



## ASM/Museums Alaska Chat 59

September 19, 2018

WebEx chat

Attendee	Message
Della Hall:	Hello Amy and Anjuli!
Amy Carney:	Hello!
Della Hall:	So glad you could make it Anjuli!
Anjuli Grantham:	Hi Della!
Della Hall:	I typically post a reminder on our Facebook page, and send one more reminder on the akmuseums listserv...do you have the ability to do that, Anjuli?
Anjuli Grantham:	Will do.
Della Hall:	Thanks!
Della Hall:	Hello Heather! Welcome
Della Hall:	Hi Heather and Amanda!
Della Hall:	And Bethany, Hello!
Bethany:	Good Morning!
Amanda:	Hi!!
Anjuli Grantham:	Congratulations on your well-deserved award, Bethany!
Bethany:	Thank you! They mayor is coming over around 11:30 to congratulate me so I may have to bug out of the chat.
Anjuli Grantham:	Amanda--- from the Alutiiq Museum?
Amanda:	Yes!
Della Hall:	Aw, that's so nice Bethany!
Bethany:	Hi Amanda!

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Message</b>
Bethany:	Thanks Della.
Bethany:	Now its back to work and bigger and better programs!
Amanda:	Hi Bethany!
Anjuli Grantham:	Hi Hayley!
Della Hall:	Hey Hayley!
Bethany:	I'll be attending AASLH in KC if anyone wants me to stop by vendors or sessions and report back. I have some sessions I really want to attend, but I can fit in some fact finding too :)
Hayley Chambers:	Hi everyone!
Della Hall:	Hello Margaret!
Bethany:	Hi Haley! You made it back!
Heather:	Nope, Heather McClain from SHI. Forgot to type my last name :)
Bethany:	Hayley sorry, I have a lot of friends named Hayley, haley, etc.
Hayley Chambers:	How wonderful to get to go to the AASLH meeting, Bethany! Finally home and it feels good!
Bethany:	Yay for being at home!
Bethany:	How do you put your initials on the map again? I have a new system and I cannot figure a lot of things out. I have cool emojis to add when I use my desktop online though!
Della Hall:	It's on the left hand side...there's a little squiggle for annotations
Anjuli Grantham:	I figured it out!
Hayley Chambers:	I'm not seeing that icon
Bethany:	I have to switch to the desktop app, so I will wait until next months chat try it out. No squiggle on the online chat.
Della Hall:	Good to know!
Della Hall:	Tricky technology...
Bethany:	Not tempting the technology gods at the moment
Anjuli Grantham:	It's on the map itself--- above the section that has the magnifying glass for zooming in/ out.
Anjuli Grantham:	Shall we get started? What are your general reflections on the conference this year?

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Message</b>
Bethany:	No squggly. just the bar with going full screen or zooming. touched that and the chat box went away. clicked everything I could think of to get back.
Bethany:	THIS WAS THE BEST CONFERENCE EVER!!!
Della Hall:	:)
Bethany:	Ok, so a little too enthusiastic for this early in the morning.
Anjuli Grantham:	What made it the best, do you think?
Della Hall:	So glad to hear that Bethany!
Della Hall:	You must've had good coffee today
Hayley Chambers:	Bethany, I'm seeing the same thing. I am using Google Chrome so maybe that is why?
Bethany:	I really liked the sessions, getting to meet new members and the topics were relevant to our daily work
Bethany:	Hayley, I'm using firefox
Amanda:	It was so great to put faces to names
Anjuli Grantham:	Indeed
Bethany:	My coworker went to the AHS sessions and she said she liked the topics also. I haven't seen her since saturday so I will chat with her tomorrow when she is in and get a feel for her take. As a first time attendee she said she liked it.
Della Hall:	Any particular session or topic that resonated with you? Anything you'll be applying to your work as you move forward?
Amanda:	The MA keynote was the thing that stuck with me the most
Bethany:	I think most of the sessions really went into "How to do, what we did" instead of we did this and isn't that cool, but no idea how you could apply it to your museum
Anjuli Grantham:	The MA keynote was a good reminder that we need to train and develop the whole person-- what we do is much more than care for collections.
Bethany:	I liked the MA Keynote (although I could have used that talk about two years ago!) and I also liked the AHS keynote. I think it was more of trying to come together this conference, rather than two separate conferences
Amanda:	Yes, that was a really great reminder to me, Anjuli.

