



Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Hi Amy

Stacy Katasse

Welcome Amy

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

How are things up in Nome? Getting ready for the dogs?

Amy Russell

Hey I made it in. I'm at home so I just wanted to log on early to make sure I could do this from my home computer. Nome is good, I think we're between storms right now.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Another Amy, hi Amy Carney

Amy Carney, SCLM

Hey, Scott! Hi, Amy.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

How is your new museum working out?

Amy Russell

Yay, we can be Team Amy!

Amy Carney, SCLM

Yes!

Scott, it is in the fun stage now. Figuring out where things go.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

That can be a challenge. I can't wait to see it someday. I remember what it looked like on the plans

Does it seem smaller or bigger than you thought it would be?

Amy Carney, SCLM

It's a good challenge. and I have some awesome volunteers! At first it was big. But now that the cases and some furniture pieces are in... it feels so small!

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Smaller than the old one?

Amy Carney, SCLM

Slightly. The wall in the center of the room cuts it down a little.

But the flow is better. And now we have a decent history nook for researchers.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Interesting. Amy Russell are you guys looking at plans yet?

Amy Russell

Not for the City's new building. They now have a site picked out, so we should be able to start design discussions soon. We still need a cultural and performing center in Nome, though. If we knew that it could be funded, we'd really work toward constructing a new facility on our lot on Seppala Drive.

Amy, did you guys do a lot of shopping around when you picked out museum cases and furniture or did you work mostly with 1 or 2 vendors?

Amy Carney, SCLM

We just brought over the cases we had. Actually we had to give away some because we had too many. Same with furniture. However, I'd like to shop around for some prop furniture next month.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

I do remember a lot of discussion about how to keep the Seward museum project on budget and most of it centered around reusing the old cases

Hi Jerrie

Amy Carney, SCLM

Interesting enough. we have a little money left over to buy some new props for the new place.

Amy Carney, SCLM

I'm looking into display boards and tables.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

That is good news. Better that than being over budget

Hi Marnie

Amy Carney, SCLM

Indeed!

Marnie

Hello!

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Hi Angie

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

Hi Scott and everyone!

Amy Carney, SCLM

Hi, Angie!

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

We are just getting things going as more people log on

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

Hi Amy!

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

good Amy Russel is back hope there wasn't a technical problem

Amy Russell

Sorry lost my satellite Internet connection for a minute.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

does that happen often?

Amy Russell

Internet is very tricky in Nome. The Hughesnet is usually pretty reliable, but all last week our AT&T lines were down and our work Internet was out for a couple days

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Wow, I guess we can count our blessings down here where we get cable broadband

Well we should probably get started

do people want to add their initials to the white board map?

or you can draw a portrait!

Nice hat Stacy!

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Hi Andrew, welcome, we are just getting started

Andrew (Valdez Museum)

Hello

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

So does anyone have a question or topic to get us started?

Marnie

Somehow I thought we were talking about the migratory bird act and the recent changes...

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

We can start with that if you want

I definitely want to see what questions or issues people have about the Migratory Bird act

Marnie

I haven't had a chance to look at it at all. I am not sure where to even find the changes in regs so I can read them. What was changed?

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Well that is a great first question

Amy Russell

I was talking to NMFS yesterday about raw products from marine mammals and I asked the AK Native handicraft expert at NMFS if museums are allowed to own some of these materials for educational purposes. He's going to get back to me on that one and then I'm happy to share, but do any of you have experience with this?

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Well I know the state museum has a lot of marine animal parts that we use in demonstrations etc.

I think that would also be a good question for the permitting folks

Marnie

We have some baleen on permanent loan from NOAA.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

What kinds of parts are we allowed to have

Marnie

Also sea otter from USFWS

Amy Russell

If it's cleaned and polished the baleen is ok to sell to non-AK Natives, but we want to conduct baleen etching classes where the students would polish it themselves, and need to limit the enrollment to AK Native students to do that.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

I am not sure ours is on loan from anybody.

