



ASM Museum Chat

Feb. 12, 11 am
Session 39

Scott Carrlee

Hi Erika, how was getting back to work after a week in Juneau?

Erika Brown

10:57 AM

Tough! I wanted to stay in Juneau

Scott Carrlee

10:58 AM

That is nice of you to say. I guess we did not work you hard enough

Lacey Simpson

10:59 AM

Random question for you Scott...will the Museum's logo change with the new building?

Scott Carrlee

11:00 AM

That is a really good question. There has been some talk of this

Erika Brown

11:00 AM

I imagine the "move" portion will be more physically draining.

Scott Carrlee

11:00 AM

Some people really like the old logo and want to keep it, whilst others are passionately against the old logo

Lacey Simpson

11:01 AM

I kinda like it. I asked Lisa about the building panels and it sounds like you're hoping to keep one or two? Would make great outdoor

sculptures!

Scott Carrlee

11:01 AM

The flicker feather design as I understand it was made especially for the museum and does not represent a traditional formline design

- Della Hall joined the Main Room. (11:02 AM) -

Scott Carrlee

11:02 AM

Yes we are trying to get a couple of them off the building without breaking them. It might not be so easy

Hi Della

11:02 AM

how are things in Fairbanks

11:02 AM

Della Hall

11:02 AM

hello! Cold... but good!

Scott Carrlee

11:03 AM

Is it the coldest you have experienced?

Della Hall

11:03 AM

Hmm no...back in November I think we had a -35 day, and maybe a -40 in December

Scott Carrlee

11:03 AM

Wow

Della Hall

11:03 AM

right now it's a nice warm -23! haha

Amy Russell

11:04 AM

Hi Della, glad you are here with us. That makes at least 2 members from the Museums AK Program Committee.

Scott Carrlee

11:04 AM

what was the coldest you had experienced before coming to Fairbanks?

Della Hall

11:04 AM

Hi Amy!

Oh, probably -7 last winter in Santa Fe

11:04 AM

Amy Russell

11:04 AM

Is this your first Fbx winter?

Della Hall 11:04 AM
yep!

Scott Carrlee 11:05 AM
It gets that cold in Santa Fe?
- Natalie 1 joined the Main Room. (11:05 AM) -

Della Hall 11:05 AM
actually, yes! they have winter, surprisingly.

Scott Carrlee 11:05 AM
Hi Natalie

Natalie 1 11:05 AM
Hi Scott

Scott Carrlee 11:06 AM
We will give it a few more minutes to see if anyone else will be joining
in

Amy Russell 11:06 AM

Oh man, hope it's been a good transition, and you have good tires

Scott Carrlee 11:07 AM
Della probably walks everywhere!

Della Hall 11:08 AM
I have great tires!

walking is a little slippery... 11:08 AM

Amy Russell 11:10 AM
They have no snow and no ice on the roads down here in Juneau.
That was the 1st thing that shocked me when I got here.

Scott Carrlee 11:10 AM
While we are waiting to see if anyone else joins in, please put your
name or initials near you location

Della Hall 11:10 AM
wow~

Amy Russell 11:11 AM

Do most of you guys have those waterhog mats in front of your front entrances? Those are essential in Nome, with all the stuff we track in with our boots. There is always a wet mess by the door.

Scott Carrlee 11:12 AM

we try, some places have them but some don't

you should see Carson's school on a snowy day. The front hall is one big puddle 11:12 AM

So what I thought we could start off with today was an update on the SLAM project here in Juneau 11:13 AM

and then maybe Amy and Lacey or even Erika could comment on their experiences of working on the move project with us. 11:14 AM

So first off the update 11:14 AM

It looks like the construction of the new storage Vault is 4-6 weeks behind schedule. That means we won't be able to start actually moving collections into the Vault until towards the middle of April at the earliest. This does change a little bit how we are scheduling the outside professionals who are coming in to help us. 11:16 AM

Phase I, the pre-packing phase is winding down. Lacey and Amy are the last set of "Exo's" (as we are calling these outside museum professionals) to come down for Phase I 11:17 AM

On March 3 the State Museum will be closed to the public and we will begin Phase II 11:18 AM

Phase II was supposed to be the actual move of collections to the new Vault but now it looks like Phase II will be some more intense packing and moving of the large objects to staging areas 11:18 AM

When they do turn over the Vault to us, hopefully some time mid-April, we will then move all the palletized and boxed objects into the vault. 11:19 AM

So that is about the gist of it. 11:19 AM

Any questions? 11:19 AM

Lacey Simpson 11:20 AM

When is the current museum set to be demo'd? Where will you guys have office space? At yesterday's brief, something was mentioned about layoffs?

