



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** State Board of Education & Early Development  
**Date:** April 20, 2022

**Thru:** Commissioner Michael Johnson  
**Telephone:** (907) 465-2911

**From:** Patience Frederiksen  
Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums  
**Subject:** Agenda 17B. Libraries, Archives and Museums Standing Report

### Events



February 19 – Congratulations to the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum! This enterprising group hosted Tlingit glass artist Preston Singletary as guest speaker at their annual meeting at Sitka’s Centennial Hall and on zoom. <http://www.prestonsingletary.com>.

(Five glass containers that resemble Tlingit woven baskets in bright colors.)

February 25 – Librarian Daniel Cornwall received many compliments for his two technology sessions from attendees of the Alaska Library Association conference. Both workshops provided useful information for both libraries and homes. His two sessions were: *Reuse – New Uses for Old Electronics and Home* and *Detecting and Reporting Phone and Online Scams*.



February 26 – Allie High’s (Tsimshian, Haida, Alutiiq) solo exhibit Sanctuary opened at Sheldon Jackson Museum. Sanctuary is an exhibition of masks and painted works on wood and canvas. In her program, Allie explained that her goal is building “upon traditional art symbols and motifs to further define the contemporary world and share the beauty of Alaska’s diverse cultures through the mediums of glass, metal, wood and printmaking.”

(Painting of Alaska Native woman wearing colorful mask.)



March 4 – Net-master Marcia Dale and net-hanger and artist LaRece Egli visited Juneau from Bristol Bay to discuss the art of net-hanging and demonstrate hanging corks. Once hung, the 146 wooden corks were displayed in *Mug Up: The Language of Cannery Work*, which opened on April 1 at the State Museum. The women corrected the posture of the mannequin in the NetLocker section of the Mug Up exhibit. Marcia Dale has been providing nets to Bristol Bay fisherman for over 40 years. LaRece Egli is working on the NN Cannery History Project.

(Photographs of women weaving corks into fish nets and repairing tears in the nets.)



March 10 –Michelle Martin with the Tlingit Culture, Language & Literacy Program from Harborview Elementary brought seventeen 4th grade students and four elders to see 8-fingered “Octopus Bags” in the vault of the State Museum. The students are designing, sewing, and beading octopus bags in class, under the guidance of these elders. New employee Brian Wallace guided the students behind the scenes at the museum and put them at ease by mentioning that he had attended their school; his easy manner belied his own expertise as a Tlingit carver and culture bearer. Curator of Collections Steve Henrikson displayed the Museum’s octopus bags. He asked the elders to

handle the objects and point out things they were noticing about the designs, construction, or beadwork. Ms. Martin asked whether they could sing, and Steve allowed as how that might be perfect. She encouraged the students to gently clap or tap their thighs in the place of a drum, reminded them that they were singing to the precious items which hold their ancestors, and three traditional Tlingit songs rose to the 22-foot ceiling of the vault. (Thanks to Mary Irvine for this report.)

(Photograph of Steve Henrikson with students viewing octopus bags in the State Museum’s vault.)

March 10 – Alaska patrons of the Talking Book Service report a high level of satisfaction with the books that they are receiving in the mail or through download, with nearly 90% saying they are satisfied with the selection of titles they receive through this service. Comments about the impact of the service on their lives include:

- “Audiobooks: if it is interesting, I enjoy it, and if not, it helps me sleep,”
- “Being able to listen to books has helped me not to feel so lonely,” and,
- “Losing reading (with little warning) was the biggest loss of macular degeneration. Novels are better than T.V. for a blind guy.”



March 12 – Storyteller Allison Akootchook Warden (Inupiaq) shared stories about the 10-legged polar bear, the giant worm that could catch a bowhead whale, and how the animals of the sea were created as part of the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum Share Your Culture/Share Your Research Winter Series. Allison Akootchook Warden is an internationally acclaimed Inupiaq installation artist originally from Fairbanks, with close ties to Kaktovik.

(Pictured: Allison Akootchook Warden. Photo by Bryan Adams.)