Amy that is interesting. I wonder if the same kinds of rules apply to bird parts

Andrew (Valdez Museum)

Can't you have it polished by a Native and do a demonstration?

Jerrie

I don't know about bird parts for art, but we have to renew our permit annually with Fish & Game to have eagle mounts and parts for exhibit and education.

Amy Russell

For marine mammal products, I was told it's not allowed for Non-AK Native to own them. (unless you find remains that were washed up aka not hunted, and they have no soft tissues on them) They have to be modified as an AK Native Handicraft to be legally owned by Non AK Natives. There might be a pre- and post- Marine Mammal Act distinction like there is with the ivory. But it sure makes the workshops we want to do more complex.

Jerrie

P.S. What we have is on loan from Fish and Game.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

That is interesting I wonder how that applies to museums though

Amy Russell

Baleen is unique, though, and if it's cleaned and polished, it's fully marketable in the US. (But many other countries don't allow it to be imported)

Marnie

See, I though baleen had to be more worked that that...

Amy Russell

Marnie, me too, but I always wondered why it's ok to sell it on the streets in Anchorage. I've heard of the permits museums can get from USFWS for land animals and birds but I've never heard of permits from NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service under NOAA), so I'll report back whatever I learn.

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

The Alaska State Council on the Arts has a recent update to the custom guide for Alaska Native art [http://www.eed.state.ak.us/aksca/pdf/customs\\_guide\\_to\\_ak\\_native\\_arts.pdf](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/aksca/pdf/customs_guide_to_ak_native_arts.pdf)

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

That is good Angie, thanks

Amy Russell

Jerrie, is there a charge for renewing your annual permit with ADF&G?

Marnie

I see that a prelim session for MA conf is federal and state permitting. It would be nice if reps for all the acts we have to deal with would make all this clear, to everyone, at once.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

We have something it the works for bird permitting but I could see if we could get all the things that need to be permitted

Marnie

The art pamphlet is nice, but like you Amy, we are dealing with workshops, natives and non, and other factors that don't seem to be so clear.

Jerrie

No, there is no charge. I just have to fill out the form saying how many days the pieces were used.

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

I had to write a letter and loan agreement for NOAA for a whale skeleton. It had to be very specific since it was an outdoor exhibit that will eventually break down.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

This is definitely something that we would want them to cover next month during the chat

Marnie

Using ivory in workshops has been an issue. I never did hear back from whatever agency I contacted. We used antler instead.

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

Beckie Etuokeok may have information since she administered a baleen basket class at the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

Amy Russell

So one of the things I've heard that museums for their cultural skills classes is doing is finding substitutes and workarounds like river otter for sealskin, and other furs and bones and leathers than can substitute. Looking for a good substitute for baleen--a material that's good for etching--if anyone has any suggestions...

Oh thanks Angela, I'll check with Beckie!

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Baleen would be a hard material to replace

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

Plastic?

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

It has such unique characteristics

Amy Russell

Can bamboo be etched?

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Yeah some sort of plastic would work for carving but not etching

How do they do the etching?

Amy Russell

Carbide Scribes

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

baleen is basically a keratinous material like fingernails and hoofs

Horn is another one

Cow horn would be the closest

But it is round and thicker

Andrew (Valdez Museum)

Maybe a hard rubber or pvc?

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

black pvc pipe, now that would be attractive

Does anyone have any more thoughts or questions specifically about Migratory Birds

Amy Russell

PVC pipe could be the next biggest thing in Alaskan Fashion!

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

The people who will be on next month are only going to talk about birds

Andrew (Valdez Museum)

hey, I've used pvc pipe in exhibit design more times than I'd like to admit

Scott Carrlee (ASM)



What do we know what don't we know?

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

We have an eagle mount in an Anchorage School; what permitting process will I need to undertake?

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

So I am assuming right now you aren't filling out any paper work on it?

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

I'm not, but need to check with the school. I just noticed it.

