

Linda S. Thibodeau

Director

Division of Libraries, Archives,
& Museums

lam.alaska.gov

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Robert C. Banghart

Deputy Director

395 Whittier St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718
907.465.2901

Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **February 11, 2014**

FINAL FRIDAY - CELEBRATING THE END OF AN ERA

JUNEAU - The Alaska State Museum will close at the end of February to make way for “Phase- 2b” of the new State Libraries, Archives and Museum (SLAM!) building being constructed on the existing museum site. All of Juneau and the museum’s statewide community – former as well as current – friends, volunteers, and staff are invited to a farewell gathering, hosted by The Friends of the Alaska State Museum, from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2014 – the very last day the museum will be open to the public. Much like New Year’s Eve, “Final Friday” will be a time for reveling, reflection and remembrances. In good company – and with live music – this is an opportunity to add your own personal museum memories, sentiments, and images to a five-decade timeline, take a long last look at the exhibits on the first floor, and glimpse behind-the-scenes at the packing and a good segment of the museum’s spectacular paintings that are currently being staged salon-style and without interpretive labels on the otherwise gutted second floor.

The museum is open to the public with free admission through all of February. During the final two weeks, the museum memories timeline will be up on the walls surrounding the eagle nesting tree ramp. Included on the timeline will be listings of temporary exhibits, several images, old posters, and the names of over 1,300 volunteers and just under 300 museum staff and contractors who have been involved in the museum between 1967 and 2014. There will also be plenty of blank sheets and pens for you to help complete and share the institutional memory for posterity, and you’re invited to affix photographs as well.

Add your memories to our Five Decade Timeline, online after February 19, at <http://museums.alaska.gov/Forms/MuseumMemories>.

Erected in 1967, the Alaska State Centennial Museum building was one of many projects in Alaska celebrating the centennial of the purchase of Alaska from Russia. The building—nicknamed the “Million Dollar Museum”—was designed by architect Linn A. Forrest and funded in part by the first-ever sales tax approved by the citizens of Juneau to house the State’s treasures that had been collected since 1900. Since that time, the collection has grown from 5,500 objects and specimens to more than 32,000 —mostly donations from Alaskans. Almost fifty years later, the preservation of and access to this large public collection requires an expanded facility.

After closing, and once the museum’s collection has been safely relocated to the new secure vault now under construction, a few of the 30-foot tall cast concrete panels with a stylized *flicker feather* design that clad the building will be carefully removed, and the building will be demolished to make way for a grand new facility. In the new state-of-the art facility, the museum will be joined by the Alaska State Archives and State Library including the Historical Library, and will open to the public in April, 2016. The 118,000 square foot facility will feature museum galleries, a large 125-seat multi-purpose room, public reading and research rooms, a classroom, a museum store, and café.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

www.museums.alaska.gov

[return to top](#)
[press releases](#) | [Alaska State Museums](#)