

2/5/2017

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Shana Anderson  
Po Box 1956  
Valdez Alaska 99686

Senator Stevens  
Alaska State Capital  
Room 429  
Juneau Alaska 99801

**Dear Senator Stevens,**

For the purpose of providing testimony in support of SB7, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know how much the Valdez Museum means to me and to the community of Valdez Alaska.

The museum has in the past several years provide myself and fellow community artists with a place to display our art work. Annually the museum hosts community art shows to showcase the wide variety of medias and talents of local artists. The museum also hosts regular shows to support the local quilters and other fiber artists.

Personally, the museum staff encouraged me to have a solo art show and provided me with tremendous support. There are no other museums or venues for over a 300 miles radius in which an artist can hope to hold a show and display their work.

Every year the Valdez Museum has a student art show that showcases young artists from kindergarten age through college. This show has grown so large over the years that much of the student art is also displayed in our local library, along with the art displayed in the museum.

The museum holds regular art and crafts classes for people of all ages. The museum hosts an annual summer art camp for kids, and also holds many Valdez and Alaska themed history events throughout the year.

The Valdez Museum and Historical Archives is an extremely important part of the community of Valdez, and it's staff of professionals do an amazing job to keep it that way!

In order to continue doing what it has been doing, the Valdez museum is in disparate need of expanding its facility. Many of its exhibits are now in storage due to lack of space in which to display them.



VMHA is not the only museum in the state that is facing issues with older buildings in need of repairs or expansion.

Please sponsor SB7, establishing a museum construction grant program, in support of our Alaskan museums as they continue to serve our communities.

Sincerely,

*Shana Anderson*

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