



## ASM/Museums Alaska Chat

April 26, 11 am  
Session 47

**Scott Carrlee:** Hi Della

**Della Hall:** Sorry, Scott, just seeing your email about the logo... I'll get that to you for next time.

**Heather McClain (SHI):** Hello!

**Della Hall:** Hi Heather

**Scott Carrlee:** Hi Heather

**Scott Carrlee:** Yes Della we will get the Museums Alaska Logo in there next time.

**Della Hall:** Hi Helen

**Scott Carrlee:** Hi Helen, glad you could join in

**Helen Alten:** Hi Everyone. It is so beautiful here - sunny and stunning. Having a hard time sitting at a computer.

**Scott Carrlee:** same here in Juneau. What about Fairbanks?

**Della Hall:** That sounds great! Cloudy here today, but we've just had about two weeks of beautiful weather, and it's in the 40s and 50s, so I am not complaining!

**Helen Alten:** Tomorrow we get two more totem poles erected in town, so I was out looking at the progress at the site. Beautiful.

**Scott Carrlee:** Where will they go up?

**Helen Alten:** The Soboloff-McCrae Veterans Building. Up 2nd. 2nd and Dalton? Not sure of the cross street. Above the former "Indian Village

**Scott Carrlee:** Nice!

**Scott Carrlee:** Still snow on the ground?

**Helen Alten:** I think all the snow is gone now. Even the big piles.

**Della Hall:** Oh man, I wish it was gone. So much snow this year.

**Scott Carrlee:** Hi Sue, How are things in Talkeetna?

**Della Hall:** Hi Sue!

**Sue Deyoe:** It's rainy and cold. Have to run to Anchorage later, appointments all day tomorrow

**Helen Alten:** What is our topic today?

**Scott Carrlee:** Good question! Since this is the first chat we have had in about two years, I thought we would just have a free forum

**Scott Carrlee:** Do you have a topic you would like to address Helen?

**Scott Carrlee:** Hi Bob, glad you could join us

**Della Hall:** Hi Bob!

**Helen Alten:** I was wondering if there are any updates on NEH, IMLS and NEA?

**Scott Carrlee:** Yeah good question. I have been watching the news. It seems there was a lot about it when the budget proposal came out but then nothing

**Della Hall:** Yes, I haven't heard anything new.

**Scott Carrlee:** As Bob pointed out in his email yesterday the deadline for the NEH PAG grants is coming up. They seem to be going about their business as usual

**Scott Carrlee:** I do the same for Grant in Aid. Until they say otherwise we go forward with the grant process. Speaking of Grant in Aid, the deadline is coming up in about a month. Does anyone have a project they would like to discuss?

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Scott, I have a general question about GIA statistics. Are you getting more applications, fewer, same? Funds being limited by the state situation?

**Scott Carrlee:** That is a good question Bob. I have noticed a drop off in the number of applications. I attribute it more to the emergence of the Collections Management Fund that Museums Alaska Administers more so than lack of state support. That is a good thing though. People have more choices and the CMF comes up more often. So I think some people are only able to do one or the other because they just don't have the time to do too many grant funded projects

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** NEH PAG said they have a ~32% or so success rate. I was surprised.

**Helen Alten:** I was thinking of talking to you about a project related to our upcoming Shaman's River exhibit. Either exhibit furniture or educational program development. Any comments?

**Scott Carrlee:** Well Helen, that is a good example of something the GIA will fund but I don't think the CMF will fund. Maybe Della could comment but I don't think CMF funds exhibits projects

**Della Hall:** I'm also happy to field any comments or questions regarding the Art Acquisition Fund and Collections Management Fund. Yes, Scott, you are exactly right

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** When I ran AMIPA we didn't have the capacity to write the smaller grants.

**Helen Alten:** I am loving the CMF program! I see it opening up our opportunities for GIA. As you know, I used GIA for interns to gain more staff. Now I am hiring collections interns through CMF and can use GIA for exhibits and programming. Again, we can ask for interns or we can think more broadly.

**Della Hall:** That's great Helen

**Scott Carrlee:** So to comment on your idea Helen, it sounds like this exhibit will be a pretty big project? So with GIA proposals that are part of a larger project like an exhibit, I caution that the GIA portion of it be well defined. Not just a lump sum as part of a bigger project budget. The review committee likes to know exactly what the GIA funds are going for

**Helen Alten:** Yes, our biggest need is staffing. The borough cut another part-time position for us, so we are now relying more on interns than ever before. Luckily, the interns have been amazing. We got funds from the Sesquicentennial Committee to create an exhibit "Across the Shaman's River." The funds pay for paper and ink, oral histories, and research time in Juneau. But we are realizing the project has so much more potential and we should piggy back on it.

