

KODIAK HISTORY MUSEUM

2024 Annual Report



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IN 2024, KHM HAD

\$89,652.98 TOTAL SALES

\$77,441.75 GRANT FUNDING

\$11,399.00 FUNDRAISING

5,154 VISITORS

556 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

244 SCHOOL VISITORS

81 VOLUNTEER HOURS

77 MEMBERS

61 ALASKAN VENDORS

27 CRUISE SHIPS

27 RESEARCH REQUESTS

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Friends,

This past year has been a significant time of transition for the Kodiak History Museum. Our staff and Board have worked diligently during this time to ensure that the Museum remained steadfast in its mission and continue its incredible work.

As I step into my new role as Executive Director, this transition offers an opportunity for KHM to reflect on past achievements and envision new goals for our future. This moment feels particularly meaningful as we celebrate our 70th anniversary in September. It's an anniversary that invites us to view the Museum's future with fresh eyes and a renewed sense of purpose.

We are committed to making our collections accessible to the public and sharing diverse perspectives of the Kodiak diaspora. We are proud to be a center of community for Kodiak. Over the past year, we have hosted numerous events, many of which were offered at low cost to ensure accessibility for all, served over 5000 visitors to the Museum, and hosted three temporary exhibits.

I am incredibly grateful to the KHM Board of Directors for this opportunity to join this amazing organization, and to the staff who have offered their time and expertise helping me succeed in my new role. I am excited for what the next years will bring and eager to share new ideas and initiatives with all of you.

Thank you to our members, supporters, and friends who continue to assist us in our preservation work and in sharing the rich and diverse history of Kodiak. We are dedicated to our mission and to being a vibrant hub for the Kodiak community. This is only the beginning of a new chapter, and we look forward to what we will accomplish together.

Kristin O'Lear
Executive Director



THANK YOU BOARD AND STAFF

Roberta Austring, Board Treasurer
Michael Bach, Board Member
Candace Branson, Board Secretary
Marlynn Fangonilo, Board Member
Amanda Lancaster, Board Member
Sarah Simeonoff, Board Member
Toby Sullivan, Board President
Mary Tougas, Board Vice President

Lena Amason, Museum Assistant
Ivy Blain, Operations Manager
Margaret Greutert, Chief Curator
Jennifer Hansen, Museum Assistant
Kristin O'Lear, Executive Director
Robert Stauffer, Interim Executive Director
Lynn Walker, Curator
Hannah Wolfe-MacPike, Collections Manager

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

NEW ACQUISITIONS

In FY24, the Museum acquired several amazing objects into their collection. These objects and donors include:

- 2023-2-1: Headdress, Nacaq; Lena Amason
- 2023-3: Collection of 2018 Women's March in Kodiak Banner and Flags, Brent Watkins
- 2023-4-A286: Collection of photographs Kodiak circa 1945-1949, Gary Ham
- 2023-5-A287: Digitized videos featuring the Kodiak Guides Association and Madsen's Bear Guiding, Nathan Svoboda Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- 2023-6-A288: Collection of photos and letter, Craig Johnson



- 2024-1-A289: Photos of the recovery effort after the 1964, Robert Feireisen
- 2024-2-A290: Letters from Nellie and W.J. Erskine to Carolyn Erskine Correspondence, Dough Hall
- 2024-3-A291: 33 photographs, Nanci Langley
- 2024-4-A292: Letter describing the aftermath of the 1964 tsunami and earthquake, Victoria Meier
- 2024-5-A293 Print, Photographic, Pamela Raschke
- 2024-6: Gameboard and Prints, Michaela Alonzo of Fil-Am
- 2024-7: Collection of WWII memorabilia, Susan Kornharens



PUBLIC DATABASE PROJECT



On January 31, 2024, the Museum published its first online database showcasing our 2300 objects. This allows researchers and other interested individuals from around the world to view the collection. This project was made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences Inspire! Grants for Small Museums award. To browse our database, please visit:

kodiakhistorymuseum.catalogaccess.com



EXHIBITS & PROGRAMMING

OBJECTS UNCOVERED Nov 2023 - March 2024

Every object in a museum holds many stories and diverse perspectives. These stories are what make objects important; they are the reason objects are collected. *Objects Uncovered* presented and explored different stories associated with objects in our collections. It featured 14 objects and stories selected and provided by Kodiak community members through a series of public focus groups held in August 2023. Visitors were invited to share their thoughts and stories as part of the exhibit.

