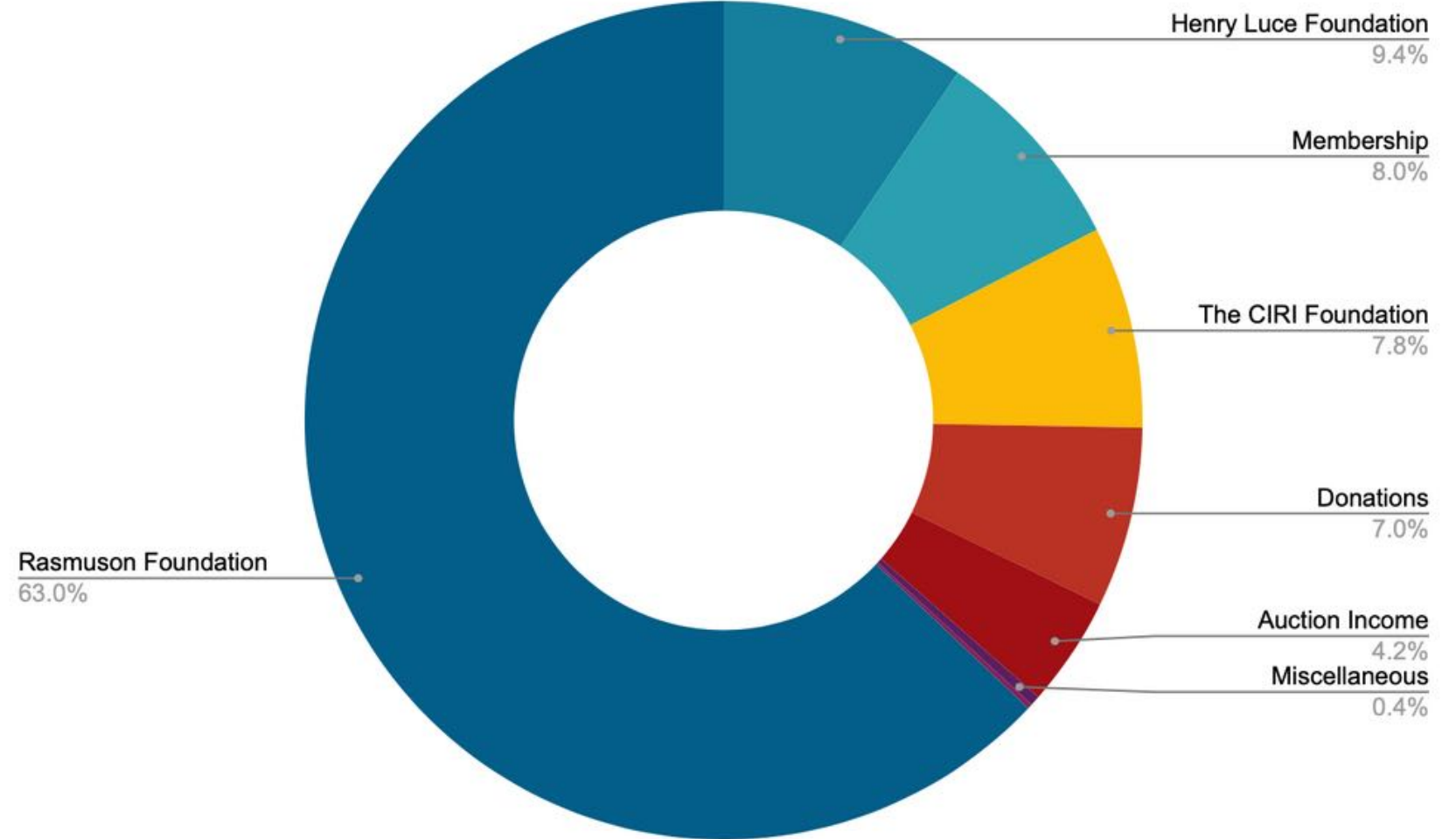
9

Board Members

Thank you to our amazing board members who do so much for us!

