



Alaska State Museum

ASM Museum Chat

Nov. 9, 11 am
Session 15

Scott Neel: Am I early or late? :_)

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Scott you are the first

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Katie maybe you were the first

Katie O.: Hi Scott & Scott

Scott Neel: Hello Katie

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): So we will wait a minute and then get started

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I think people are slow to log on today

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hey Katie and Scott will you be able to write me a support letter for the XRF grant?

Scott Neel: Which grant is this?

Katie O.: Yes, no worries. Is this the same equipment that UAF personnel were using to trace obsidian deposits?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I sent a message out on the Akmuseum listserv on Monday

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I can forward the message to you Scott

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Wendy

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Marnie

Wendy Goldstein: Hi there! How is everyone?

Marnie: Hello!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Yes Katie is that machine

Katie O.: OK, thanks

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I think it will be a really useful tool for us to have

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): So it might be a small group today because I have had several people say they could not make it.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Jane

Jane Lindsey: hello everyone

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): So we can get started and others will probably log on

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): does anyone have a question or a topic

Wendy Goldstein: I am thinking about those in Nome and the coast right now.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Yeah I was going to call Laura at the Carie McLain

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I hope she is doing ok.

Jane Lindsey: good thought, what are they doing to secure collections against disasters?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): She has an Emergency preparedness plan that includes moving the collections upstairs

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): The museum is right on the water

Wendy Goldstein: oh geesh

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): they have had problems with storm surges before

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Jerrie

Jerrie: Hi. Just got in from another meeting.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): We were just discussing the bad storm up in Nome

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I am planning to call Laura Samuelson and see if she needs anything

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I know they have this one case that was designed with wheels so that it could be put on the elevator and moved upstairs to the library.

Jane Lindsey: what a great resource you are!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Thanks Jane

Jane Lindsey: I have a question - related to disasters, what kind of fire suppression systems do others have and recommend for their facilities?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That is a good question. There was a posting recently about fire suppression on the MuseumL. It was basically asking about pre-action vs. wet pipe

Katie O.: We moved from Halon to a double interlock pre-action system.

Jane Lindsey: I have heard so many different things about the pros and cons of water, and chemicals.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Katie, why did you guys go with pre-action

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): In our plans for the new State Library Archives and Museum building here in Juneau we have decided on Wet pipe and we will be abandoning our halon system

Jane Lindsey: how did you make that decision, Scott?

Katie O.: Halon is not a good concept for our building. We cannot create a sealed environment in this log building.

Marnie: I have read lots of debates about fire suppression, mostly revolving around dry or wet pipe, dry being recommended it seems. What is pre-action?

Katie O.: We debated mist vs. water and it ultimately came down to costs

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Ellen did a bunch of research and I think she posted it on her blog. I think dry and pre-action are the same thing

Katie O.: But with a pre-action system, the water is held in a pressurized tank not in the pipes

Marnie: that's what we have

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Katie did you consider just a traditional wet pipe system? The posting on MuseumL was about how there are more problems with pre-action or dry pipe systems than there are with wet pipe

Katie O.: We did consider traditional wet pipe system but that introduced the risk of flooding or water damage with a frozen or broken pipe scenario

Katie O.: Since we have eaves in our building that can get quite cold we wanted to avoid have water in the pipes

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That is the one scenario that they say is dangerous with wet pipe

Katie O.: With pre-action also all discharges are localized. It won't discharged in all rooms in the event of a fire, just the room where the sprinkler heads reach a certain temp

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): In a traditional building or new construction there is very little (read no) danger of the pipes freezing

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I think I saved the posting from museumL and can send it to you Jane.

Jane Lindsey: Thanks Scott, this is all very helpful.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): The one problem I read about with Pre-action is that you have to test them every so often and in testing them you get the pipes wet, then that little bit of water sits there and corrodes the pipes. I don't know why this does not happen with the total water filled pipe but it may have to do with the availability of oxygen

Wendy Goldstein: So our traditional sprinkler system is probably status quo for a museum?

Katie O.: Yes, that's true, there is an annual flush of the system. And the maintenance is expensive

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): there is a very low failure rate.

Marnie: is the annual maintenance (flush) required by law?

Katie O.: not sure if there is a legal requirement or regulatory recommendation or ... its part of our overall maintenance agreement

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): So yes Wendy it seems that the standard sprinkler is just fine But in a situation like Katie's where there is a chance of freezing the balance is tipped towards the pre-action

Jane Lindsey: I think it all shows that the solution must live within the building and all buildings will have different challenges.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That is true Jane

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): There was some discussion of the Halon replacements like FM200 and others. I think the jury is still out whether these can do it for museums. I also think they are more expensive than wet pipe. I will definitely try and find the posting and send it out via the akmuseums list

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That was a great question, anyone have another one?

