

CREATING A MORE INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

Steps Taken in a Year



ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

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WHY INCREASE ACCESS?

- Moral obligation
- It benefits everyone
- Aligns with museum mission and values
- It is the law



FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY LAWS

NEA's Accessibility Planning and Resource Guide for Cultural Administrators

Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act (1973) and The American with Disabilities Act (1990) :



FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY LAWS

(2)

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- 1) Prohibit discrimination
- 2) Require equal opportunity (and the provision of any reasonable modifications, auxiliary aids or services necessary to achieve it)
- 3) Require basic standard of architectural access
- 4) Require equal access to employment, programs, activities, goods and services



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STEPS TAKEN IN THE PAST YEAR

- Training
- Sensory-Friendly Programming
- Visitor Story Guides
- Audio/Visual Descriptions
- Website



INITIAL TRAINING AND PREPARATION

- Walked through spaces with OTs and autism resource specialist
- Training
- Community contacts

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM



HANDS ON!

TAKE A MOMENT
TO **DISCOVER**
SOMETHING NEW!



PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH

PLEASE REMEMBER NOT
TO TOUCH THE OBJECTS





SENSORY-FRIENDLY PROGRAMMING

- Started Dec. 2017
- Addressed challenges
 - Changed to Sunday mornings
 - Broadened target audience
 - Purchase tickets at door
 - Get dates out early
 - Expanded contact list





ANCHORAGE MUSEUM SENSORY-FRIENDLY AND **ACCESS MORNINGS**

10:30a.m.-12:00p.m. | Feb. 10: Alaska Exhibition

10:30a.m.-12:00p.m. | March 10: What Why How We Eat

10:30a.m.-12:00p.m. | April 14: Discovery Center

These self-directed, all-ages drop-in sessions are for people who experience a range of developmental and physical disabilities and for those on the autism spectrum to visit a specific gallery when the museum is closed to the public. Museum staff help facilitate opportunities for close looking and tactile activities. A safe space is available and an adult must accompany visitors under age 18.

\$5 per group/family, museum members receive 10% discount.

Advance registration appreciated.

To register or learn more, visit anchoragemuseum.org/sensefriendly

WHAT PEOPLE LIKED:

- I loved that I didn't have to worry about my daughter disturbing people visiting the museum. The cost also is great. It's easier to manage especially if she has a meltdown and we have to leave early. The employees were wonderful. I also loved the sensory items when you first walk in. Also that I can bring our other kids too for a family visit.
- That my son was able to play without worrying about loud noises or there being too many people.
- The quietness of the museum ... and the time for our littles to do their thing. Means so much to me.



VISITOR STORY GUIDES

Visitor Story Guide

MY TRIP TO THE ANCHORAGE MUSEUM



I WILL GO TO THE **ANCHORAGE MUSEUM** SOON. THIS STORY IS ABOUT WHAT THE MUSEUM WILL BE LIKE.

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM



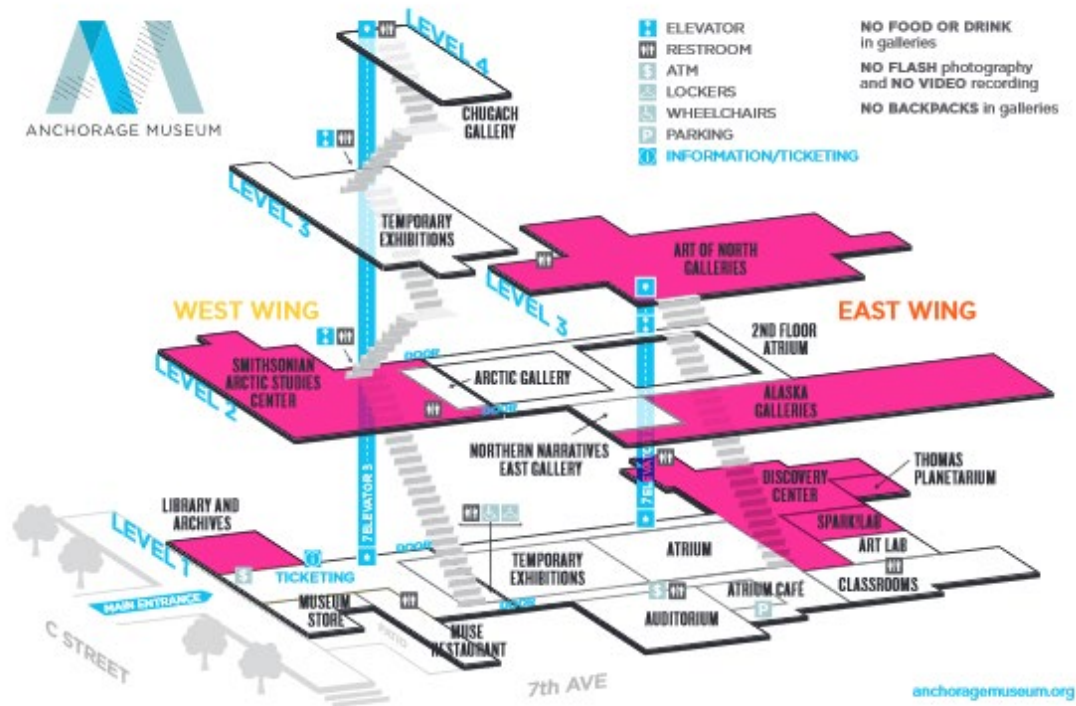
SOME OBJECTS ARE FOR LOOKING



SOME OF THE MUSEUM DISPLAYS ARE FRAGILE. THESE DISPLAYS ARE MADE TO **LOOK AT, BUT NOT TO TOUCH.** BARRIERS AND SIGNS AROUND DISPLAYS REMIND US NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE.



SOME EXHIBITS STAY THE SAME



SOME MUSEUM EXHIBITS ARE **PERMANENT** AND WILL BE THE SAME EACH TIME I VISIT THE MUSEUM. I CAN LEARN ABOUT THESE PERMANENT EXHIBITS ON THE NEXT SEVERAL PAGES.



IF I GET HUNGRY



I CAN **EAT OR DRINK IN THE ATRIUM**. I WILL THROW MY TRASH AWAY WHEN I AM DONE. THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THE MUSEUM THAT I CAN EAT FOOD I BROUGHT.



AUDIO/VISUAL DESCRIPTIONS



Muir Glacier, 1889

Thomas Hill

[LISTEN TO DESCRIPTION](#)



WEBSITE



Come to know the true North

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VISIT EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMS JOIN & GIVE COLLECTIONS ABOUT US STORE

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ACCESSIBILITY



Everyone is welcome at the Anchorage Museum. We offer programs, services, and resources to help support your visit. If you have questions or would like to discuss how to make the most of your visit, please email accessibility@anchagemuseum.org. We appreciate at least two weeks advance notice for special accommodation requests.

WEBSITE CONTENT

- Building Accessibility
- Visitor Story Guides
- Sensory-Friendly and Access Programs
- Visual Descriptions
- Professional Caregivers
- Adapted School Group Field Trips
- Museum Maps



THINKING BROADLY & LOOKING FORWARD

- Older adults
- English language learners
- Immigrants and refugees

- Ongoing process – not finished



RESOURCES

- [Anchorage Museum's Accessibility Webpage](#)
- [NEA's Accessibility Planning and Resource Guide for Cultural Administrators](#)
- [Alaska Autism Resource Center](#), Aimee Smith
- [Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference](#):
Feb. 23-March 1, 2019
- School District Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Adaptive PE Instructors, Special Education Staff
- Local organizations and medical providers that work with families with special needs





CONTACT INFORMATION

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