

VALDEZ MUSEUM & HISTORICAL ARCHIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 16, 2024- Meeting Time 12:00 pm

Valdez City Council Chambers– 212 Chenega Ave. & Zoom

Mission Statement

The Valdez Museum preserves, presents, and interprets the heritage and culture of Valdez, the Copper River Basin, and Prince William Sound, Alaska.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Public Business from the Floor
4. Board Education Moment (10 minutes)
5. Mission Educational Moment (10 minutes)
6. Approval of the Minutes for April 18, 2024, pp. 4
7. Approval of Financial Report as of April 18, 2024
 - a) March Financial Statements
8. New Business
 - a) Accept Recent Cash Donation for their donor-intended purposes pp. 9
 - b) Recent member/donor assignments pp. 11
 - c) Cruise ship POCs impact on Museum operations and budget
 - d) ED Search Report on progress-to-date and next steps
9. President's Report
10. Staff Reports pp. 15
11. Committees
 - a) Committee Reports— (15 minutes)
Finance (Jim), Collections (Rich), Board Development (Gary) **Fundraising (Michelle / Donna)** Membership (Michelle), **Strategic Planning (Gary)**, Advocacy (?), Building (?), **Native Gallery (?)** Endowment (Inactive) By-Laws Committee and **ED Search Committee**
12. Committee Business from the Floor or Board Member Discussion/Ideas
13. Adjournment

Upcoming Committee Meetings

ED Search Committee, Finance Committee

Next Meeting: June 20, 2024

Dates to add to your Calendars

Museum on Egan

Summer Hours with two exceptions

Museum open 9 am to 5 pm, Sunday through Saturday

Beginning May 11, 2024

Exception: Closed Monday, May 13 and 20

Museum on Hazelet

Closed to Public, Open by Appointment Only through May 10

Summer Hours with exceptions (see above)

Core Purpose

Preserve Regional Culture

Core Values

Honor the Past, Legacy, Heritage

Education

(Knowledge)

Integrity, Authenticity

Community

(Relevance, stewardship, surrounding towns and village part of our local community)

Entertainment

(Fun, engagement)

Meeting Agreements

W.A.I.T. - Why Am I Talking, Why Am I Not Talking

Shared airtime

Practice active listening

Focus on ideas, not people.

Use "I" statements

Assume positive intent.

What is learned here leaves here.

Embrace discomfort.

Shared responsibility for a good meeting

Raise hands.

Be present and on time.



**MINUTES
VALDEZ MUSEUM & HISTORICAL ARCHIVE ASSOCIATION
INC.**

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 18, 2024, 2024 - 12:00 pm

Valdez City Council Chambers– 212 Chenega Ave. & Zoom

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Gary Minish called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.
Members present: - Nanci Hill, Michelle Cullen, Jim Shirrell , Gary Minish, Linda Guthrie, Richard Dunkin, Dan Gilson, and Karen Allred.
Members excused: - Martha Barberio
Guests: - None.
Staff present: - Faith Revell.
2. **Introduction of Guests:** None
3. **Public Business from the Floor:** None.
4. **Board Educational Moment:** None
5. **Mission Educational Moment:** Reimagining VMHA: A group exercise led by Faith Revell. Each Board member was given a moment to reflect on “what the Museum could look like.” Dan Gilson said that he would like to see the museum move into the future with exhibits that would bring in the next generation. He envisioned a room with AI simulation that could show people the past. Karen Allred imagines the museum alive with activity as a place of discovery, accessible for all ages backgrounds with interactive exhibits. Nanci Hill would like to see space for hands-on exhibit. Gary Minish emphasized he likes what we’re doing now but he sees bringing more people with activities outside of the museum, a kiosk at Old Town, exhibits that extend into the present day, artifacts that you could handle, a parlor that you could go into and experience. Rich Dunkin emphasized these dreams could happen if we continue to add onto the work we’ve done for our new Museum. Linda Guthrie wants to see an old town exhibit that would bring out the personalities and feeling of what it was like to live in the old town. She can imagine purchasing an Old Town house and having that be an extension of the museum in town. It could be a place for meetings and a coffee house or café as well. Jim Shirrell imagines a place where the community could come back again and again to experience new exhibits. He was worried about the perception of having a café that might compete with local vendors and advises to be cautious if we are able to have a café. Michelle Cullen imagined the museum entryway having clear signage on how to become a member and the benefits.
6. **Approval of the Minutes for March 21, 2024:**
Motion: Dan Gilson motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Karen Allred.
Discussion: None.
Vote: All members present voted to approve the discussed minutes. None Opposed. Motion carried.