Many of these objects had never been on display. The exhibit opened on November 3, 2023, during Kodiak's First Friday Artwalk, and remained on display until Spring 2024.



OBJECTS UNCOVERED
TERROR LAKE HAT, KHS 87-10-10
O. KRAFT AND SON POSTER, KHS 2017-05-01

"When I think about the tsunami, what strikes me is how much the community must have had to come together to get through that time. Kodiak has always been a place where people help when help is needed and it must have been the same then. I sometimes sit on the Channel side beaches on Near Island and think about what it would look like to see the town swept away. Now, those Wednesday 2 PM siren tests are just part of the normal cycle of the week, but I wonder how we will come together when it happens again."

- Djuna Davidson, Focus Group Participant



OBJECTS UNCOVERED
BARONG TAGALOG, KHS 2012-24-01

"I also have my own barong. It's off-white, almost yellow, it's made of pineapple fibers and the pattern stops just above my waist. My father bought it for me to escort my friend in a Flores de Mayo that my mom sponsored and my cousin in a parade in my dad's old neighborhood."

-Anonymous Focus Group Participant



FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

EXHIBITS & PROGRAMMING

KODIAK HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED ART CLASS April 2024

Kodiak High School Advanced Art Class: Selected Works from 2023-2024 is a first-time partnership between Brendan Harrington's Kodiak High School art class and the Kodiak History Museum. Students in this class had creative freedom, completing 1-2 projects each month in a college-level independent study format, and then displayed their finished projects at KHM.



Visitors to the exhibit were able to explore these artworks and celebrate the students' achievements this school year.

This exhibit was a rare opportunity for Kodiak High School students to learn how to prepare their art for display, including learning about how to mount their art and develop interpretive labels.

KHM's Curator, Lynn Walker, remarked fondly on the exhibit, *"it was an exciting opportunity to provide a formal setting for local emerging artists to acquire skills needed in an artistic career. This exhibit is a great resume builder that will open future funding opportunities to these emerging artists."*

Artists featured in this exhibit were:

- Hector Aquiles Suarez
- Storm Hayden
- James Berestoff
- Aliesha Miranda
- LeElla Caskey
- Roxanne Suyat
- Emagale Counciller
- Natalie Trujillo
- Aaralyn Hagle
- Maria Velasco

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

This year, we focused on serving local teachers by offering more flexibility with field trip scheduling. We were able to accommodate many groups before the Museum opened to the public, addressing prior concerns regarding availability from teachers.



To date, we welcomed 11 field trips from local schools, with a total of 194 children and 50 chaperones visiting the Museum.

If you are interested in booking a tour or a classroom visit, please contact Lynn Walker for details.

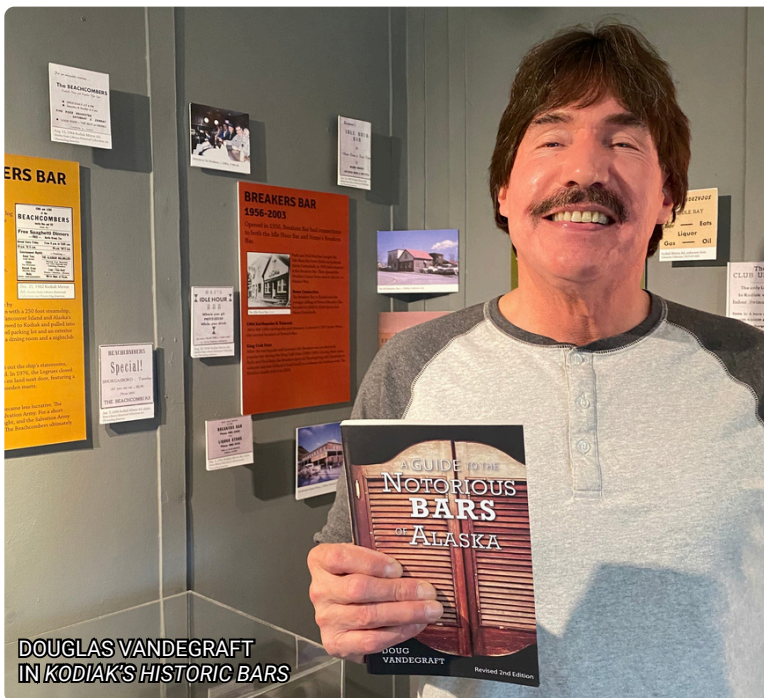
EXHIBITS & PROGRAMMING

KODIAK'S HISTORIC BARS May 2024 - Oct 2024

In May 2024, KHM debuted its newest temporary exhibit, *Kodiak's Historic Bars: 1899-Today*. *Kodiak's Historic Bars* – co-curated with Douglas Vandegrift, Toby Sullivan, and Jim Ramaglia – explores how bars have been part of Kodiak's social glue for over 100 years. It featured profiles of 12 historic bars, bar ephemera, photographs, and oral histories from Kodiak community members.



