

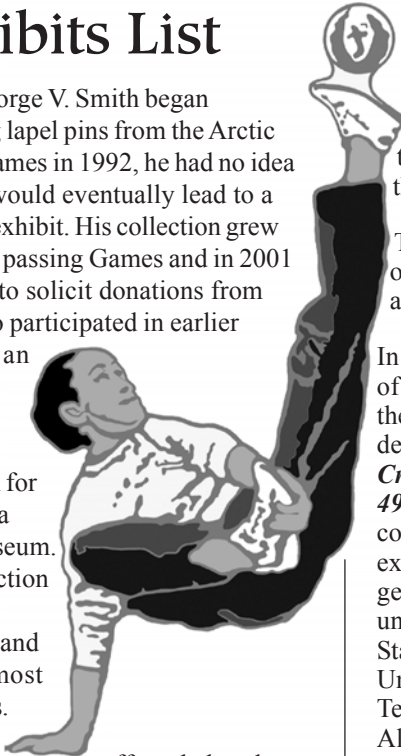
Bulletin

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM, JUNEAU • SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, SITKA

ALASKA
STATE
MUSEUMS

Arctic Winter Games Highlights Growing Traveling Exhibits List

When George V. Smith began collecting lapel pins from the Arctic Winter Games in 1992, he had no idea that this would eventually lead to a museum exhibit. His collection grew with each passing Games and in 2001 he began to solicit donations from those who participated in earlier years in an effort to amass a definitive collection for the Alaska State Museum. The collection is nearly complete and totals almost 1,000 pins.



Smith's efforts led to the development of an exhibition on the history and organization of the Arctic Winter Games which will open at the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center March 2 to coincide with Kenai's hosting of the Arctic Winter Games. The exhibition, titled simply *Arctic Winter Games*, was organized by the Alaska State Museum in Juneau, with Smith as guest curator. The exhibit closes April 15 and will tour the state following its showing in Kenai.

The exhibit describes the evolution of the Games - the sports, awards and cultural activities - as well as the Games' organizational structure. In addition to the collection of pins, the show features photo panels, jackets, team clothing, sports equipment, emblems, mascots, and other memorabilia. A digital panel features

audio clips from past games. Smith has written a catalog to accompany the exhibit describing the Games and their history.

The museum also recently added other exhibits to its roster of shows available to other museums in Alaska:

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Alaska's constitutional convention, the University of Alaska has developed a traveling exhibition titled *Creating Alaska: The Origins of the 49th State*. The State Museum is coordinating its tour of the state. The exhibition offers present and future generations an opportunity to better understand the formation of the great State of Alaska. Curated by well known University of Alaska Professor Terrence Cole, the exhibition illustrates Alaska's statehood milestones and provides an in-depth review of the events and people involved in Alaska's journey to statehood.

Creating Alaska consists primarily of wall panels and audio-visual materials.

Alaska Positive: 35 Years of Award-Winning Photographs presents a survey of those pictures that have won top awards in *Alaska Positive* since 1975. An illustrated catalog accompanies the exhibit, which was organized by

Curator of Exhibitions, Mark Daughhettee. *Alaska Positive* is the premier photography exhibition in Alaska, organized every two years by the State Museum. Jurors have included many of the country's leading photographers, and the award-winning photos are purchased for the museum's collection.

Alaska Positive 2006 will also be available for bookings following its showing in Juneau in March. Alaska Positive tours the state for two years following its selection. The juror this year is noted photographer Patrick Nagatani.

For information on booking any of these exhibits, or any of the other exhibitions traveled by the State Museum, contact Mark Daughhettee at 907-465-4819, or visit our Web site. For copies of exhibition catalogs, go to The Friends Store at: www.foasm.org.



Entering Church Slough, Kuskowim River, a gelatin silver print by Fairbanks photographer James H. Barker, is featured in *Alaska Positive: 35 Years of Award-Winning Photographs*.