7. Approval of Financial Report as of March 21, 2024:

Motion: Michelle Cullen motioned to approve the financial report, seconded by Nanci Hill.

Discussion: Ms. Revell added to her written report that the the annual appeal has brought in \$2995 in one month. She also mentioned that there is an additional \$2700 expense that came about as a result of the audit tied to overestimating payroll for the year. Jim Shirrell added even though the financial committee did not meet, the Museum's finances continue to be in good shape and he recommended to approve the financial report.

Vote: All members present voted to approve the discussed financial report. None Opposed. Motion carried.

8. New Business

a. **Accept Recent Cash Donations for their donor-intended purposes:**

Motion: Karen Allred motioned to approve recent cash donations for their donor-intended purposes, seconded by Linda Guthrie.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All members present voted to approve the discussed recent cash donation. None Opposed. Motion carried.

b. **Recent member/ donor assignments:** 7 total / Donor Thank You cards have been signed and distributed.

c. **Roadhouse Planning:** A general discussion ensued on the potential of reimagining our fundraising. This was prompted by the \$2400 cost for renewing Give Smart. Ms. Revell was able to post pone the auto renewal for the event software program we have used for Roadhouse in the past. Feedback from the last Roadhouse showed that people were frustrated with being on their phone during a social event to do the bidding. Rich Dunkin commented that he would like to see a Roadhouse honoring specific road houses instead of a person or theme in Valdez. The committee is meeting one week from today on April 25 at noon at the newly opened Museum.

d. **Executive committee session to discuss ED search progress to date and next steps:** The three zoom interviews for the top candidates were completed and the committee picked top candidate. The next steps are to arrange as soon as possible for an on-site interview and visit for this candidate. The committee needs to meet to create a contract and salary. Jim Shirrell suggested that we pay for the spouse to come and the Board agreed this was a good idea. Background check and references need to be checked as well. If the candidate turns down our offer we will consider bringing in second choice candidate for an on-site interview.

9. President's Report: None

10. Staff Reports: Faith Revell reported as the Interim ED that the Main Museum is planning an April 27 reopening celebration that will be all day. There will be refreshments, walks, and talks with fresh exhibits /galleries. The 30th of April will bring the first cruise ship of the season at the Container Dock. 2000 visitors are expected to keep the Museum busy and Volunteers are requested.

11. Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: None. **Fundraising Committee:** None. **Strategic Planning Committee:** None. **Native Gallery.** Need to convene and meet with VNT.

**12. Committee Business from the Floor or Board Member Discussion/Ideas: **

Next Board of Directors Meeting: May 17, 2024 – 12:00 p.m. at the Valdez City Council Chambers

13. Adjournment:

Motion: With no further business before the Board, Linda Guthrie moved to adjourn the meeting at time 1:29 pm, seconded by Gary Minish.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All members present voted to adjourn, none opposed. Motion Carried.

Signed _____ Date _____

Michelle Cullen, Secretary, VMHA

VALDEZ MUSEUM & HISTORICAL ARCHIVE ASSOCIATION INC.

Financial Report Submitted by Faith Revell, Interim Executive Director

April 2024

Summary: For your review, I have provided three statements: Budget v. Actual for 2024, Statement of Activities Previous Year Comparison, and Statement of Financial Position Previous Year Comparison. All reports are as of April 30, 2024.

Budget vs. Actuals: FY2024 As of April 30th, earned revenue, stands at \$3737.88 and 1.74% of budget. The amount reflects a large increase from last month's \$269.90 fledgling total, and signals that the Museum has re-opened and that cruise ship season is upon us. It remains a tiny fraction of the year's operating budget set at \$214,764. We anticipate that thousands of cruisers will visit the Museum during the season, increasing admissions and reflecting on store sales.

Grants. Foundation grants remain the same as last month, but will show a marked increase in our next report due to the arrival of the ASCA grant on 05.07 that supports Museum changing exhibitions and related programs. It totaled \$4600. Surprisingly, we asked and applied for \$3000, and received \$4600, later in the funding cycle than the norm, but in greater abundance than usual. We'll take it and spend it according to the grant outline.