Kodiak has an interesting and extensive history surrounding bars. For example, one of the first Alaskan bar licenses was given to the B&B in 1899. The bars of Kodiak were impacted by local, state, and national events like Prohibition, World War II, the 1964 earthquake and tsunami, and the heyday of commercial fishing.



KHM's Curator, Lynn Walker, commented, *"Many of the bars were connected to each other and to other businesses in Alaska. It has been a fascinating process of uncovering these connections and how bars were an integral part of Kodiak for 100 years. They had restaurants, and people could celebrate the holidays with a spaghetti dinner at the Beachcombers. They also opened up rooms during the times that housing was scarce. These bars performed important social functions in Kodiak, and it was important to spell that out in this exhibit."*



Thank you to KMXT 100.1 for hosting an oral history radio program and sharing more information about Kodiak's historic bars.

Thank you to Beoma Blinn Oakley, Carmen Lunde, Ray LeGrue, Wayne Baker, Jerry Markham, and Jim Ramaglia for sharing their memories as owners, patrons, and workers in Kodiak's historic bars through oral histories.

This project was supported by a Grant-in-Aid from the Alaska State Museum.

EXHIBITS & PROGRAMMING

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

This year, we focused on serving our Kodiak community through increased, cost-free programming and educational outreach. Major programs for FY24 included:

- An artist workshop series, funded by The CIRI Foundation, featuring David Tucker, Mariah Stapleton, and Susan Malutin
- A community lecture series in partnership with the Alutiiq Museum and funded by the Kodiak Community Foundation
- A new pop-up museum, funded by the Kodiak Community Foundation



We partnered with JoAnne Knight's ED575 class at Kodiak College and served as the case study for their course on how to integrate art and history into the classroom. As part of this partnership, we received 5 lesson plans to incorporate into Museum curriculum.



We developed and organized 2 new activities for visitors to the museum – a scavenger hunt and activity sheet! These activities became available in Spring 2024.

FIRST FRIDAY ARTWALKS

We participated in each First Friday Artwalk this year and made First Friday cost-free as a way of being accessible to our community.

Educational

159 Visitors

Kids' Night

February
66 Visitors

Archaeology Lecture

December
64 Visitors

Free Admission Night

July
22 Visitors

Guided Tours

January
7 Visitors

Opening Events

106 Visitors

Kodiak High School Advanced Art

April
45 Visitors

Objects Uncovered

November
33 Visitors

Kodiak's Historic Bars

May
28 Visitors



Local Artists

85 Visitors

Balalaika Players

June
41 Visitors

Artist Q&A

October
23 Visitors

Spring Market

March
21 Visitors



Between Educational Programs, Exhibit Openings, and Artists, KHM served 350 people during First Friday Artwalks alone.



RUSSIAN-AMERICAN MAGAZIN BUILDING REHABILITATION

The Kodiak History Museum operates out of the National Historic Landmark building, the Russian-American Magazin – the oldest standing building in Alaska. It was originally built as a Russian sea otter pelt warehouse in 1808. We thank the City of Kodiak who diligently supports the care and preservation of this historic structure. This past year, the City procured historically accurate designs to replace the roof, as well as construction documents to divert storm water drainage away from the building.

CRUISE SHIPS

This year, staff made a valiant effort to accommodate each cruise ship by working on days that we are normally closed. In total, we served 27 cruises and brought in over \$32,000 to Kodiak on those days alone.

<p>July 2023 5 Cruises 3 special openings</p>	<p>April 2024 2 Cruises 1 Special Opening</p>
<p>August 2023 2 Cruises</p>	<p>May 2024 7 Cruises 3 Special Openings</p>
<p>September 2023 7 Cruises 2 special Openings</p>	<p>June 2024 2 Cruises 1 Special Opening</p>
<p>October 2023 2 Cruises 1 Special Opening</p>	



MUSEUM STORE

The Kodiak History Museum’s goal is to not only preserve and share the history of our island, but the artistic heritage as well. Culture and arts are deeply rooted in Kodiak, and we are proud to support over 75 vendors with a preference for Kodiak and Alaskan residents . Thank you to all our astounding artist vendors who are able to share their artwork not only within the island, but the entire world, just as the Russian-American Magazin was an international crossroads.



