



ASM/Museums Alaska Chat

October 11, 11 am

Session 52

Scott Carrlee: Hi Amy

Amy Carney: Hello!

Scott Carrlee: Hi Della

Della Hall: Hi Scott and Amy!

Amy Carney: Hi Della!

Scott Carrlee: Its nice to be back on the chat

Della Hall: Nice to have you!

Della Hall: Hi Leslie!

Della Hall: It looks like Leslie called in...is there any way to remove the prompt that pops up when you log in that asks you to call in? It is a bit confusing for people who are newer to the chats.

Scott Carrlee: that is a good question

Amy Carney: No. I've looked into it. I'd love to.

Leslie Fried: should I disconnect my audio connection? easy to do

Scott Carrlee: there might be times when we use that function but most chats are typed

Leslie Fried: ok

Amy Carney: It's a great platform, but very little customization can happen our end. :(

Scott Carrlee: The typed chats give us a transcript which people like to read,

Leslie Fried: makes total sense!

Scott Carrlee: I guess we can start, I hope some more people join in

Scott Carrlee: I thought we could chat a bit about the conference

Scott Carrlee: unless Leslie has some specific questions or topics

Leslie Fried: It's always such a high to see everyone!

Scott Carrlee: what was your favorite session?

Leslie Fried: The opening address the prison museum in Phillie

Leslie Fried: inspiring

Scott Carrlee: That is a really interesting place

Leslie Fried: the use of art to support the issues

Scott Carrlee: I once read a grant proposal them

Leslie Fried: really?

Scott Carrlee: I thought it was a terrific place, one that i would like to visit some day

Leslie Fried: I did question him at a session about the possible contradiction in fundraising via Halloween parties

Scott Carrlee: what did he say?

Della Hall: Leslie, I liked that you asked that, but I felt he sort of brushed it off, I think it's something he will continue to battle with.

Leslie Fried: He said it was something that has bothered him at times as well, i.e. shall we dress as convicts, or dancing over the bones of the mistreated, etc... He said it's tough they make so much money it to support the really important stuff

Scott Carrlee: It is such a huge building complex, I got the impression that they were only using a portion of it. Seems like a lot of potential there for future growth

Leslie Fried: yes they are working on additional parts now I believe

Scott Carrlee: what else did you find inspiring about his talk?

Leslie Fried: he is definitely a force the way he is so open to new possibilities and works hard to make ideas come alive...and the way he manages his team

Scott Carrlee: I bet the idea of having a team really appeals to you!!

Leslie Fried: yes a team is a wonderful concept...tee hee!

Scott Carrlee: I always love the keynote addresses. I get a nugget of something inspirational from each one. That is what Museums Alaska does really well by bringing in these outside speakers

Leslie Fried: Yes they are one of the absolute highlights

Della Hall: It is interesting you bring that up, Scott. We've received mixed feedback that sometimes outside speakers don't "understand" Alaska's specific issues, and it might be better to choose a keynote more local.

Scott Carrlee: Well... it has been my experience after attending 15 meetings that the ones I remember most are with an outside keynote.

Della Hall: Thanks for that, Scott.

Scott Carrlee: were there any other sessions that stood out for you?

Leslie Fried: Willie Hensley's talk was great also

Scott Carrlee: What did he talk about?

Leslie Fried: The Native experience at the time of Cession I believe...unless I'm confusing this

Scott Carrlee: I am still kind of mad that I couldn't attend last minute so I am trying to live vicariously through those of you who did attend, that sounds interesting

Della Hall: I didn't get to see Willie Hensley speak. Sorry I missed it.

Leslie Fried: I was impressed with how he managed to talk about powerful subjects involving race hatred with sensitivity and without malice

Scott Carrlee: that is beautiful, that is our only way out of this

Leslie Fried: he is a great speaker....he said he didn't get a timely communication and that's why he didn't make it to the opening address.

Leslie Fried: I liked the problem solving session where people shared their museums' controversial issues

Scott Carrlee: who led that session?

Leslie Fried: I can't remember but she was great!

Leslie Fried: we tried to come up with ideas to help the Raptor Center

Scott Carrlee: you mean the raptor center in Haines or a different one?

Leslie Fried: Haines

Scott Carrlee: oh interesting. I work a lot with them

Scott Carrlee: They have a very challenging situation

Scott Carrlee: part zoo-like entity, part natural history museum

Leslie Fried: fear about development in the area of mining maybe? Bad for the habitat

Scott Carrlee: well yes, there is a lot of gold mining in Haines. The Discovery Channel does a show called Gold Rush and a huge part of it takes place north of Haines, it is basically strip mining for gold

Leslie Fried: their Board is not "on board" in a sense...the speaker is afraid to speak out too strongly

Leslie Fried: I miss the poetry workshop though

Scott Carrlee: interesting, there was it a poetry workshop?

Leslie Fried: I attended at 2 conferences....Sitka and I think Seward

Leslie Fried: or maybe Cordova

Della Hall: a poetry workshop at the conference?