Donations income of \$2085.00 shows an increase in unrestricted gifts to the Museum. We are at 12.45% of budget. The amount reflects 3x the total of the preceding month. **Fund development** has increased and now stands at \$9440.00. The 2024 annual appeal campaign continues to yield results that impact the fund development totals. In April, the appeal brought in an additional \$1745.00, with a year-to-date total of \$3370.00. Memberships, including both renewing and new, have increased during the reporting period and sit at 32% of budget.

Earned revenue from store sales has increased from \$49.90 last month to \$881.29 this month. Sales are slow to rise at only 1.66% of budget but will continue to do so as peak season arrives and visitors flock to the Museum. Zipper pulls, books, body and bath products and magnets have been popular with buyers thus far.

Interest Income. The Phyllis Irish Memorial Fund's CD stands at 100% of budget.

Cost of Goods Sold is \$1383.00, a fraction of the overall budget of \$30,000. However, the reporting total for this month is more than twice as much as last.

Total expenses to date stand at \$211,610 compared to last month's figure of \$173,189. They are currently 27% of the annual total expenditures budget. Notable costs incurred during the year to date are attributed to personnel and payroll, and utilities.

Utilities are tracking in total at 26% of what is budgeted for 2024. Electric costs came in at 24% of budget and as of this report, sit at \$8812.00. That is good news! Heating oil costs sit at 30% of budget. We will continue to monitor the cost of utilities closely to determine the impact of the new HVAC system at the Egan site, and note any significant changes in fuel and electric costs.

Personnel expenses come in at \$130,349 and 26% of budget. Seasonal staff have begun to return to the Museum as we move into peak season and the VMHA continues to advertise for an Administrative Marketing Coordinator and Lead Attendant. Altogether, the potential new hires and seasonal workers will increase personnel costs as we move forward in the year.

ED Recruitment. \$874 of the budgeted \$10,000 allotted for ED recruitment has been spent. That number will increase very shortly and reflect the cost of re-posting the position on the two large Museum job sites, each of which has a fee of a few hundred dollars.

Statement of Activity Comparison for the first 4 months of 2023 and 2024

At the time of this report net operating revenues shown are at \$85,745.00 compared to \$35,699 in 2023. Expenditures closed out at \$197,230 in 2024 compared to last year's total of \$253,747. This variation can be attributed in large part to lower personnel expenses and lower utility costs in 2024. Utilities stand at \$16,289 as of April 30th of this year compared to \$24,712 in 2023. This is a significant decrease in costs.

Grants: The COV quarterly grant remains at the same amount as last year, totaling \$267,500, with two quarters of grant monies received to date. Foundation Grants reflect receipt of United Way Valdez funds totaling \$2500 this year, the same amount received in 2023. Other foundation grant monies have been received very recently and will be reported next month. Last year we had \$8241 in foundation grants in hand at the end of April. These, included monies from a Museums Alaska Grant, that were specific to a 2023 project that supported the re-organization of the fine arts collection and is complete. This foundation grant is not included in the 2024 budget.

Fund Development: Fund development (annual appeal, membership and donations) total less this year (\$8240) than last (\$10,243) at the same time.

Admissions and Store Sales: General admission fees and bulk admission fees have begun to grow with the arrival of cruise ships to Valdez. Fees amounted to \$2525 last year between January and April. This year they top out at \$1984 for the same period. The April 30 Carnival Cruise Line POC helped increase admissions considerably, most of which were general admissions, rather than bulk, seeing that Carnival does not traditionally work with Premier Tours to provide pre-sale tickets.

Museum store sales in 2024 are significantly less than last 2023 during the same period, but they are growing. They stand at \$881 in 2024 compared to \$2288 in 2023. Store sales are important to watch.

Statement of Financial Position Previous Year Comparison as of April 30th, 2024

As of April 30th, 2024, total liabilities and equity for the Museum stand at \$1,947,466 compared to 2023, where totals amounted to \$1,714,695.

Bank accounts total \$497,335 at April's conclusion compared to \$346,832 in 2023.

Phyllis Irish Fund is up 3% in 2024 and sits at \$70,970 compared to \$68,901 in 2023.

The Museum Endowment Fund posts at \$1,322,350 compared to \$1,244,821 in 2023.

Equity: Due to the findings in the 2021 audit, I am reporting monthly on the equity balance. Chaz Lyons indicated that it should not fluctuate from month to month. Equity should stay the same. The opening equity Balance is \$11,429.62. There has been no change from last month.