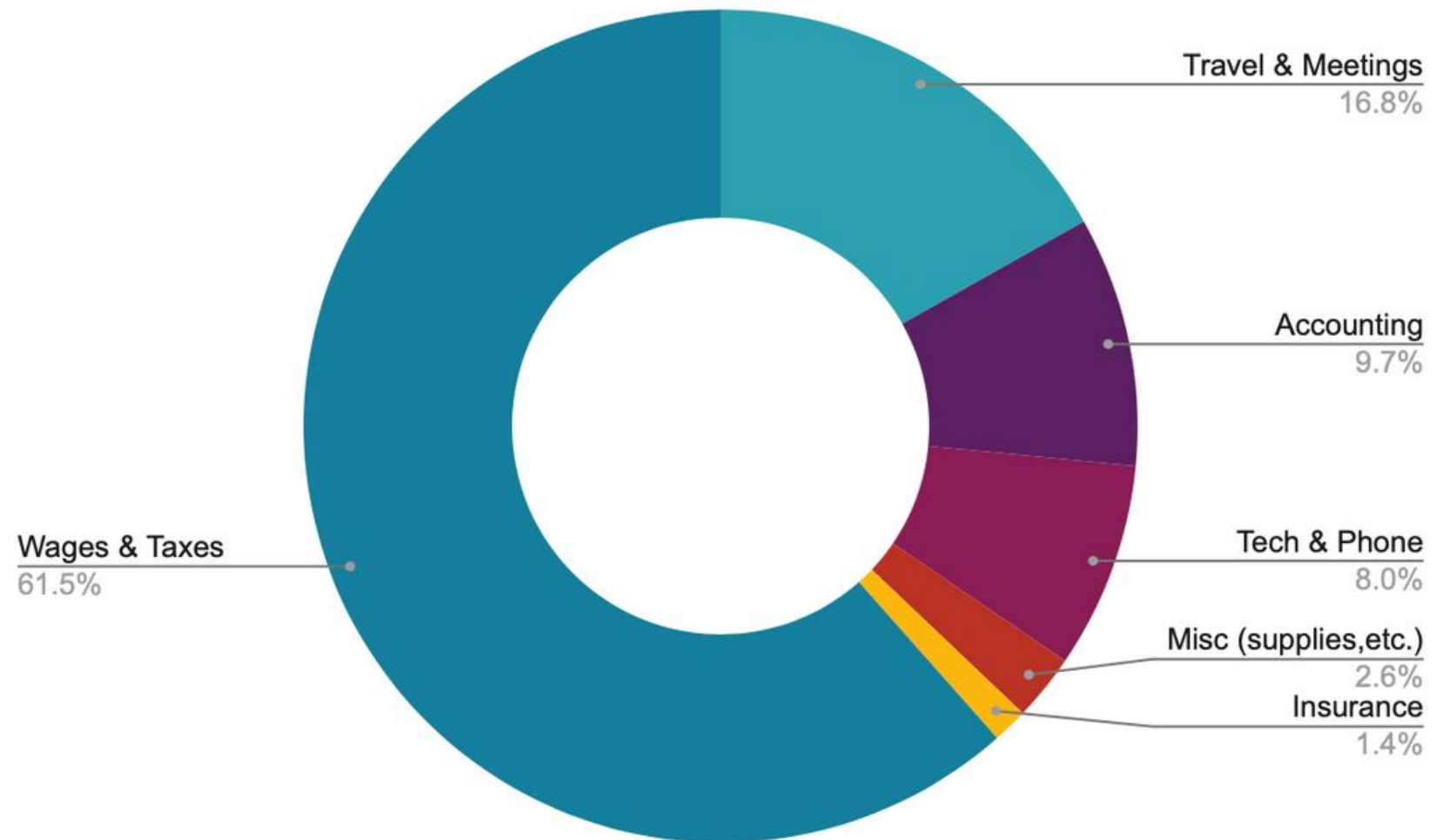
Operating Income

Most of our operating income came from grant administration: from Rasmuson Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, and The CIRI Foundation.