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Hayley Chambers:	I was thrilled to have Marieke speak at the conference. I've been following her project The Joyful Museum for a while now. Having a healthy work-life balance is critical.
Della Hall:	I'll definitely pass along the positive feedback about the sessions, Bethany. They have been working to help form sessions that are more applicable to others!
Anjuli Grantham:	Thinking of the MA keynote--- have any of you received training in management?
Margaret Greutert:	It was my first time at the conference and I loved the overarching topic of relationships. Something that stood out to me was the relationship between the Museums Alaska crowd and the Historical Society. Maybe it is just because I am new, but I think it would be great to have a session or workshop that helps integrate the two crowds so we can better understand each other's work. Does anyone else feel the same?
Bethany:	I signed up for Fred Pryor membership and take management classes through there
Hayley Chambers:	It is definitely something overlooked in school
Amanda:	I was supposed to this week, but it got cancelled. I really need it though.
Bethany:	\$199 a year and I get to go to all sessions free and have access to over 4,000 online books and classes
Anjuli Grantham:	Hm--- I haven't heard of this resource, Bethany.
Bethany:	I agree Margaret
Hayley Chambers:	I agree, too, Margaret
Della Hall:	That's a great suggestion Margaret
Anjuli Grantham:	Regarding conference cohesion--- public history is a great approach for combining topics.
Bethany:	<a href="http://www.pryor.com">www.pryor.com</a> I can get you the \$199 price for your first year and then you renew at that price each year.
Bethany:	YES Public history is the gateway to understanding both fields.
Bethany:	I now have a part-time employee with a public history degree so I will be working with her and getting her feedback.

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Anjuli Grantham:	I'm going to serve on both the MA and AHS program committees, so I will definitely bring this up and see what kind of deeper coordination we can find.
Bethany:	Excellent Anjuli
Bethany:	I know two of the board members for AHS now and I think they will work toward moving AHS forward into the 21st century
Della Hall:	I'll be sharing a post-conference survey link soon, so please make sure to put feedback about any suggestions in there, too! We use that as a basis to formulate next year's theme and session topics
Bethany:	Change is a big factor for both organizations and we are all working on growing not only our institutions but ourselves and our knowledge. A lot to balance and sometimes you just can't balance.
Margaret Greutert:	Thanks Anjuli! That would be great.
Anjuli Grantham:	Kodiak will be a great place to consider public history, since the interpretation of the past can be quite contentious there.
Bethany:	I think you will be great for bridging our gap Anjuli :) Thank you!
Anjuli Grantham:	I appreciate that!
Bethany:	As interpretation can have issues anywhere
Bethany:	I see it here with the lack of local native alaskan history displayed and told here.
Bethany:	I even have it with the next town over. Despite us being here almost 20 years before them, according to them there was nothing and no one here before the colony came!
Anjuli Grantham:	One of the hottest sessions was the confrontation about the use of "genocide." This is a sticky topic that I think we all need to address-- and should consider doing so in Kodiak.
Bethany:	They were surprised when we celebrated our centennial last year.
Amanda:	That's a great idea
Bethany:	YES!!!!!! And the award given later that evening to the gentleman. Yikes!
Della Hall:	Hi Jan! Welcome
Jan:	Hi - sorry I'm late; was in a teleconference.

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Bethany:	But I agree, what constitutes genocide? My husband and I had a discussion yesterday about this topic. various interpretations can be gleaned from the term
Margaret Greutert:	Yes, and I think the conference in Kodiak is a great place to 'stir the pot' and shed light on these issues that we have not been talking about so openly.
Della Hall:	no problem, thanks for joining us!
Anjuli Grantham:	Speaking of bringing ourselves into the 21st century--- these are very sensitive conversations, and we museums need to be prepared to take part and even host them.
Amanda:	The workshop Amanda Dale hosted the first day was really enlightening about having those conversations.
Bethany:	And I think we also need to look at the age of those bringing the issues to light. I have dealt with a few who are facing dementia so it is a trying time working with them on their history and opening those conversations with their personal history.
Della Hall:	I was just going to say that! There was discussion around types of conversations to have - and what types of conversations to not host, as well
Anjuli Grantham:	I know the Alaska Humanities Forum is a nation-wide leader in hosting challenging conversations- I'm so happy that they gave that training.
Bethany:	they feel you are attacking them and their life. Saying they are bad when you are talking about the situation in general. A lot of training for us needs to happen when dealing with these conversations and topics.
Bethany:	Hayley, how was your session on Wednesday with Lisa?
Bethany:	It was about difficult conversations correct?
Anjuli Grantham:	Agreed--- we want people to feel heard, but like you said, Della-- not all conversations or viewpoints are equally valid.
Amanda:	Correct
Bethany:	Correct Anjuli and Della
Amanda:	Having the right facilitator seems key
Bethany:	Agreed Amanda
Bethany:	Need to step away for a moment be back soon I hope.

