



The Statewide Museum Association

www.museumsalaska.org | PO Box 3004 | Homer, AK 99603 | (907) 306-3409 | director@museumsalaska.org

February 21, 2015

PRESIDENT

Angela Linn  
Museum of the North,  
Fairbanks

Representative Bob Herron  
State Capitol, Room 411  
Juneau, AK 99801

VICE PRESIDENT

Eva Malvich  
Yupit Piciryarait  
Museum, Bethel

Dear Representative Herron,

SECRETARY

Hayley Chambers  
Ketchikan Museums

Thank you for your sponsorship of House Bill 52, establishing a museum construction grant program in the Department of Education and Early Development. Museums Alaska stands ready to partner in efforts to ensure that the new grant program effectively assesses needs of museum capital projects statewide, much as the Alaska Library Association partners with the state to provide a ranking of library capital projects under the library construction grant program.

TREASURER

Michele Miller  
Pratt Museum, Homer

Museums Alaska, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the professional association of museums and cultural centers in Alaska. We serve over 100 members, providing an annual conference for professional development, newsletters, advocacy, and a re-grant program by administering two Rasmuson Foundation funds. We partner closely with the Alaska State Museum to expand statewide services to museums and collaborate regularly with the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the Alaska Historical Society.

DIRECTORS

Molly Conley  
Alaska Office of History &  
Archaeology, Anchorage

Following the state's model for library construction projects, we support developing a mechanism that provides equitable access to funding through a competitive grant program and statewide ranking of projects. HB 52 accomplishes that mechanism through which future funding may be sought. Even without immediate appropriations into the fund, the mechanism can provide a solid ranking of capital projects to aid in legislative decision-making during the capital budget process, as is currently the case with the library program.

Jacqueline Fernandez  
Sheldon Jackson Museum,  
Sitka

Andrew Goldstein  
Valdez Museum &  
Historical Archive

Jane Lindsey  
Juneau-Douglas  
City Museum

Thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation that will allow us to better fund the needs of our aging museums and cultural centers across the state. They are the keepers of our collective history.

Amy Russell-  
Jamgochian  
Beringia Center of Culture  
& Science, Nome

Sincerely,  
Angela Linn  
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Heather Beggs