GRANTORS

City of Kodiak
Kodiak Island Borough
Alaska State Museum Grant-in-Aid
Institute of Museum and Library Services
National Endowment for the Humanities
Kodiak Community Foundation
Museums Alaska with Support from the Rasmuson
Foundation
Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Network
The CIRI Foundation

TOP DONORS

First National Bank of Alaska
Futura Fisheries
Roberta Austring
Pat Branson
Kathy Gallardo
Karl Gurcke
David Heuman
Nancy Kemp
Valorie Miller
Ellen Simeonoff
Mary Tougas

VOLUNTEERS

Amelia Boger
Tiffany Cannon
Shelly Egle
Kariona Harford
Suella Wendell
Anthony White
Brian Venua



MEMBERS (07.01.2023- 06.30.2024)

Suzanne Abraham
Joan Antonson
Alan Austerman
Roberta Austring
Michael Bach
Robin Barefield
Audrey Bennett
Candace Branson
Pat Branson
Blythe Brown
James Brooks
Randy Busch
Deborah Carver
Steve Cole
April Counciller

Djuna Davidson
Harry Dodge
Scott Ellis
Paul Erskine
Rhonda Faubion
Futura Fisheries
Linda Freed
Kodiak Furniture
Kathy Gallardo
Brianna Gibbs
Robyn Grad
Karl Gurcke
Laura Herman
David Heuman
Carol Hult

Katherine Irons
Meghan Kelly
Nancy Kemp
Margaret Kienle
Christy Kinter
Thomas & Linda Lance
Barbara Large
Ellen Lester
Sara Loewen-Danelski
Patricia MacPike
Linda Madsen
Gerald Markham
Valorie Miller
Betsey Myrick
Adelia Myrick

Yvonne Nelson
Molly Odell
James & Linda Odom
Marcia Oswald
Chris Provost
Jon Quyle
Diane Rodill
Patrick Saltonstall
Fred Sargent
Alan Schmitt
Melissa Schoenwether
Wanda & Myra Scholze
Ellen Simeonoff
Ralph Sirofchuck
Melissa Stark

Marcia Stelzer
Toby Sullivan
Ani Thomas
Mary Tougas
Robert & Roberta Tucker
Mike Wall
Stephen Wallace
Keller Wattum
Elana White
Wanda Woofter
Christopher Wooley
Rachelle Valladares
Douglas Vandegrift
Sanhchone Vongnakhone

MARIAN JOHNSON, 1931 -2024



KHS, ALICE RYSER COLLECTION, P-525-210

We extend our sincere gratitude to Marian Johnson who served as Director of the Museum for over 25 years.

Marian was a champion of Kodiak's history. She voyaged to Kodiak on a sailboat from Seattle in 1952 with her

husband, Dr. Bob Johnson, and family, settling here in 1955. Marian was instrumental in saving the Russian-American Magazin and surrounding grounds of Sargent Park following the 1964 earthquake and tsunami. She was instrumental to the building's rehabilitation and created a space, filled with hospitality and educational opportunities, for visitors to enjoy.



HOSTING ON THE MUSEUM PORCH WITH STAFF, KHS P-364-44



COOKING INSIDE THE MUSEUM, KHS, ALICE RYSER COLLECTION, P-525-153

Especially apt in procuring grant funds, Marian worked to revive the landmark building, acquired significant collections related to Kodiak's history, supported several archaeological excavations, and built an extensive historical library of over 700 rare books.



SERVING TEA IN THE MUSEUM GALLERIES, KHS, P-364-40-D

"When I first came to the Erskine House, I realized it was a big job of cleaning, removing, and making the building a proper museum for the public."



Alaska recognition

Kodiak Rep. Gary Stevens and Sen. Alan Austerman present former Baranov Museum director Marian Johnson with a legislative award recognizing her longtime contributions to the survival and enhancement of the historical museum. (Heidi Zemach photo)

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR, JUNE 12, 2001



KHS, ALICE RYSER COLLECTION, P-525-176-5

We thank Marian for her years of service to our community. She will be missed and remembered.