**Scott Carrlee:** That sounds good Helen, I would just make sure that the GIA project is discreet from all the other funding

**Helen Alten:** So Scott, we were thinking of more Plexiglas plinth tops (which will be used for years to come on all sorts of exhibits), or to hire a contractor to create educational kits and school programming about this exhibit.

**Scott Carrlee:** Either one of those would work Helen

**Helen Alten:** Thanks Scott.

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** How does CMF handle requests large institutions that may have several departments interested in applying? I'm helping a client plan a multi-year media preservation effort and it can be a bit tricky making sure the requirements of all funding sources be honored.

**Della Hall:** In answer to Bob's question: CMF grants are limited to one proposal per institution per grant cycle (we have two cycles per year). I know that some other large institutions run into this problem, and handle it by rotating who applies each round. Does that answer your question Bob?

**Scott Carrlee:** As to Bob's question, I can't speak for CMF the way Della can but for GIA when it is a large multi-year project we can fund that but the proposal needs to outline that it is a phased project. We have had several large proposals that were broken down into multi-year phases of the project

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Thanks for the info!

**Helen Alten:** For CMF, I try to tie the grants to our main initiatives, but break those initiatives into smaller chunks.

**Della Hall:** That's a great approach Helen.

**Scott Carrlee:** And just to comment on that 32% for success rate for PAG grants, while that is high compared to IMLS grants which are somewhere near 17%, I still don't think that is a great success rate. That means 68% of the projects did not get funding. But still I guess that is just the way it is with grant funding. I think last year GIA funding 80% of the requests

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Helen, make sure you have a digital plan for the oral histories you will be collecting. In our experience, grantors like to know that is well in hand.

**Helen Alten:** I agree. NEH is hard for grants. We get them, but it is easier to go for more local grants. Our community foundation is becoming more and more a factor in our fundraising.

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Scott, I'd assumed it was much lower, so I was positively impressed.:-)

**Scott Carrlee:** I agree that most federal grants have a lower success rate than that

**Helen Alten:** they are now giving about \$1000 each year to non-profits. Again, they take a part of the project. So with the archives rehousing project, they funded acid-free cardboard for making book folders and sleeves for photographs.

**Scott Carrlee:** That is great Helen, what is the income source for the community foundation?

**Sue Deyoe:** Community foundations are great for all that have them! Most of the community foundations are under the umbrella of Alaska Community Foundation. Ours got started with a huge boost Rasmuson and Mat Su Health Foundation

**Helen Alten:** Scott, why are GIA not funded? What kicked the 20% out?

**Scott Carrlee:** well, first of all, I don't think that 100% funding should be the goal of any grant program. It is good to have there be some competition. Some grants are just really poorly written and for projects that are not really mission driven so they didn't get funded. And there is still always more requests than GIA funding.

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Scott, I'm ignorant: are there any rules regarding applying for CMF and GIA? e.g., one or the other each year, etc.?

**Amy Carney:** Bob, for the GIA eligibility: [http://museums.alaska.gov/grant\\_in\\_aid\\_eligibility.html](http://museums.alaska.gov/grant_in_aid_eligibility.html)

**Scott Carrlee:** And also to your question Bob, GIA and CMF are two totally separate grants separate entities, right Della?!

**Della Hall:** Bob, regarding your question about rules for applying for CMF and GIA - they are administered by separate organizations (Scott administers one, and I administer the other), so you should look at their rules separately. Beat me to it, Scott!

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** A Grantors Competition! ha.

**Della Hall:** guidelines for CMF can be found here: <https://museumsalaska.org/collections-management-fund/>

**Scott Carrlee:** GIA is a state appropriation and CMF is a pass through grant from the Rasmuson foundation that is administered by Museums Alaska in a similar fashion to the Art Acquisition fund. We are lucky to have these grant opportunities for small museums in Alaska. There is far less competition than for the national grants

**Della Hall:** Agreed. And I'm always happy to chat on the phone or over email before you submit your application to answer any questions

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Yup.

**Scott Carrlee:** I would hope that a small museum would cut its teeth so to speak by writing one of these before they go for an IMLS grant. But by the same token, I would also like to see more small museums try for the bigger grants too

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Capacity building.

**Scott Carrlee:** that is a key phrase and something that IMLS in particular looks for. NEH is really about access and IMLS is really about building institutional capacity

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Rasmuson too as I recall.

**Scott Carrlee:** Yes that is a good point. With the CMF fund Rasmuson is trying to help build capacity with smaller grants that they don't have to administer. But they also have their big grants which museums could and should apply directly for. Right Sue?!