New Online Exhibits

The State Museum has added two new solo artist exhibitions to its online offerings. The shows are virtual versions of gallery exhibitions at the museum last fall by Juneau artist Jane Terzis and Anchorage artist Lisa Gray.

The Terzis exhibition is titled *Prayer for the Protection of All Beings*. In a statement about her exhibit, Terzis said: "What might change about my place in the world if I recognize my capacities for good and for bad behavior?" The artist explores this idea through an extensive series of pencil portraits accompanied by used bars of soap on slate shelves.

Terzis is a painting and drawing instructor at the University of Alaska Southeast. She is a longtime resident of Juneau and has exhibited widely in Alaska and outside the state.

The Outraged Body is the title of the exhibit by Lisa Gray. The artist, who is known for her densely layered photographic works that have garnered national attention, is now

producing digital collage and inkjet prints. Her work has often dealt with themes of death, decay and rebirth.

"Nature," says Gray, "especially the body, seems to be my deepest source of inspiration. I merge so much with the figure, that I lose my own identity... The figure has its own compulsions, its own constructions, its own contradictions. As soon as it enters the realm of art, the realm of art has its own logic, its own expansions and its own constraints."

The online exhibits combine photographs of the artworks and gallery installations with artist statements and interviews. Numerous other Web exhibits are also available. Visit: <http://www.museums.state.ak.us/online.htm>



I Have the Capacity for Optimism (detail), by Jane Terzis. Graphite on paper.

Museum Resources on the Web

Are you looking for a one-stop place to find museum resources on the Internet? Google, the all-encompassing search engine provides just such a site. Go to: http://www.google.com/Top/Reference/Museums/Museum_Resources/ You will find resource listings by categories well arranged for searching. This is part of Google Directories, which organizes many other types of information as well.

Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum Receives NEA Grant

The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The \$20,000 grant will be used to support the museum's summer Native Artist Demonstrators Program and to hire an artist as a guest speaker during Native American Heritage Awareness Month next November. The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts. The support period for the grant is March 2006 through September 2007.

The Friends hires Alaska Native artists to demonstrate and interpret their artwork and culture in the Sheldon Jackson Museum. The artists present traditional Alaska Native arts reflected in the museum collections and exhibits, including wood, ivory and silver carving; drum making; beading; skin sewing; and basket and textile weaving. Participating artists are chosen for their skill in tradition-based Native arts, and for their ability and willingness to discuss their work and their culture.

The program helps visitors make a modern-day connection to Native art and culture. The demonstrators, who are of all ages, allow visitors to see that traditional art forms are, and always will be, a part of Native life and culture.

The program will begin the first part of May 2006. Artists' schedules will be announced.



Cass Best, Tlingit beader.

How Would Federal Formula Grants for Museums Work?

We are printing the following report from the American Association for State and Local History because of its importance to the museum field. Please give it your consideration, as it will likely be a topic of discussion at next fall's Museums Alaska Conference, and could be very important to Alaska.

By Sandra Sageser Clark
Chair, AASLH Formula Grant Task Force
Director, Michigan Historical Center

The federal government uses formula grants to the states to achieve broad national purposes while allowing for regional and local differences. Such grants leverage, rather than replace, state and local funding for those purposes.

Libraries, historic preservation, the arts, and many social and health services receive such funding. The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) is inviting state, regional, and national museum service providers and their members to join with it in obtaining such funding for museums. The Council of State Historic Records Coordinators is leading a similar effort for archives. (Contact Kathleen Roe kroe@coshrc.org for details.)

It takes two federal legislative actions to create such funding. The first is authorizing legislation that sets the broad purpose of the grants, the maximum amount that may be spent, and the formula for dividing the funds among the states. Usually the formula includes a base amount for every state with the remainder being divided among the states based on an indicator of relative need, such as population. The second legislative action is the annual appropriation that determines how much will be spent on the grants each year.