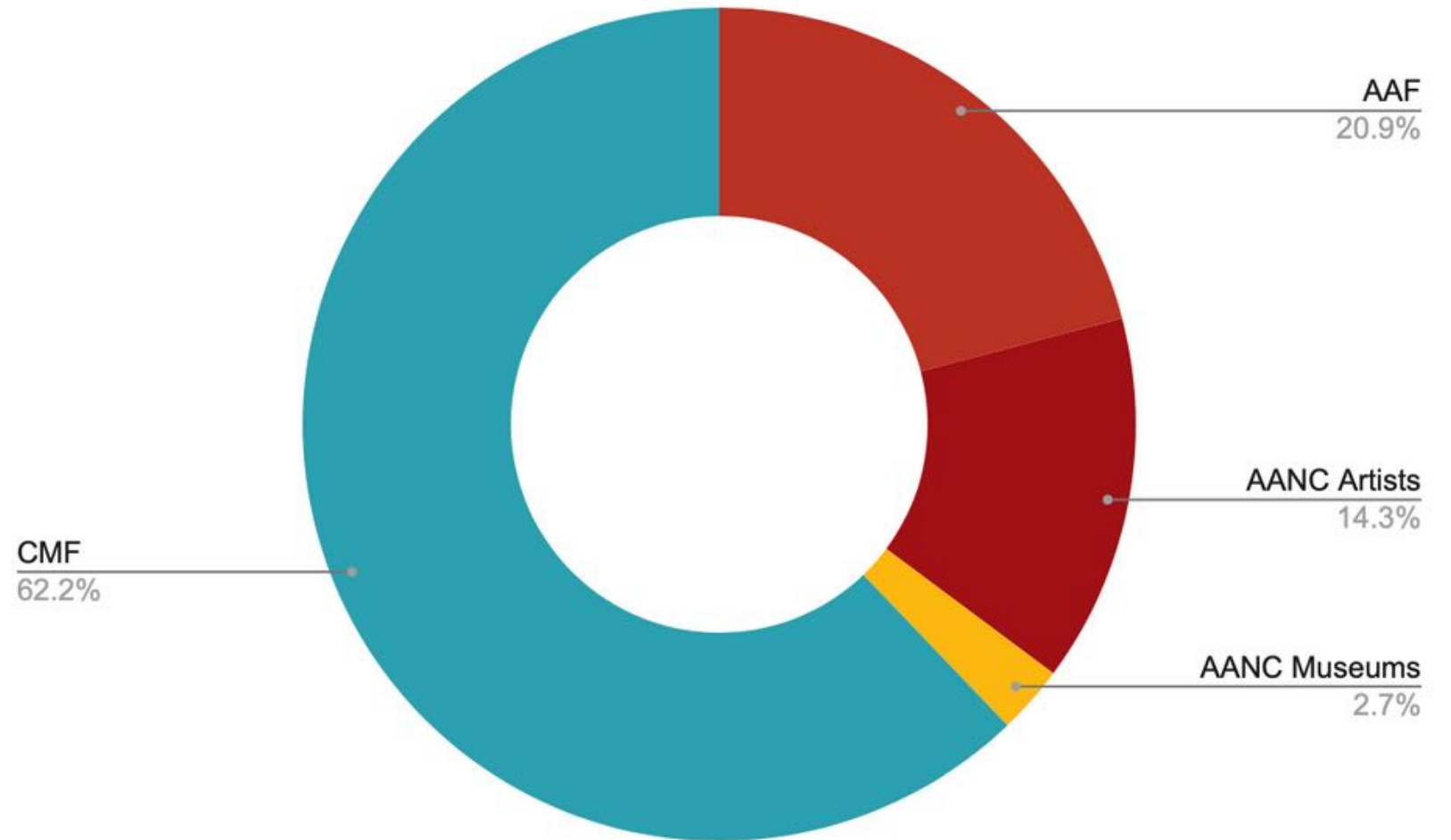
Operating Expenses

Most of our operating expenses consisted of wages and taxes, accounting fees, expenses related to board and staff travel for advocacy and training, and accounting costs.



Pass Through Funding

In 2023, we disbursed \$389,623.78 through three grant programs, Collections Management Fund (CMF), Alaska Art Fund (AAF), and Access to Alaska Native Collections (AANC).



**Thank you to our community for all of
your support.**

**The last 40 years have been a blast
& we look forward to the next 40!**

Contact Us



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ANCHORAGE, AK 99501



907-371-4348



director@museumsalaska.org



museumsalaska.org

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday

9:00 am to 5:30 pm

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