Leslie Fried: Michelle Dent NYC

Scott Carrlee: oh yeah I remember her she has been doing stuff like that for a while up here

Leslie Fried: She has been unable to do it for a couple of years because of her mom's health in NY

Scott Carrlee: I think it was part of her dissertation or something

Leslie Fried: She would love to continue but if she can't there are so many wonderful poets in Anchorage and around the state. I think it is valuable or even a workshop on narrative writing or label writing where you actually do it and read out loud

Scott Carrlee: a label writing workshop it probably long overdue. I remember my predecessor, Ken DeRoux did one back in 2002 but I can't remember if one has been done since then

Leslie Fried: I thought the food laid out each day was spotty

Leslie Fried: for the conference in general

Scott Carrlee: that is important to note, I think some meetings it has been really good, Like Haines last time and when it was in Juneau in 2006 or 7 but other times sparse

Della Hall: food tends to always be a point of contention...

Leslie Fried: Juneau last year was great!

Scott Carrlee: I think people tend to want to grab something at the conference between sessions really quick

Della Hall: we're revising the procedures document for the host community, so these are important bits of information!

Scott Carrlee: that is really good Della

Leslie Fried: sometimes no water for tea or out of coffee, or no food between morning sessions

Leslie Fried: so had to buy at the stand

Scott Carrlee: I have watched the conference fees creep up over the years which is necessary as costs increase but people should also be getting something for those fees.

Leslie Fried: but the lunch and the dinner were good!

Scott Carrlee: Della were you able to attend any sessions?

Della Hall: I tried to pop around to all of them for a bit, to take photos and listen in.

Scott Carrlee: was the conference well attended?

Leslie Fried: There was a lot of attention this year paid to the theme of the Cession and Native rights (or lack thereof)

Scott Carrlee: I know that Anchorage is usually a good central location and a lot more people can afford to attend

Della Hall: I believe so! I don't have the final numbers, but it was above 200 at least. Someone said 250 at one point, but I wondered if it was accurate.

Scott Carrlee: Even if they mostly go shopping

Leslie Fried: as well as the Russian influence - negative and positive. Willie touched upon very sensitive stuff. I was curious about the thoughts of the many Russians in the room.

Della Hall: Yes, shopping in Anchorage is a draw :)

Leslie Fried: very well attended I think

Scott Carrlee: There were Russians in the room?

Leslie Fried: Lots!!!

Scott Carrlee: interesting

Della Hall: AHS invited some special guests

Scott Carrlee: Like Russia Russians or Alaska Russians

Leslie Fried: Because they also presented...in fact one of my favorite sessions was the one on Russian artists work portraying AK early on

Della Hall: Russia

Scott Carrlee: wow that must have been cool, so where is this art, in Russia?

Leslie Fried: There is a website where u can search the works of the Russian artists. I would have to look through my stuff to find it....very valuable resource!

Leslie Fried: I think in various museums

Scott Carrlee: that art is so interesting because it really is a window into that time, before photographs even

Leslie Fried: yes

Leslie Fried: I must leave the chat as I have to appear as if I'm working

Della Hall: Thanks for joining Leslie!

Scott Carrlee: Thanks for joining in Leslie, you really made this one happen! I guess we have to work on getting more people to attend these

Della Hall: and thanks for the feedback on the conference

Leslie Fried: one thing I have to add is that one of the key rooms used had consistent tech issues...very annoying

Leslie Fried: never experienced that before at a conference

Scott Carrlee: that can be very annoying

Della Hall: good point Leslie

Scott Carrlee: I would have expected the Anchorage museum to have pretty good tech

Della Hall: Don't forget to respond to the conference evaluation survey. I sent the link out on Monday

Leslie Fried: see you guys!!! Thank-you for this...I will have more time to attend now that my never ending exhibit project is complete (more or less)

Della Hall: bye Leslie! Thanks!

Scott Carrlee: bye Leslie, keep up the good work

Della Hall: Scott, in response to the attendance issue, we had a good turnout with our guest host Amy Steffian talking about grant writing. Maybe we should work on a slate of guest hosts to draw people?

Leslie Fried: Thanks Scott, and Della and Amy!!!

Scott Carrlee: I think that is a great idea

Amy Carney: Bye Leslie!

Scott Carrlee: I think I used to get by with just people asking random questions but no more

Della Hall: I think people might be overloaded at work, too... They need a bit more to draw them in. I'll ask the Museums Alaska board to help me generate ideas!

Scott Carrlee: I heard from two people who were gushing about Amy Steffian's grant writing tips

Della Hall: I'll have to channel my inner Scott to keep the conversation going! You're so good at that.

Scott Carrlee: thanks, I just love to chat!!

Della Hall: :)

Scott Carrlee: I do like it when people have a lot of random questions about museums, kind of like stump the curator. That is what it used to be like but now maybe people don't have as many questions so themes might work better?

Della Hall: yeah, that's fun!

Della Hall: Ok, I'll put November 15th on my calendar and start soliciting ideas

Amy Carney: I'll send out the invite to you two.

Scott Carrlee: ok thanks

Scott Carrlee: let's work on that

Della Hall: thanks Scott!

Della Hall: Nice chatting with you!

Amy Carney: Glad you could make it, Scott. :)

Della Hall: thanks Amy!

Scott Carrlee: I am signing off now, I will put out the transcript with a strongly worded statement about attendance

Scott Carrlee: just kidding

Della Hall: Bye everyone.

Next Chat Session

November15, at 11 am