See attached Financial Statements for reference.

Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association Inc.

Item 8a Accept Recent Cash Donations

Description:

The Board of Directors should review and approve donations received. The attached list shows cash donations received since the last board meeting. The list also shows if there is a donor-imposed restriction to the gift (i.e. for a special project). When the board approves these gifts, it also approves using them for the donor's purposes. If the board does not intend to use the gift for the donor's purpose, the board should not accept the gift.

Board Action to Be Taken:

Accept cash donations for their donor-intended purposes.

Director/Committee Recommendation:

The Executive Director recommends approving all the donations shown.

Agenda Item Submitted by Faith Revell, Executive Director

Date: May 9, 2024

Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association Inc.

Transaction Report March 2024

	Date	Name	Description	Amount line
Fund Development				
Donations Income				
Unrestricted				
	April 2024	Kit Cullen	Donation	\$50.00
Total for Unrestricted				\$50.00
Total for Donations Income with sub-accounts				\$50.00
Total for Fund Development with sub-accounts				\$50.00

Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association Inc.

Item 8b Recent Donor/ Member Assignments

Description:

Each month, the Board of Directors makes an effort to contact and thank people who have recently joined, upgraded, renewed or made significant financial donations to our organization. By doing this, we hope that associate members and donors feel appreciated, have an opportunity to ask questions of the board members, and become more connected to our organization.

Board Action to Be Taken:

Volunteer to contact one or more of the people on the attached list.

Director/Committee Recommendation:

NA

Agenda Item Submitted by: Faith Revell, Interim Executive Director

Date: May 9, 2024

Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association Inc.

Member Assignments

APRIL RENEWALS

Greeting	Level
Anna Stedina	Senior
Shannon Irish	Senior
Steve + Sara Goudreau	Ninety–Eighter
William Basic	Sustainer
Philip Farrelly	Dual
Karen Allred + Larry Miles	Ninety - Eighter
Mary Mehlberg	Individual
Frank + Annella Dickinson	Dual
Samantha + Kaden Addler	Dual
Sherron Barnhill + John Twardowski	Family
Amber Mehlberg	Individual
Jame + Jan Whalen	Family

APRIL NEW MEMBERS

Greeting	Level
Lorraine Krikpatrick	Individual

Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association Inc.

Item 8C

Cruise ship POCs impact on Museum operations and budget

Board Action to Be Taken:

Report on and discuss the impact of 2024 cruise ship port of calls on the Valdez Museum's operations and annual budget

Director/Committee Recommendation:

NA

Agenda Item Submitted by: Gary Minish, VMHA BOD President

Date: May 7, 2024

Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Association Inc.

Item 8D

Executive Director Search Update and Next Steps

Board Action to Be Taken:

Report on and discuss the ED Search Committee's progress and next steps in the search for a new Executive Director

Director/Committee Recommendation:

NA

Agenda Item Submitted by: Gary Minish, VMHA BOD President

Date: May 7, 2024

VALDEZ MUSEUM & HISTORICAL ARCHIVE ASSOCIATION INC.

Executive Director's Report Submitted by Faith Revell, Interim Executive Director

April 2024

The staff have worked so hard for months and months to bring about positive changes to the Museum. Each member is resilient, committed, innovative and focused upon excellence.

Program of Work for the Reporting Period:

Staff and operations: Oversee Museum operations to ensure smooth running and productiveness. Support staff and encourage a balanced approach to work and life. Instill the spirit of teamwork at the Museum, with the Board and in the community. Provide safe and accessible facilities. Prepare the Museum and staff for peak season visitors.

Board Interface

- Prepared the May BOD packet and circulated it to BOD members in advance of meeting
- Convened with the full Board on April 18 and on subsequent occasions with committee members
- VNT provided a review of and approved a land acknowledgement for the VMHA which is now displayed on the front door of the Museum and in the Native Gallery.
- Partnered with BOD on ED Search.
 - Created zoom meetings and re-posted the ED JD on appropriate job sites
 - Interviewed ED candidate #3 and follow up meeting; summarized discussion

Finance

- Submitted final document, Management, Discussion and Analysis, (M, D and A) to auditors. They will review the full audit and conclude the project shortly. Andrea Searles spent months working on the audit and did so from the confines of the trailer with less than ideal access to files and records needed for the report. She was stalwart, focused and gracious and got everything to the auditors in a timely fashion.