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Message</b>
Della Hall:	This ties in a bit with our conference topic of last year, about what it means for a museum to ditch neutrality, and take a stance in order to create dialogue.
Anjuli Grantham:	It would be nice to invite Forum staff to lead one of these chats sometime, specifically about hosting challenging conversations. Thoughts?
Della Hall:	That sounds like an excellent idea, Anjuli!
Heather:	Great idea!
Amanda:	Great idea
Anjuli Grantham:	Maybe this is a nugget for a potential future conference theme...
Della Hall:	Good thing you're on both program committees, Anjuli!
Anjuli Grantham:	:)
Anjuli Grantham:	Going back to the management training conversation--- is this another topic that we should be providing resources and training around?
Margaret Greutert:	Yes! the pre-conference workshop on Wednesday with Amanda was incredibly enlightening and I feel like they prepared us to start talking about these issues. Maybe she has an idea for a conversation session around this topic. . . Yes to a future theme around these critical conversations
Amanda:	I would be very interested in that Anjuli
Della Hall:	I know a lot of ideas get generated at conferences - anyone come away with a bit of inspiration or just want to throw an idea out there for someone else to tackle?
Amanda:	I do!
Amanda:	I would like to know how other people are handling institutional archives. I've been tasked with coming up with how to archive our exhibits, projects, etc. But I would like to know how other institutions are doing this.
Anjuli Grantham:	Uhhh! It's often so difficult for us museum people to figure out what to do with archives!
Anjuli Grantham:	The Alaska State Archives is a good resource. Karen Gray is the head and she is really dedicated to education. Zach Jones is another great resource.
Amanda:	Ok, thanks! That's a start!

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Della Hall:	Great topic Amanda! I've seen institutions handle that in many ways... one way is to create an archival collection - treat your own institutional history as you would anyone else's!
Heather:	We archive a lot of our institutional records, but we try to stay away from archiving our exhibits materials unless they are grant funded.
Margaret Greutert:	I am interested in this too Amanda. I'd be interested in getting together after doing some research and chatting about our findings
Anjuli Grantham:	Speaking of public history--- the way that we exhibit and interpret the past is the future research project of many a historian/ museum professional.
Anjuli Grantham:	That is to say-- people are interested and will be interested in our institutional records.
Della Hall:	Indeed
Della Hall:	Museums Alaska is just realizing this, and we will be establishing our records as a collection at the UAA archives soon.
Anjuli Grantham:	Great
Anjuli Grantham:	I know the Friends of the Alaska State Library, Archive and Museum are talking about donating their records to the Alaska Historical Library, as well.
Della Hall:	It seems like there may be a need for further training opportunities on archival practices. Do you all feel that way?
Margaret Greutert:	I do
Heather:	Yes.
Amanda:	Yes...it seems like in grad school archives are being increasingly seperated from collections. So museum people need more training there
Heather:	Its definitely relevant for small to mid sized institutions with combined collections.
Jan:	Absolutely.
Anjuli Grantham:	I do. Several GIA awards this year are funding archival projects-- and I feel like due dilligence on the part of ASM is to make sure that people are applying best practices in these regards, as much as possible.
Heather:	And I second that it's something that is becoming specialized. In grad school, my advisor wouldn't let me take archival courses because she didn't think it