Each state determines the state agency that will accept the money and ensure its expenditure in accordance with the federal authorizing law, as well as federal rules and accounting principles.

The authorizing legislation sets the requirements each state must meet. This includes the ratio of state and local matching dollars for the federal funds and may include "maintenance of effort"- keeping state funding at existing levels. It requires statewide planning. It may set the composition of the group that makes the decisions about what projects and organizations receive funding. It may require that a percentage of the funds be spent for a specific purpose, such as supporting small museums.

Because the federal requirements are broad, each state must use an inclusive statewide process to develop a multi-year plan that assesses the needs of the state and how grant funds will be used to meet those needs. That plan is approved and monitored by the federal government. The plan could include statewide initiatives, such as a series of educational workshops. It could include re-grants or consultants to

serve individual organizations. It might focus on capital projects, care of collections, Internet access, or a combination of goals. Each year the state reports progress on its plan, and at designated intervals it is required to develop a new plan.

AASLH has formed a task force to obtain federal formula grants for museums. For details, visit the advocacy section of www.aaslh.org. The current focus of the task force is inviting national museum service providers to be part of the effort. Those who agree to participate will join the task force on the Coalition Committee that drafts the proposed authorizing legislation and then leads the legislative effort. The Council of Regions will have two seats on the Committee, and the National Association of State Museum Associations will have four. We hope to have everyone on board by next spring. In the meantime, we invite your questions, suggestions, and concerns. All will be essential as the Coalition Committee begins its work. Contact Terry Davis (davis@aaslh.org) or me (clarkss@mi.gov) to share your thoughts.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Pratt Museum Receives National Award

Last November the Pratt Museum of Homer was named one of three recipients of the 2005 National Awards for Museum Service, the country's highest honor for extraordinary community service provided by a museum. The award recognizes the powerful role of museums in society and salutes the positive contributions made by each of the winners in making community service central to their missions. A formal awards ceremony took place in Washington D.C. in February and each recipient received \$10,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. "The Pratt is thrilled to be recognized for its service to the Homer community and Kachemak Bay region," said Museum Director, Heather Beggs. "Our museum thrives on community participation and it's the incredibly vibrant stories of our local people that make the Pratt so unique. As a center for dialogue in our community, the Pratt strives to keep exhibits and programs very flexible and changeable, based on community response. We're honored that our efforts and the Homer community have been recognized with this national award."

Changes to Grant-in-Aid

The Alaska State Museum is announcing a change to its Grant-in-Aid (GIA) application process for those requesting GIA support with MAP (Museum Assessment Program) and CAP (Conservation Assessment Program) grants.

Because of changes in the deadlines for these programs, we now ask that those seeking GIA support for regular MAP or CAP grants apply to the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for their MAP or CAP grant prior to applying for supplemental Grant-in-Aid support from the State Museum.

For example: The deadline for MAP applications is now February 15, with notification sometime in June. If you wanted to obtain additional Grant-in-Aid funding for your MAP survey, you would first apply to the IMLS for the MAP by the new Feb. 15 deadline, then apply for the GIA support by our June 1 deadline. You would indicate

on your GIA application that you have already applied for the MAP grant. The GIA funding would be released once you have your award notification for the MAP, which would be at the beginning of our GIA fiscal year. This will shorten the whole process for us by about a year.

Although the deadline for CAP grant applications is earlier, Dec. 1, the process would still be the same.

The bottom line is: we will no longer fund MAP or CAP support if the applicant has not already applied for the MAP or CAP grant. This should help expedite the process for everyone. MAP and CAP surveys are extremely useful for improving and advancing your museum practices. Having participated in the MAP/CAP process improves your chances of obtaining further Grants-In-Aid. If you have any questions, please contact Ken DeRoux at 1-888-913-6873.



Miss Kitty, pigment print, 36 x 24 inches, by Lisa Gray, from her solo artist exhibition, *The Outraged Body*.

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