Fundraising and Grants

- Documented annual appeal yields-to-date. They total \$3370 with \$1745 arriving in April. The fundraising goal is \$4000.
- Received \$4600 from ASCA, Alaska State Council on the Arts, that funds the current exhibit, *Emerging from the Melt*, along with the summer show and its associated programs. These funds arrived far later than the norm and in a larger amount than requested. ASCA historically allocates funds in the fall of the year. We asked for \$3000 and received \$4600.
- Completed all thank you notes to Museum supporters and donors to-date

Administration

- Renewed registration in the federal government's System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration is required if applying for federal funds, such as those that come from the NEA, National Endowment for the Arts. The NEA supports ASCA. We annually receive funds from ASCA for our changing exhibits and allied programs. Of note, federal funding reports are demanding and painstakingly particular in their data requests. Lessons learned!
- With Andrea Searles, we have updated profiles, renewed subscriptions and memberships to many different entities and organizations. This requires significant time and effort and is an ongoing process. Our goal is to create profiles for the Museum that allow for easier changes in future.

Marketing

- Contracted with Danny Tapp to make changes to the Museum website, social media, and print.
- In house, all departments are creating printed materials that herald forthcoming events.

Technology.

- New business model color printer and ink were generously donated by Providence Clinic and Drs. Cullen and Todd, for use by the Exhibits Dept. It arrived just in time to replace an ailing printer with less than optimal output.

Collaborations with COV

- Partnered with COV and contractors on the successful completion of the HVAC project and re-opening of the Museum on April 27th. 63 people attended the event. Kudos to the Museum staff, Caren, Emma and Andrea and a cadre of willing and committed volunteers who worked for months to pull off remarkable changes to the Museum and make the re-opening event a success.
- Collaborations with the City on replacing the Museum's front lawn sign. It is badly damaged due to weather and snow. We are exploring a design and composition that employs long-lasting materials and pairs up well with other signage at the Museum and new signs found through the City of Valdez. The COV will pay for the new sign on the eastern lawn.
- Finalized the content and design of the new Old Town signs slated for installation as early as late this summer or next. We (Martha Barberio, Peter Briggs, Beverly Colapietro and COV) have been working on this project for two years. Martha is the project manager. The signs dovetail with the OT walking tour that is also virtually available on line, but content for each has been expanded. The signs and longer narrative may in turn drive potential changes to the on-line version of the tour. Collectively, we hope that the new signs prove to be a meaningful way for visitors to Old Town to learn about the history of the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake and its impact.

Hiring and Personnel

- Continued the campaign for seasonal hires and a new Administrative Marketing Assistant. Participated in April hiring fair in Valdez.
- We are slow to fill seasonal positions at the Museum and have tasked permanent staff with manning the front counter during shoulder season. In addition, we have opted to close on two Mondays in May, the 13th and 20th, at which time we do not have enough staff to open at both Museum sites. After school closes, staffing will improve. Several seasonal hires are students or teachers. The demand for the Museum's services during peak season has increased, but the staff needed to deliver services has remained small. This is an issue that we must tackle moving forward. In the meantime, we are going to remain positive that new staff will be added to the Museum roster.

Outreach

- Cruise ship season is upon us with the first arriving in port on April 30th. 299 cruisers visited the Museum and responded very favorably to their experience. There were significant conversations with Carnival and Premier Tours to make the visit a success despite there being very little activity taking place in Valdez during the POC, save visits to the Museum. The Museum yielded \$2935.00 in revenues from Carnival's POC.
- Viking Orion is the next ship in port, scheduled for May 8th. We anticipate a larger crowd will visit the Museum than Carnival's crew and as part of bulk admissions. Faith will give the VMHA's first guided tour of the season to cruisers. Permanent staff and seasonal staff will man the front desks during the day allowing for both Museum sites to open to the public. Our partnership with Premier Tours and Chris Herman, shore ex manager, has resumed and we have begun to communicate often and well about the forthcoming season.

F REVELL VALDEZ MUSEUM & HISTORICAL ARCHIVE ASSOCIATION INC.

Curator of Education & Public Programs' Report Submitted by Faith Revell, Curator of Education & Public Programs April 2024

Reporting period: April 11 to May 7, 2024 Total contacts: 325

Overview: This reporting period was one focused upon re-opening the Museum in its newest iteration, ushering in the cruise ship season and planning for a zillion year-ending school field trips.

