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ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM

The Forum connects Alaskans through stories, ideas, and experiences that positively change lives and empower communities. We bring people together to think critically and creatively, find common ground, tackle current issues, and honor the cultural richness that makes Alaska a great place to call home.

Educator and Youth Forums

The Forum has longstanding successful programs supporting and preparing educators and youth. Participants are connected to their own cultural heritage, communicate across cultural differences, and gain a better understanding of the many traditions, heritage, values, and culture across our state; they apply these new insights and skills to their lives as individuals, students, teachers, and professionals.

- The **Educator Cross-Cultural Immersion (ECCI)** is an experiential program to help urban Alaskan teachers better understand Alaska's rural cultures.
- **Creating Cultural Competence of Rural Early Career Teachers (C3)** provides a unique experience for teachers new to the Lower Kuskokwim and Northwest Arctic regions of Alaska to better understand the traditions, heritage, values, and culture of their new home.
- The **Sister School Exchange** is a unique, experiential program that promotes understanding among Alaska's urban and rural communities through cross-cultural exchanges in middle and high schools.
- **Take Wing Alaska** assists students from the Lower Kuskokwim School District with the transition to urban, post-secondary education.
- **Alaska History and Cultural Studies** offers an online curriculum designed to teach Alaska high school students about their state, its rich history and its people. The Alaska Humanities Forum and the state's leading historians, anthropologists, geographers, and educators developed the course.

Leadership Forums

The Forum is celebrating 20 years of Leadership Anchorage, its flagship leadership development program rooted in the humanities. We are currently expanding this work to build leadership capacity and strengthen networks in additional regions and across the state.

- Leadership Anchorage is the premier leadership development program for established and emerging Alaska leaders seeking to expand their impact in the community.
- Alaska Salmon Fellows recognizes, supports, and connects Alaskan leaders who bring informed and diverse perspectives to enhance our salmon-people systems.

Public Forums

- **Magnetic North** is a serial documentary film project produced by Alaska Humanities Forum in partnership with Rasmuson Foundation. The series explores the personality and character of six Alaskans whose actions and ideas shaped the history, spirit, and values of our state.
- **Second Friday @ The Forum** supports and promotes Alaskans telling their stories through mediums ranging from graffiti to poetry, from oil painting to electronic soundscapes. Gallery space at our office features a unique exhibit each month that opens with an artist's reception and discussion; the exhibits and receptions are free and open to the public.
- **Duty Bound** draws on the power of the humanities to support deepened understanding of the experiences of Americans affiliated with the armed services, whether active-duty, reserve, National Guard, retirees, or veterans. Duty Bound is not a stand-alone program, but rather a thematic initiative running across our programs, projects, publications, and grants awards.
- **FORUM** is Alaska Humanities Forum's magazine that is currently produced twice a year. Its stunning photographs, in-depth articles and insightful interviews cover humanities events on the state and national levels, spotlight grant projects and Forum events, and highlight programs.

Grants

The Forum empowers innovative, grassroots humanities projects across the state by funding a range of projects each year that help Alaskans better understand complex issues, get people talking about important topics in Alaska, increase public access to resources and programming, and preserve and promote Alaska's stories.

Annual Grants support innovative, humanities-based projects across Alaska with awards up to \$10,000. Mini Grants are awarded on a rolling basis to make possible short-term, small-scale humanities projects in Alaska.

In carrying out the Forum's mission, we support grant projects that:

Educate the public:

We fund projects that help people understand complex social issues relevant to Alaska through disciplines such as history, literature, and philosophy. They provide a framework for examining how we think, what we value, and what it means to be human. Examples: book, exhibit, documentary film, curriculum guide, speaker series

Get people talking:

We fund projects that engage Alaskans in civic dialogue and discussion. Through these programs, participants hone skills of inquiry, analysis, reflection, evaluation, empathy, and conversation, enriching both their private lives and their communities. Examples: community conversation, facilitated discussion, interactive workshop, cultural immersion, debate

Increase public access:

We fund projects that open existing humanities resources to new audiences and bring existing humanities programs to additional communities in Alaska. These resources and programs should explore ideas and questions that help us document and interpret our human experience of the world around us. Examples: film screening, speaker tour, digitization project, field trip

Preserve and promote Alaska's stories:

We fund projects that nurture diverse, contemporary Alaska stories and preserve Alaska's human history for future generations. Examples: oral history, archival work, book, documentary film, native place name map