Marnie: Any resources you know about for store development, particularly design or how to display products. Or any professional groups to join? I have RC-WR, RC-AAM, etc. as resources. What resources are out there for museum stores?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That is a really good question. I don't know off hand but maybe someone else does?

Jerrie: There is a store association. I would have to look up the name.

Jane Lindsey: great question, we are always trying to improve our gift shop revenues.

Wendy Goldstein: Museum Store Association

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I know there are always a whole lot of sessions at AAM

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I wonder if there is a list serve just for museum stores?

Jerrie: Thanks, Wendy. We belonged for a while but our store manager didn't think it was very helpful for our small museum.

Wendy Goldstein: Yes, if you are looking for stuff on how to get Native art or local art, it's not helpful, but they do have articles about store management and product placement

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Welcome Andrew

Andrew Goldstein: Hi, sorry I'm late...had to reinstall Java

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): so to recap for Andrew

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): We have discussed the storm surge in Nome

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): which fire suppression systems to use in museums

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): and what help there is for museum stores

Marnie: Cool, MSA is a good start.

Jane Lindsey: I am curious, do any of you know what your biggest selling gift store item is - ours is a local trail guide for \$1.

Wendy Goldstein: locally made soaps

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I don't know for the state museum but that is a good question which I will ask our store manager

Andrew Goldstein: Paperback books -- visitors like small things they can transport when traveling

Jane Lindsey: good point, we also seem to sell local books.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): There is a lady that makes great soap in Haines

Jerrie: Gina St. Claire

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Yeah she makes this great shaving soap

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I bought some this summer

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): It will probably last me 6 months so it is not much of a market for her

Andrew Goldstein: Try it on your head, you will use more.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I do use it on my head!!

Jerrie: Our store manager just got off the phone. She said we sell more \$10 locally designed zipper pulls and pins.

Wendy Goldstein: the key is LOCAL

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I am curious whether any of you with museum stores get flack from other gift shops in town?

Wendy Goldstein: No because I try actively to sell stuff that no one else in town sells.

Andrew Goldstein: We try to coordinate with other stores in town so as to not compete, especially with competing museums

Wendy Goldstein: lol

Katie O.: We don't, not that I know of. But we don't do a lot of advertising for the shop

Jane Lindsey: we have heard comments and we try to sell items directly from our collections like what Andrew said.

Jane Lindsey: not our collections, of course, I mean prints of photos and paintings...

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): haha jane I was going to say!!

Andrew Goldstein: How many of you have done product development from your collections? We'd like to do more of that.

Jerrie: In the early days of our 30-year-old museum we did. Part of the issue was that we didn't charge sales tax, making the price lower. So we now pay sales tax. Our local bookstore, however sees us as competition.

Katie O.: The Alutiiq does a great job with product development

Andrew Goldstein: What sort of products?

Marnie: I was thinking we need to do more! We use petroglyphs and logos, but not so much objects from the colls.

Jane Lindsey: yes, we do try to do this and we are surprised at what does and does not fly off the shelf. cards of paintings on collection will move, but not fly off the shelf. T-shirts and items with our logo we have done. We have asked local artists to design baby-onesies for us with an exclusive design.

Katie O.: I was thinking of the products from Giinaquq

Wendy Goldstein: Does anyone know how much of your store products have to directly relate to your mission or museum collection?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I thought the baby stuff and small t-shirts at the Alutiiq were great parents are suckers for that, I know I am

Marnie: which did not fly....

Jane Lindsey: we try to maintain items that reflect the museum, the exhibits, or Juneau history and artists. That gives us a lot of room.

Jerrie: I'd say 95% meets our mission. Our store manager throws in a little additional, like mystery books by non-Chilkat Valley Alaskan authors for reasons stated above.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I don't know if there is a rule, Wendy but the Accreditation committee looks at that kind of thing I think, Marnie do you know?

Andrew Goldstein: I believe if it is under a certain percentage then you are no longer tax exempt

Marnie: I wasn't really involved in that side of the acc. I know they really liked what we do with programs and they liked the store (local produced jewelry mainly).

Katie O.: There's this phrase UBI - unrelated business income. If you store items don't support or relate to your mission they can be considered UBI

Andrew Goldstein: Yes, UBI -- that's it

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Yeah I wonder about local jewelry that is really good and really local but does not have to do with the museum

Jane Lindsey: we just started have solo gift shop artists in our gift shop. They bring in their work, they advertise and have an opening. They sell their work and give us 25%. It was a bit of tracking of items, but it worked well.

Jerrie: Actually, local artists and crafts people are part of our mission.