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	would be applicable to what I was doing with my thesis. But carerer-wise, I wish I had at least taken a course to cover the basics.
Anjuli Grantham:	Me too!
Amanda:	Right. I just happened to take a practicum in our Special Collections, and that's the extent of my training.
Heather:	Silly advisors
Della Hall:	Excellent Anjuli. I'll point out two resources for people, while I have this on my mind: ASHRAB - <a href="https://archives.alaska.gov/for_professionals/for_archives_professionals.htm">https://archives.alaska.gov/for_professionals/for_archives_professionals.htm</a> I and Northwest Archivists - <a href="https://northwestarchivistsinc.wildapricot.org/">https://northwestarchivistsinc.wildapricot.org/</a> . I sit on the ASHRAB board, and they are always looking for ways to support records in our state. The Northwest Archivists are a regional group, but they have scholarships and small grants for Archives Month (October).
Amanda:	Awesome. Thanks Della
Heather:	Thanks Della
Anjuli Grantham:	AASLH also offers a training on archival basics.
Anjuli Grantham:	<a href="https://aaslh.org/programs/continuing-education/online-courses/">https://aaslh.org/programs/continuing-education/online-courses/</a>
Amanda:	Thanks!
Heather:	Society of American Archivists also has classes and continuing education opportunities
Heather:	I've done the AASLH archives basics course and highly recommend it.
Anjuli Grantham:	That's great, Heather!This topic relates directly to the AHS lunch roundtable about the crisis in Alaska's archives.
Amanda:	I really wish I'd gone to that...
Anjuli Grantham:	I think the conversation about the crisis has mostly been directed to funding and staffing--- but I think that we can direct the conversation towards capacity building.
Della Hall:	Can you talk more about that Anjuli?
Della Hall:	I wasn't able to attend that session, but know a bit of what is going on.

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Anjuli Grantham:	The gist of the roundtable is that the archive at UAF and the Loussac Library's Alaska Room are seriously neglected and that leadership isn't prioritizing these resources.
Anjuli Grantham:	The Alaska Room has been dismantled and UAF's archive is only open by appointment, and there isn't funding in place to make key hires to make it open more often.
Della Hall:	When you say capacity building, what do you mean? There are lots of ways to build capacity!
Anjuli Grantham:	I think of training.
Anjuli Grantham:	There is a lack of training in archival management in the state-- and especially digital preservation.
Amanda:	Digital curation/preservation...there's another topic I think we need more training in too...
Heather:	A better understanding of digital preservation would be good.
Della Hall:	You know, someone mentioned earlier the relationship between AHS and Museums Alaska... I think the Alaska Library Association would also be a good network to tap into. A lot of libraries have archives (like the two that are currently closed or understaffed).
Anjuli Grantham:	You're right, Della.
Heather:	Yes.
Anjuli Grantham:	Good news--- AKLA's conference is in Juneau this year, and our division (LAM) is the main host.
Jan:	Sustainable Heritage Network has a lot of good information on their website on digital preservation. Very practical info. They basically have on-line workshops.
Heather:	Nice! When is the conference?
Anjuli Grantham:	February 28-March 3.
Della Hall:	Thanks Jan!
Anjuli Grantham:	We're developing both basic archives trainings and basic museums trainings for the library conference--- also talking about creating a digital preservation track that we can bring to future AHS/ MA conferences.

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Message</b>
Jan:	We're working on a grant to bring SHN to Alaska for a multi-day digital stewardship workshop.
Anjuli Grantham:	Ooo!
Jan:	That's actually why I was late to this chat.
Anjuli Grantham:	Wow--- would that be available for other to attend?
Anjuli Grantham:	And an excellent excuse to visit Seldovia? :)
Jan:	If we get the grant, yes, although tribal organizations would have priority as that is the focus of the funding opportunity.
Della Hall:	oh excellent!
Anjuli Grantham:	That's great!
Heather:	That is great!
Jan:	It actually would probably be held elsewhere on the Kenai, as providing meals and lodging in Seldovia is hard in the off-season - plus the travel challenges.
Anjuli Grantham:	Makes sense.
Della Hall:	We just have a couple of minutes left, but I just wanted to thank everyone for joining us, and if you have any suggestions for future chat topics or guest hosts, please let Anjuli or me know!
Amanda:	Thanks, this was super useful
Jan:	Thanks, everyone!
Anjuli Grantham:	Yes, thank you everyone for the great conversation!
Heather:	Just thank you for hosting. This is such a great resource to be able to touch base and here what other people are doing around the state.
Heather:	hear*
Della Hall:	Glad to hear it!
Anjuli Grantham:	Talk to you all next month!
Amanda:	Bye!