

## PRESS RELEASE

### Alaska State Museum

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS HIRES CURATOR OF EXHIBITS

Juneau resident Bob Banghart has been named Curator of Exhibits for the Alaska State Museum. Banghart, who earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, brings to the museum more than 30 years of expertise in the museum field. As Banghart and Associates, he has worked with cultural resource managers throughout Alaska developing, improving and promoting their exhibit programs and cultural facilities.

In October 2006, he was awarded the prestigious Museums Alaska Award for Excellence in recognition of his years of service and contributions to museums across Alaska. "His management in exhibition and facilities planning and design, exhibit installations, and his cultural and business consulting to museums across the state have provided a source of local, state, and regional pride," said Museums Alaska President LaRue Barnes.

Some of Banghart's more significant contributions to the museum community include the planning, design and development of: the Inupiat Heritage Center in Barrow; the Skagway City Museum; the Ilanka Cultural Center in Cordova; the Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center in Haines; and the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center and Museum in Bethel.

"Over the past 30-plus years I have had the incredible opportunity to work in every region in Alaska with people passionately involved with protecting and promoting the history and culture of their communities. I look forward now to being able to continue to share that experience in my new position at the Alaska State Museum," Banghart said.

In addition to being known for his expertise in museums, Banghart is also known statewide as a musician. One of the original co-founders of Juneau's annual Folk Festival, he has played in all 32 festivals. In a sense, his coming to work at the Alaska State Museum is like coming full circle: the first folk festival was held at the museum. The first performance went on for two nights and featured a dozen acts and a hundred enthusiastic people in the audience.

“We are extremely pleased to have Bob on board at the Alaska State Museum. He is a wonderful addition to our staff in making a significant contribution to the more than 80 museums and historical societies in the state,” said Bruce Kato, the Alaska State Museums’ Chief Curator.

Winter hours at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. General admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum is available for \$15.

Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

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