Amy Russell 11:20 AM

When you first get access to the vault, will you guys be installing storage furniture in there for how you would like to store all the pallets and keep it all organized?

Natalie 1 11:21 AM

I am wondering what this means for future Exo's, will travel times change?

Scott Carrlee 11:22 AM

So the current museum will be demolished this summer. It won't take much. They will try and save a few of the concrete art panels on the outside and that may slow them down and they have to deal with the asbestos that is in the building but after that it will go quickly. I imagine by July the museum building will be no more

We currently are creating office spaces in the other areas of the Library and Archives. My office is in the Archives 11:22 AM

Others have offices in the State office Building. 11:22 AM

There won't be layoffs of Permanent staff only the seasonals and the on-calls. These are people who were working on a temporary basis anyway 11:23 AM

To Amy's question, 11:23 AM

When they turn over the vault to us it should be complete with storage furniture. We do plan on reusing some (but not all) or our current cabinets. 11:24 AM

So they have to be unloaded of artifacts, moved through the tunnel, leveled, and then re-loaded with artifacts 11:25 AM

Amy Russell 11:25 AM

What will your collections staff work on while they

Scott Carrlee 11:25 AM

There will be some stuff on pallets just sitting in hall ways until we can un pack them, that is Phase III work

Amy Russell 11:25 AM

are offsite, and will you have access to the vault throughout the constructions phases?

Scott Carrlee 11:26 AM

Once we get access to the vault will keep using it. So the Collections staff will continue to work on collections in the Vault while the museum is being torn down and rebuilt

As to Natalie's question, this is affecting the scheduling of Exos. I have stopped scheduling until we get some more solid dates. I know we will still need a lot of people to help but I am just not sure when. I don't want people to be standing around with nothing to do 11:27 AM

So I may schedule more in one week than I planned and less in another 11:28 AM

These are great questions and even though there are not that many people on the chat, a lot of people do read the transcript 11:28 AM

So keep the questions coming 11:29 AM

Maybe Lacey and Amy want to comment on the work they are doing? 11:30 AM

Amy Russell 11:30 AM

I would like to say it takes a lot of effort and patience and multitasking finesse to keep training so many pairs of volunteers at so many different times. It would be really tough on me if I were in that position and you guys have been really great, and all the staff around have been kind of keeping an ear out and anticipating our needs as we come to new challenges, and I really appreciate every bit of training and advice that we've received.

Scott Carrlee 11:31 AM

That is a good point Amy,

It does take time now to get everyone oriented and trained, 11:31 AM

We are hoping that there will be a real gain when people start returning for their second and third stint 11:32 AM

they won't need as much training or orientation for that matter 11:32 AM

and can work more effectively as part of the team 11:32 AM

Lacey Simpson 11:33 AM

Here, here Amy! It's been a great experience thus far, and very impressive in terms of the logistics to make the most of each person's visit. I've learned a lot already...Amy and I have been packaging Eskimo baskets, fishing line/lures, and even some sleds as well as 2-d art. It's been a treat just to poke through the cabinets and drool!

Scott Carrlee 11:34 AM

It is kind of funny about the logistics, I don't think anyone anticipated how challenging it would be to bring 30 outside professionals into your museum to work with you

Amy Russell 11:34 AM

Because it's not like other activities can be set aside when the plan is in motion, and it sounds like the permanent staff here have had to be flexible and creative to change course or come up with solutions when things change, so toss a couple of volunteers you need to train in and it's hard to follow a linear program. We've had a big advantage in being the last exos in the phase, though, because we've been working on a whole mix of items, and they've been getting more challenging as we go along. So we're learning lots of different techniques for packing and supporting a variety of collection items.

Scott Carrlee 11:36 AM

You are right Amy, I think it sounds like an easy thing to just get a bunch of people in and start working but it takes a lot of planning and logistics to keep everyone moving in the right direction

I know this has been a surprise to me and I was the one who wrote the grant. 11:36 AM

Maybe it is a good thing some times that we don't know what we are getting ourselves into 11:37 AM

Amy Russell 11:37 AM

Everything we've worked on has been really relevant to the kinds of collections items and situations we have back home, so it's instantly applicable for me and just like Lacey said, so amazing to work directly with these collections and such a privilege!

Erika Brown 11:37 AM

I also found it to be a great experience. Everyone on staff was so patient with my endless questions. It was a treat to be there for a week and get hands on experience.

Scott Carrlee 11:38 AM

I think that has been the best part, is just working side by side with people. It starts to feel like we are all part of a big team.