**Sue Deyoe:** I'm working on that! We're starting in on a predevelopment situation (this fall) Meaning rehabilitation of museum, inside and outside...grounds and buildings. Nothing has been done to the historic buildings except Band-Aids for the last 40 years (well, more than that)

**Scott Carrlee:** Sue that sounds like a huge undertaking but if not now than when? I have to say that I love your museum in Talkeetna.

**Sue Deyoe:** Well, I realize it's about a 10 year project.

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Talkeetna Historical Society..?

**Sue Deyoe:** yes

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Sue, I'd expect you need a big corporate sponsor or two..?

**Sue Deyoe:** Oh, yeah...more than one or 2!

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Do you have any knowledge of a project that received an RF grant direct AND a CMF? I'm working with Alaska Center for Documentary Film at Museum of the North. Film preservation and collections access.

**Scott Carrlee:** I bet there is some great stuff in that collection

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** The thing about film collections, if you have the production materials, is the outtakes can hold a wealth of oral history and interviews. Often so valuable.

**Scott Carrlee:** I had not thought of that Bob

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** The film has 2 minutes, the camera recorded an hour, for example..

**Scott Carrlee:** Ok we have a little time left, does anyone have a new topic or can give us an update on your projects

**Della Hall:** If you don't have a topic for right now, you can also suggest something we can discuss next time

**Scott Carrlee:** yeah good idea Della

**Scott Carrlee:** We can try and have a theme for the chats too or a guest speaker. I have an offer from someone on our staff to go over copyright

**Della Hall:** oh? that's great!

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Beginning the digitization of several thousand videotapes, 3 preservation and disaster plans for clients, storage assessments, finishing several videos on Inupiaq elders.

**Della Hall:** Sounds like you're busy Bob!

**Scott Carrlee:** There is a lot of video in this state

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Yeah and the clock is ticking...:-(

**Helen Alten:** So Rasmuson funded the contractors to install our compactor shelving. The state gave us their old shelving. Alaska Marine Lines donated shipping for the shelving. The Community foundation paid for the book boxes and photo sleeves, a local business donated their old file cabinets, and the CMF paid for a six month intern to move the archives into the new storage area. That is how a big project becomes lots of small projects.

**Scott Carrlee:** Nice going Helen,

**Della Hall:** Helen, that is truly collaborative

**Scott Carrlee:** that project was really huge and I am glad someone could re-use the compactor shelving. That is always tricky

**Helen Alten:** :) They still have more of it!!!!

**Scott Carrlee:** Yes we do!!

**Helen Alten:** But we couldn't have done that if we didn't have a clear idea of what we needed and then figured out how to get it.

**Della Hall:** Scott, just to clarify, are you saying there is more compact storage up for grabs?

**Scott Carrlee:** yes there is

**Della Hall:** Good to know!

**Scott Carrlee:** But it is tricky as Helen can attest to, because you really have to have a de-install team and an install team that knows what they are doing

**Della Hall:** yes, I imagine

**Helen Alten:** Oh, some of it is MUCH nicer than what we got. But it was too tall for our room.

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Keeping it from being tweaked in the disassembly and reassembly can be awkward.

**Helen Alten:** I really wanted ALL of it.:)

**Scott Carrlee:** Helen lucked out to find contractors who could do it

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Great job.

**Helen Alten:** Dawson Construction took it apart, packed it into a container, and then reassembled it. They even knocked out the dents when it was used by the State.

**Scott Carrlee:** You are right Bob, it can be messed up pretty quickly

**Della Hall:** Wow

**Helen Alten:** They made sure the floor was perfectly level and they oil all the chains and fixed up the units. We got an extra carriage just in case - now I am storing it in our shed! That carriage had some shipping damage. But that was it. Really amazing.

**Helen Alten:** Digitization is on our radar for next year or two years now. This year was inventory and an archives pilot project for unprocessed materials - getting finding aids online.

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Never saw an institution without backlog, ever.

**Scott Carrlee:** That is true Bob

**Scott Carrlee:** So I really appreciate you all joining in on the resumption of the museum chat.

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** Welcome back!!

**Della Hall:** Yes, thank you!

**Helen Alten:** Scott, thanks for restarting them! This was great.

**Bob Curtis-Johnson:** And thanks for sharing.

**Scott Carrlee:** Della and I will be doing this every month for the foreseeable future

**Sue Deyoe:** thanks!

**Heather McClain (SHI):** thank you!

**Scott Carrlee:** Please mark your calendars for May 24th!!

**Helen Alten:** Thank you!

**Scott Carrlee:** See you next time

## Next Chat Session

May 24<sup>th</sup> 11 am