March 26 – Artist Lily Hope (Tlingit) spoke of Reclaiming Community: Chilkat Weavers Call for Support. She said: “Chilkat weavers only 100 years ago, had a community network of support for creating ceremonial dance regalia. Due to colonization, nuclear families, climate change, and federal and state restrictions, weavers are struggling to do it all themselves. All the design work. All the harvesting and prep work. All the dying. All the spinning. This presentation is a call for support.” During this talk, Lily demonstrated the laborious prep work that goes into weaving a Chilkat dancing blanket.

(Pictured: Double Raven Chilkat Blanket by Lily Hope. Photo by Ricky Tagaban.)



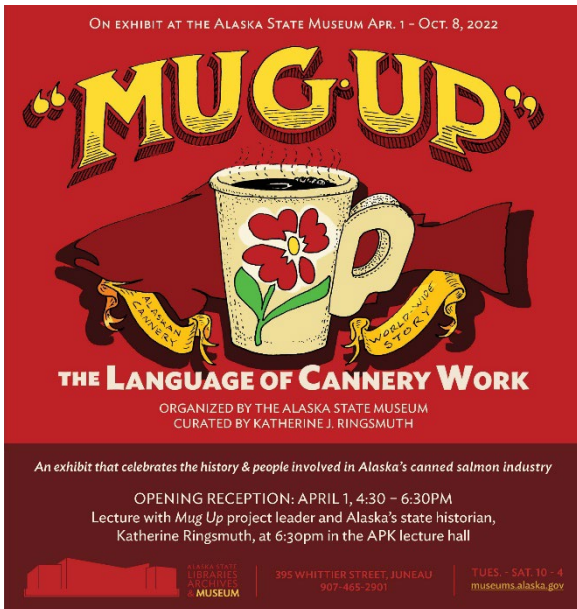
March 26 – Juneau Big Read: An American Sunrise. Prominent Juneau writers reflected on the work of indigenous writer, musician, and current U.S. Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo, and paid tribute to her influence on their own writing lives. Harjo’s memoir, An American Sunrise – her eighth collection of poems – was selected by Juneau Public Library for the annual Big Read, which invites members of the community to read a book together and share its impact. Ernestine Hayes, former Alaska Writer Laureate, keyed this event, followed by a panel discussion featuring Frank Katasse, Christy Namee Erickson, Jared Olin, and Erin Tripp at the Andrew P.

Kashevaroff (APK) lecture hall.

(Pictured: Ernestine Hayes, Christy Namee Erickson, Frank Katasse, Jared Olin, Erin Tripp)

March 29 – The Governor’s Advisory Council on Libraries and the Library Development unit of the State Library submitted a five-year evaluation report to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on how it has used Federal funds to promote library development statewide. Each year, IMLS awards \$1.1 million to the State Library, which allocates these funds to a wide variety of library services, grant-funded projects, and continuing education for library staff. This report informs the work the Advisory Council is doing this spring on the five-year state plan, which is due on June 30, 2022. The state plan is akin to a multi-year grant application and the evaluation report serves as a grant final report.





April 1 – October 8, 2022      *Mug-Up: The Language of Cannery Work*  
 Mug Up, the cannery term for a coffee break, brought together diverse workers who provided essential labor and created a unique social milieu within the cannery workscape. This exhibit shares stories of Alaska’s cannery crews and showcases artifacts from the canned salmon industry through the lens of the Alaska Packers Association’s <NN> (Diamond NN) Cannery, located on the Naknek River in Bristol Bay, Alaska. The exhibit is a journey through a typical salmon cannery, building-by-building, using each space to spotlight the labor and social history behind one of Alaska’s most significant industries. Their story is told through three sections: Storied Salmon, Working Waterfront, and Cannery Community. State historian and Mug Up project leader, Katie Ringsmuth, gave a lecture in the APK Lecture Hall to 73 attendees; more than 220 people toured the galleries. A local coffee roaster developed a special blend named after this exhibit and provided coffee and donuts for the opening. (Pictured: Exhibit poster and cannery workers on the cannery dock for a “mug up”. Photograph by Mike Rann.)



April 23 – Youth Activity: Watercolor Maps – Rachelle Bonnett taught youth attendees basic watercolor painting techniques, the different types of maps, and how to draw and paint their own version of a map inspired by the collections of the Alaska State Archives. (Pictured: Watercolor version of a topographic map.)