Katie O.: Well if part of your mission is to support the continuation or evolution of an artistic tradition, it's a fit

Jane Lindsey: yes, us too.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Ok so it can be covered in mission then

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hey Jane, have you ever heard from galleries that think you are undercutting them?

Andrew Goldstein: Our mission supports regional heritage and culture -- culture including the arts, of course

Jane Lindsey: no, but we are sensitive to that!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): new question anyone?

Andrew Goldstein: Scott, did you get the question I emailed you about found objects?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Oh yeah, I did get that

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I meant to say that I did not have the answer right off the tip of my tongue but would research it

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Can you ask it again here?

Andrew Goldstein: Sure...

Andrew Goldstein: Our museum is trying to comply with AK State Statutes by posting a public notice about objects found in our collection so we can commence with accessioning them...But the law states that the list needs to be published in a local paper for 4 consecutive weeks. Our list would amount to about 4 newspaper pages. Obviously, this is cost-prohibitive, so...I was wondering if it was legal to forego publishing the list in the paper and to publish an online link to the document instead, either on our site or on the newspaper's.

Jane Lindsey: is that because the items were found on state property?

Andrew Goldstein: The majority of them are un-provenanced.

Jane Lindsey: interesting

Andrew Goldstein: Many of them I can take a good guess as to their origins, but we don't have a paper trail as proof.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): So you are saying they are found in collections?

Andrew Goldstein: Yes

Jane Lindsey: how long have they been in your collections?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): And you are saying that you would publish the url link in the paper for 4 consecutive weeks?

Andrew Goldstein: Believed to be at least 7 years, which is what the law requires

Andrew Goldstein: Scott: yes

Katie O.: What state statute are you referencing?

Andrew Goldstein: Hold on, I will look it up...

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I have the name of the person at the AG office that deals with charitable trusts, I could post the question to him.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I think I published the statute in a recent bulletin

Andrew Goldstein: It is AS 14.57.210

Andrew Goldstein: Thanks Scott, that would be great

Marnie: What kind of objects? How many?

Katie O.: Thanks Andrew

Andrew Goldstein: About 1500 items, runs a diverse range -- a lot of it is paper documents

Andrew Goldstein: Also a lot of community events materials which were probably collected by staff, but again we don't have anything on paper

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): You know I bet when they wrote that statute they were only thinking of one or two items, not a whole bunch in the collection.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): But I can see where that could happen

Jane Lindsey: do these items need to be in the permanent collection? Could they be in a reference library which would put them in a different category of care?

Marnie: That statute really needs to be revised...uh, anyone ever tried to change a statute before?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Staff just collects things, ephemera that will be interesting to the history of the community

Andrew Goldstein: Sure, when I started here we had a huge backlog of undocumented materials...I am trying to get it all (or mostly) accessioned and catalogued

Marnie: I would be willing to work on it, but am not familiar with negotiating the legal system. The whole part about native artifacts is not legal...

Andrew Goldstein: None of it is NAGPRA related, I'm sure of that

Katie O.: Changing statutes requires legislative action...

Marnie: it contradicts federal and state law research. collections.

Jane Lindsey: Marnie, can you explain the native artifacts not being legal? I am not sure what you are referring to.

Andrew Goldstein: Oy -- I am not ready to tackle changing laws, I already have my hands full with that

Jane Lindsey: hang in there Andrew, you are doing good work!

Andrew Goldstein: Trying to establish a heritage preservation ordinance -- that's a whole separate project

Andrew Goldstein: Thanks Jane

Jerrie: I've been there. You do have your hands full.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I will see what I can find out from the AG's office and post it to the list

Andrew Goldstein: Awesome, thanks

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): It seems like what Andrew is suggesting may qualify in the letter of the law

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Any way we have about 5 minutes left

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I would like to make a plug for people to help with the XRF grant. I have a letter from the Alutiiq and the Whitney, Jane has promised a letter and so had Katie

Jane Lindsey: we are writing ours

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I am really trying to get as many people on board so the Rasmuson will not think this is just something for the state museum to use

Jane Lindsey: what is the deadline again, Scott?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): The deadline is Nov 18 next Friday. If you need more info just let me know. Basically the XRF and do non-destructive elemental analysis. It is really good at identifying metals and alloys because that is what it was developed for, but it can also detect pesticide residues on natural history specimens. So I probably will be spending a lot of time at Wendy's place if we get the grant

Wendy Goldstein: sweet!!!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): So if you can write me a letter of support that would be great. Anyway, great having you all on the chat. This was a really good one

Marnie: Nice chatting with you. Bye all!

Andrew Goldstein: Can you send me a sample letter of support?

Wendy Goldstein: Give Nome our love

Jane Lindsey: Thank you, all.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): thanks Jane

Jerrie: Bye, all.

Katie O.: Nice chatting with you all