



# FRIENDS OF THE ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## *Friends of the Alaska State Museum Presents*

### **The 14th Annual Youth Activity Series**

Weaving, colors, heroes and villains—they're all part this year's free monthly children's activities series beginning this October at the Alaska State Museum.

Through these activities—divided by age group—students will learn the tools, materials and techniques associated with guest artists who have a solo exhibition this year or have works of art in the museum's permanent collection. The artists themselves lead an exploration of arts and culture through hands-on activities designed to stimulate creativity, foster an appreciation of the visual arts and begin a lifelong appreciation for museums.

All classes are free and are offered to the public on a first-come-first-served basis. Please pre-register by calling the museum at 465-2901. Registration begins 2 weeks in advance of the activity date.

The season's first activity takes place on Saturday, Oct. 22, with "Chilkat Weaving Techniques," featuring guest artist Anna Brown Ehlers, a Chilkat weaver from Juneau. Two sessions will be offered at 10 a.m. through noon, and 1 p.m. through 3 p.m. Both sessions are for students in grades 3 through 5 but middle school students may also join the class if space permits. Ms. Ehlers will teach basic traditional weaving skills, using examples of her work from the museum's collection. Students will create their own small weaving; pre-registration has begun.

November's youth activity will be on November 12: "Power Steering the Color Wheel" with guest artist Constance Baltuck. Baltuck's paintings are all about color—the purple oranges of the American Southwest, the coppery reds of autumn in Eastern Europe, the deep blues that infuse the otherwise grey and white of Southeast Alaska. Baltuck shares her secrets with Juneau students as she leads her youth workshop that coincides with her solo exhibition at the Alaska State Museum. Classes are divided by age group into two sessions: 10 a.m. through noon (K–2nd grade), and 1 p.m. through 5 p.m. (3rd–5th grade).

On December 3, Averyl Veliz leads, "Designing Heroes and Villains!" Drawn from her experience creating "A Klondike Tale," also the name of her current solo exhibition at the museum, Veliz will explore various cartoon illustration techniques used in animation, comic books and movies. Classes are divided by age group into two sessions: 10 a.m. through noon (grades 3rd–5th grade), and 1 p.m. through 5 p.m. (5th–8th grade).

Portrait doll artist Mary Ellen Frank's workshop is the December holiday installment of the series. Drawn from her many years of experience crafting intricate Alaska Native portrait dolls for museums and private collectors across the country, Frank will help students create miniature chenille stem action figures with Alaska Native clothing and tools. Using examples of Ms. Frank's work in the Museum collection, as well as Museum artifacts on display for inspiration. Classes are divided by age group into two sessions: Dec. 21, 1 p.m.–3 p.m. (grades 3-5), and Dec. 28, 1 p.m.–3p.m. (grades K–2).

Collectively titled "Exploring Arts and Culture at the Alaska State Museum," the 2011 season marks the fourteenth year of the youth workshops series, sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Museum and funded in part by the citizens of the City and Borough of Juneau through sales tax revenue.

Hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter 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 in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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[www.foasm.org](http://www.foasm.org)