



# Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum

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*Mission Statement: The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum is dedicated to supporting the Sheldon Jackson Museum and its unique Alaska Native ethnographic collection through advocacy, acquisition and educational programming.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** January 2, 2013

## **Gala Event at Sheldon Jackson Museum**

The public is cordially invited to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Native Artist Demonstrator Program at the Sheldon Jackson Museum on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8 p.m. The evening will begin with the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum's annual meeting. Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections for the Alaska State Museum in Juneau, will follow with a presentation, "Alaska Native Headgear." With a focus on art history, his lecture will cover the many types and styles of headgear worn by a variety of Alaska Native groups including the spectacular hats and headdresses worn by the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian.

The evening will continue with a traditional Native foods buffet, Native dancers from Mount Edgecumbe High School, and an Alaska Native art silent auction. The proceeds from the auction will be used to support the Native Artist Demonstrator Program. Music will be provided by local musicians Dave Galanin and Gary Gouker, with special guest, Bob Banghart.

The Native Artist Demonstrator Program began in 1987 during the museum's centennial with Native artists volunteering to demonstrate their art at the museum. In following years, the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum joined in a partnership with the Sitka Fine Arts Camp to bring Alaska Native artists from throughout the state to share their art, both at the museum and with students. The program has been supported over the years by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Alaska Airlines, and donations by local businesses and individuals. Overall, 70 Alaskan Native artists have participated in the Native Artist Demonstrator Program.

Admission for this event is free. For more information contact Mary Boose, Business Manager for the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum, at 747-6233.

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