Education

Six graders visited the Museum to learn about EVOS and the 1964 Earthquake. They do so in a learning laboratory composed of activity stations that feature oil and water experiments, oil spill mitigation methods, an oil-focused scavenger hunt, visit to our EVOS and AME exhibits and more. After their field trip, they sent me thank you notes:

"Dear Faith, I am going to thank you for setting the Museum for our science class yesterday. My favorite part was cleaning rocks so if you ever do that again in future, it is a good activity to do."

"Thanks for sharing the Museum. I had a lot of fun and learned a lot. I would love to come back and learn more."

All second and third grade classes are scheduled to visit the Museum later in May. It is an annual event for many school students to take a field trip to the Museum at the end of the year.

Programs and Exhibits

Re-opening the Museum

Emerging from the Melt opened in Egan Commons along with the rest of the Museum on Egan. 63 three people attended the re-opening celebration on April 27th and remarked favorably on how the site had been re-imagined. "It's so open." "Amazing history!" "We really enjoyed our visit!"

Brad Sontag, COV project manager, participated and shared information about the HVAC system with attendees. The COV's Finance Director, Jordan Nelson and the COV City Manager, John Douglas, both attended the re-opening and toured the remodeled facility. The remarkably hard work of staff and volunteers led to the opening's success and the transformation of the Museum.

Outreach and Collaboration

Cruise Ship POCs and Museum interface. The Museum welcomed its first cruise ship, Carnival, on April 30. 299 cruisers visited the Museum. Plans are underway to welcome the second ship, one in the Viking Orion fleet, on Wednesday, May 8th. This year cruise ships are arriving early and the Museum staff is challenged with a very small staff in short supply. Faith manages all the guided tours and works closely with Andrea Searles on admissions. The season is forecasted to be a very busy one. And that is good news for the Museum's ability to generate revenue.

Faith participated in HHES Family Reading Night, a much loved event. She read stories about children of the gold rush and *Miss Maples Seeds*, a book about a lovely old lady who cares for orphan seeds.

Faith made the second presentation to the COV of the month, and once again thanked the COV and others for their support of the Museum, inviting those gathered to come visit for the grand re-opening and wishing all a terrific cruise ship season.

Administration, Planning and Institutional Teamwork

Museum staff have assumed the role of designing print material for forthcoming programs and exhibits in Danny Tapp’s absence, and learning software such as Canva, to accomplish this. New banners were designed for the front entrance.

DATE/PROGRAM	E	ED	PP	OR	R	V or IP	#PART	VOL
April								
11 ED candidate interview	x					x	4	6
16 ED search mtng	x					x	1	6
16 COV council mtng	x						x	30
18 VMHA BOD mtng	x					x	x	1
23 mtng	x							8
25 Valdez HS career fair				x				80
25 HHES reading night				x				35
27 Museum r-opening	x						x	63
29 ED Search mtng	x					x		6
30 Carnival cruise ship				x			x	?
May								
3 Free Friday			x					23
3 PWSRCAC annex visit	x						x	12
6 6 th grade field trip		x					x	25
7 6 th grade field trip		x					x	25
E, meetings, events		=	111					
ED, education		=	50					
PP, public programs		=	23					
OR, outreach		=	115					
R, rentals		=	0					
<u>VOL, volunteers</u>		=	<u>26</u>					
Total contacts		=	325					

Explanation of CATEGORIES: x
 E, museum events, meetings; ED, education: PP, public program; R, rental; RO, outreach, includes cruise ship guided tours; V, virtual; IP, in person.

Collections & Exhibitions Report

Submitted by Caren S. Oberg, Curator of Collections & Exhibitions

May 2024

I. EXHIBITIONS

HVAC PROJECT

The refresh and reinstallation of exhibitions in the Main building was the focus of April (followed quickly by readying the Annex for cruise ships). As such, this will be a slightly different report that highlights lessons learned from the HVAC project and exhibition reinstallation.

Acknowledgments

The HVAC project is likely to be one of the fondest projects of my career. This team is nothing short of special. All my thanks to my fantastic colleagues – Faith, Andrea, Emma, and Danny; to our volunteers Rich Dunkin, Glenn Sodergren, Marsha Lynn, Karen Allred, Sara Irwin-Goudreau, Steve Goudreau, Marilyn Moorey (and Kent Runion and Michelle Cullen who assisted in exhibit deinstallation in December), to our City project representatives Brad Sontag and Stan Porritt, our City Maintenance crew Robert, Mike, Stacey, and Andrew and our Orion contractor Jason.