I am planning on writing a second grant based on the success of this one 11:38 AM

We have learned a lot about how to run a program like this and the benefits are obvious 11:38 AM

I think IMLS will go for it 11:39 AM

Lacey Simpson 11:41 AM

How did you develop a timeline for packing the collection, or a particular collection? I'm new at this, and slow, so I don't know how you could estimate the time needed...

Erika Brown 11:42 AM

It really was more beneficial than a workshop. There was time to process things and repetitively do things to "hone" the skills you are learning.

It was also nice to network with other museum professionals. 11:43 AM

Amy Russell 11:43 AM

I also feel like I'm getting completely hands on training, not just what you might get trying something new out in a workshop, but the real deal! It makes me think about the workshops we offer at conferences and the Angels Projects and how nice it would be (for other museums' staff) to tour behind the scenes at other museums at conference.

Scott Carrlee 11:43 AM

Lacey, that was tricky, we starting planning a year ago. They contractors are giving us only 6 weeks to move the collections so that is how we determined the length of Phase II. Phase III had to end because the housing gets more expensive after May. So it was a lot of arbitrary deadlines

Thanks for the comment Erika, I think that is my biggest take 11:44 AM home from this project that it is fundamentally different from a workshop. The learning is different when you are doing it for longer than an hour. I think people really need that.

I agree Amy, I have begun to rethink workshops. I still think 11:45 AM there is a need but something like an angels project might be a better learning experience

Amy Russell

11:46 AM

Scott, have you heard any recurring themes from EXOs that have come so far about what kinds of skills they would like more training in, or what they found most interesting about big moves of this kind?

Scott Carrlee

11:47 AM

The recurring theme is definitely that you need more time to really grasp a skill. So maybe workshops are too ambitious? Maybe we try and cram to much in?

I think people have really liked the hands on, learning by 11:47 AM doing concept

People need a lot of time to learn things, they need to be 11:49 AM able to make a mistake and then get it corrected and then try again. Or maybe not just make a mistake but make something that is maybe 80% there and then do it again and get it to 90% and then make that even better. By the end of the week they all are really proud of their work

I am wondering how well all of this translates to museum 11:49 AM moves that will be happening in Alaska in the future

I know the Carrie McLain is moving, you guys are moving too 11:50 AM at Kewerak, Cordova will be moving soon, the Pratt, I think you guys down in Ketchikan will be moving collections soon

I think every move will have different parameters, what I am looking for now are lessons learned that will be universal 11:51 AM

Lacey Simpson 11:51 AM

I think the skills gained in this move will be critical to the success of future museum moves....which is why we signed up 4 people from our museum (we thought we'd be doing a complete collections move earlier than what we are faced with now). But, even though we're not moving soon, the skills are still great as we spread out and rehouse our coll.

Scott Carrlee 11:52 AM

You are right Lacey, some of the skills are good to learn just for general collections management

Amy Russell 11:53 AM

Well there's something in here about even just taking down an exhibit and opening those cases that may have been sealed for years, with lots of old taxidermy, for example. And something just about the timing and how long all these pieces take and how they can fit in together to be as efficient as possible during the move.

I really wouldn't know how to estimate the time it takes to do these things. 11:54 AM

Scott Carrlee 11:54 AM

True, Amy, we are finding a lot of benefit to taking down old exhibits. How long should this stuff be on exhibit anyway. What is a permanent exhibit? Some of our stuff has been on exhibit for 40 years

Those may be questions for another chat 11:54 AM

Does Amy or Della want to give a quick update on the program planning for the meeting in Seward? 11:55 AM

Amy Russell 11:57 AM

Sure, as you all know, the conference is Oct 1-4 in Seward, and session proposals are due on Tuesday, Feb 19. After that time we'll be selecting sessions and contacting folks that may be presenters and starting to firm up the program a little bit. And we're working right now on selecting a keynote. Our theme is Milestones, and how

museums interface with and engage their communities in commemorating major events.

I don't have information on what kinds of workshops we'll have to offer yet, but am definitely interested in hearing what people need or would like to get out of this conference. So please share any ideas you have. Our email is program@museumsalaska.org 11:59 AM

Scott Carrlee 11:59 AM

Ok thanks for that update

And thanks everyone for joining in today. 11:59 AM

I hope you have a great rest of your week 12:00 PM

Amy and Lacey, you can just close your browser and leave your machine up and running. 12:00 PM

I will take care of them later 12:00 PM

Amy Russell 12:00 PM

Ok, thanks and bye everyone!

Scott Carrlee 12:00 PM

we will have another chat in April, March is too busy for us to have a chat

Next Chat Session

April. 16, 11 am

(no March Chat due to ASM Move Project)