Amy Russell

Have any of you had to get permits to possess AK Native artwork or cultural items with bird parts/feathers in them? Up here we see bird beaks, bird feathers, bird wings, and maybe talons in our ethnographic collections.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

That is a really good question to ask them

I was interested in what happens if the eagle mount is so shabby due to improper care or insect that the museum wants to de-accession it. What would the process be.

Has anyone had to do this?

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

I would also ask if only non-profit museums can exhibit art with bird parts. I've heard it can't be a private collection, unless pre-dates the act.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

I was also wondering how the rules differ from birds to marine mammals.

As far as native Alaskans using them in art or artifact manufacture

Also what about fly tying? Doesn't that use exotic feathers?

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

Wasn't someone charged with using bird feathers in a mask in Southeast last summer?

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Yes that is kind of what started this conversation in November

Because it was written up in the paper.

Marnie

I wonder what happened...the final ruling or sentence.

Amy Russell

Archie Cavanaugh, the Alaska Dispatch was following this:

<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/tlingit-artist-avoids-jail-time-over-use-feathers-artwork>

I think he was fined \$2000

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

That is a good question. I have been emailing with someone from permitting but she has made it clear that permitting and enforcement are two difference things

Thanks for the link Amy

That is a serious fine

So what does that mean?

Are there no feathers or bird parts that can be used in native art?

Amy Russell

The last I remember the artwork with migratory bird materials could be gifted or <<exchanged>> between AK Native entities but not sold, which I think means not sold to an Alaskan Native corporation or museum or anybody.

Amy Carney, SCLM

Sorry to step out early... Thank you all for the links and conversation.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Have a good day Amy

Are there any other comments or questions that anyone would like me to pass along to the permitting agent?

Amy Russell

I know that bird feathers are a very important material in Yupik dance garments, so this is a major issue for Yupik artists, and for institutions and collectors who want to showcase and support this cultural art form.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Yes it would be good to get clarity on the use of bird parts.

Andrew (Valdez Museum)

Is there a statute of limitations on what needs a permit or is restricted? I.e., does one need a permit for older items?

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

that is a good question. I will pass that along. I do think it has to do with whether it was collected before the treaty or after but it would be good to hear it from the permitting agency

Amy Russell

I'd also really like to ask the experts next chat if there are exceptions for charitable and educational institutions. Such as if artworks were donated to an institution who auctioned them off to raise funds for scholarships or collections maintenance or educational programs, etc...

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

Is there a good resource to identify feathers?

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

That is another really good question Amy because it could get tricky with charity auctions

I don't know of any good source for feather id

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

I know there are a lot of dolls with bird feathers, especially older ones.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

interesting, do you mean like in their costumes or in their hair or what?

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

Yup'ik dolls with parkas of loon skin, etc.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

oh yes I have seen those.

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

I've seen Eider duck slippers

I've seen owl feathers used on arrows.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Good points. So if they sell them what are the issues

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

I believe they are illegal

Many artists know the law and use goose or turkey feathers and paint them.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

interesting

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

I'm thinking you can apply for a permit if you have documentation that they pre-date the act.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Or you may not need a permit if you can document that they pre-date the act. But that is another question

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

maybe

Amy Russell

I can't find anyone in our Region who makes bird skin parkas anymore. It's one of those skills we're losing and if I could find the means to revive it, it would be a high priority

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Well if there are no more questions we can sign off. I really appreciate you input today and I will organize our questions and concerns and send them off to the permit person with USFWS

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

Is Savoonga in your region?

Amy Russell

Yes!

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

Lydia Apatiki still makes them

Amy Russell

Thanks. I will get in contact with her ASAP! We have a traditional clothing exhibit coming up in April.  
Really appreciate the lead!

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

of course

Andrew (Valdez Museum)

Thanks everyone, signing off now...see you next time.

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Thanks everyone for joining in today

Angela Demma, 1% for Art in Anchorage

Thank you for hosting

Scott Carrlee (ASM)

Chat with you next month

### Next Chat Session

March 13<sup>th</sup> 11 am

Special session on migratory bird permitting