Lessons learned and ideas hatched, specifically regarding exhibitions and objects:

- The *Native Gallery* has been fully rearranged.
 - I look forward to learning from the Native Gallery Committee as to what they would like to do next with the gallery.
 - I greatly appreciate the help from the City Maintenance staff who moved the “temporary” wall from the Gallery. It took 5 people and a special trailer to remove it. Now that space is entirely open. Visitors can move seamlessly between the Native Gallery, Explorers, and Gold Rush. The Native Gallery Committee may want to consider how these three exhibits work together (or not) to tell the story of Prince William Sound.
- Cases throughout the Museum are not made for museum collections.
 - Locks are broken or non-existent, tops of cases can be lifted off easily, and tall cases do not all have actual backs to them.
 - The glass and plexiglass used in these cases do not protect the objects from UV light.
 - Several cases in the Native Gallery, specifically, were extremely heavy glass cases balanced on painted 2x4 supports. These supports were not attached nor the same width as the cases they supported. We chose to dispose of two of these cases. The objects were either moved to other cases or brought to the Annex to Compact Storage.
 - Cases are, across the board, very heavy and require multiple people to move. This prevents flexibility in cleaning, exhibition layout and changing of objects. This then leads to static and unchanging exhibitions and problems with proper object stewardship.

- There are multiple types and lines of track lights throughout the museum. I would like to hire an electrician do a complete work up of the lighting system, specifically but not only:
 - I believe there are wiring issues within the tracks in the Pinzon Bar and Native Gallery.
 - There are several types of fixtures using the same track in several exhibits. Is this safe?
 - Determine the full wattage of the lights aimed at any one case, as that will influence object stewardship.

- About a dozen objects and props were from the exhibits, and objects are being rehoused in the Annex compact storage.
 - Objects removed from the Native Gallery need more context, better cases, and input from the Native Gallery Committee.
 - Objects removed from the Richardson Highway exhibit were done so to focus the story in a very small space.
 - The Joe Bourke carved ivory and rifles are at the Annex while I construct new mounts.

- Lastly, this project was an opportunity to think about museum space in its entirety. Egan Commons has been considered Temporary Exhibition space since at least 1989 (according to a schematic in my file cabinet). Could we consider exhibition space in the Valdez Museum as just that – just “exhibition”. Not temporary or permanent. This may allow for imaging being able to tell current stories with new objects or different stories all together.

Temporary Exhibition Next Exhibition

- The next exhibition is *Artistry of the Alaskan First Peoples: Echoes of Tlingit, Eyak, and Sugpiaq Culture in Sculptured Heritage*. This exhibit will showcase Tlingit artist Kaax̱ Tséen’s models of Alaska Native dugout canoes. There are 6-7 different types of dugout canoes, each are shaped and stylized differently based on the culture (Tlingit, Eyak, or Sugpiaq). Labels and pictures will be placed with the models to discuss these differences. Additional interpretation (by Kaax̱ Tséen) will be included which explains the purpose of developing the models to reengineer (my word) how these canoes were made before these cultural techniques were outlawed by European/American/Russian colonization. This exhibit goes up June 28.

II. COLLECTIONS

Acquisitions & Research

- Acquisitions and research were on hold (unintentionally) for the month of April as the Main building was reinstalled and we readied the Annex for the April 30 and May 8 cruise ships. As of this board report, I am following up on acquisition and research requests.

Collections Committee

- The next quarterly collections committee meeting is on May 20 from 12-1 at the Annex.

VALDEZ MUSEUM & HISTORICAL ARCHIVE ASSOCIATION INC.

**Square Online & QBO: Visitor Service & Store Report
Submitted by Faith Revell, Interim Executive Director**

April 2024

Admissions

April 2023	April 2024	+/-
Free ?	Free ?	Free ?
<i>*Bluestar</i> ?	<i>*Bluestar</i> ?	<i>*Bluestar</i> ?
Paid ?	Paid ?	Paid ?
Total ?	Total ?	Total ?

Store Sales

April 2023	April 2024	+/-
\$830.11	\$831.00	+\$00.96

* Blue Star included in Free count