

HB

52

<TARGET><BILL>HB 52</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
52</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDC29</COMM></TARGET>

Representative Bob Herron

Rep.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov

State Capitol • Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-4942 • Fax: (907) 465-4589



House District 38
Kuskokwim, Yukon & Johnson Rivers
Kuskokwim Bay & Nelson Island

Akiachak

Akiak

Aniak

Atmautluak

Bethel

Chefornak

Chuathbaluk

Crooked Creek

Ek

Goodnews Bay

Kasigluk

Kipnuk

Kongiganak

Kwethluk

Kwigillingok

Lower Kalskag

Marshall

Mekoryuk

Mertarvik

Napakiaik

Napaskiak

Newtok

Nightmute

Nunapitchuk

Oscarville

Platinum

Quinhagak

Russian Mission

Toksook Bay

Tuluksak

Tununak

Tuntutuliak

Upper Kalskag

March 4, 2015

Representative Wes Keller
State Capitol
Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Keller:

I respectfully request a hearing of House Bill 52 (29-LS0119/A), short titled "Museum Construction Grant Program," in the House Education Committee at your earliest convenience.

A current bill packet is attached. My office will forward any additional materials we receive at least 24 hours before the hearing. A list of expected testifiers, and any special accommodations they may require, will be provided once the bill is scheduled, and my staff has confirmed testifier availability.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me, or my aide Susan Phillips, with any questions.

Sincerely,

Representative Bob Herron

Representative Bob Herron

Rep.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov

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House Bill 52 - Museum Construction Grants

Version 29-LS0119\A

SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 52 establishes a matching grant program, in the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, for eligible museum construction, expansion, and major renovation projects.

This mirrors an existing program for libraries in the state. Under the provisions of House Bill 52, a person in charge of construction, expansion, or major renovation of an eligible museum could apply to the department for matching funds under regulations adopted by the department.

The department, subject to appropriation, would award not more than 50 percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant.

Museums are eligible for this program if they are located in Alaska, eligible to receive state grant funds, and provide matching funds from other sources of at least 50 percent of the cost of the project.

Alaska is home to more than 60 museums and cultural centers, found in more than 30 communities across the state, from Barrow to Ketchikan, Unalaska to Eagle. They anchor Alaska communities of every size. They connect our past to our future through stewardship of local material culture and history, and educate Alaskans and visitors of all ages. Many also serve as focal points for community life, providing a place for neighbors to connect, collaborate, and strengthen their sense of self and environment.

More than half of these known museums anticipate undertaking major capital improvement projects in the next five years. Through the enabling legislation of House Bill 52 and any accompanying legislative appropriations, we can help them continue their vital work in Alaska.

I welcome your support of House Bill 52.

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 52(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HERRON, Ortiz

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing a museum construction grant program in the Department of**
2 **Commerce, Community, and Economic Development."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.57 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Article 4. Museum Construction.**

6 **Sec. 14.57.300. Museum construction, expansion, and major renovation**
7 **matching grant program.** (a) A matching grant program is established in the
8 Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development for museum
9 construction, expansion, and major renovation projects approved under this section.
10 The department may not accept an application for a grant under this section unless the
11 legislature makes an appropriation for the grant program.

12 (b) A person in charge of construction, expansion, or major renovation of an
13 eligible museum may apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations
14 adopted by the department.

1 (c) The department shall award not more than 50 percent of the final projected
2 costs based on accepted bids to an eligible applicant.

3 (d) In this section, "major renovation" means a significant physical upgrade
4 that allows a museum to better preserve artifacts and present artifacts to the public or
5 to improve space to allow a museum to provide improved educational services to the
6 public.

7 **Sec. 14.57.305. Eligibility.** A museum may be eligible to receive a grant award
8 under AS 14.57.300 if the museum applies for a grant on a form approved by the
9 department and

10 (1) is located in the state;

11 (2) is eligible to receive state grant funds; and

12 (3) provides matching funds from other sources in an amount equal to
13 at least 50 percent of the total proposed grant project costs.

14 **Sec. 14.57.350. Definitions.** In AS 14.57.300 - 14.57.350,

15 (1) "department" means the Department of Commerce, Community,
16 and Economic Development;

17 (2) "museum" means

18 (A) a museum as defined in AS 14.57.290; and

19 (B) a cultural center that exhibits, cares for, or stores
20 collections and is open to the public.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 52
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB052-DCCED-DCRA-03-20-15
Title: MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM
Sponsor: HERRON
Requester: (H) Education

Department: Department of Commerce, Community and
Economic Development
Appropriation: Community and Regional Affairs
Allocation: Community and Regional Affairs
OMB Component Number: 2879

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2016	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2016 Request	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2016	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Personal Services	58.4		58.4	58.4	58.4	58.4	58.4
Travel	5.0		5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Services							
Commodities	3.5		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	66.9	0.0	64.4	64.4	64.4	64.4	64.4

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund	66.9		64.4	64.4	64.4	64.4	64.4
Total	66.9	0.0	64.4	64.4	64.4	64.4	64.4

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time	1.0		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 11/01/16

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: Katherine Eldemar, Director	Phone: (907)465-8249
Division: Community and Regional Affairs	Date: 03/20/2015 11:30 AM
Approved By: Catherine Reardon, Director	Date: 03/20/15
Agency: Division of Administrative Services, DCCED	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB052

Analysis

HB52 establishes the Museum Construction Grant Program within the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. This program would be managed by the Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA).

The DCRA Grants section currently manages over 1,900 grants, covering 11 grant programs, and exceeds \$2 billion in total awards. Each grant administrator currently administers approximately 250 grants. The addition of this grants program would increase the total number of diverse federal and state grant programs overseen by the division to 12. Current Grants staff is working at capacity; the workload associated with this program cannot be absorbed by existing staff.

Personal services costs include one part-time Grants Administrator II to administer the individual grants; prepare grant agreements and amendments; process financial and progress reports; verify and reconcile expenditures of grant funds; and verify that matching funds are spent concurrent with grant funds per regulation. A limited amount of travel is included to facilitate collaboration with other division staff, including Local Government Specialists and Grant Administrators, who work with potential applicants on other community projects or needs.

The Museum Construction Grant Program will be structured substantially similar to the Library Construction Grant Program; regulations are also anticipated to be substantially similar. Services costs include \$2.5 to update and public notice regulations in the first year, as well as \$1.0 in on-going support costs associated with the position.

February 1, 2015

My Turn: Thanks, CHAMPs, for promoting the arts

By Benjamin Brown

FOR THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

If you were downtown at all this past week, you may have come upon Alaskans wearing with little white buttons saying “CHAMP”.

These people were not all claiming to be victors in some unnamed fight, nor was it a case of mass narcissism. The acronym stands for Culture Humanities Arts Museums Partners, an advocacy effort by those who believe Alaskans should have ample access to artistic and cultural resources and activities as an integral part of their lives in the Last Frontier.

The Alaska Arts & Culture Foundation (AACF) partnered this year for the second time with several other cultural entities to make CHAMP happen early in the legislative session. The first of these entities is the Alaska Humanities Forum, a private nonprofit that puts the humanities to use to tell Alaskan stories and impact Alaskans' lives. It has a number of unique programs that bridge the gap between rural and urban Alaska and strengthen the historical and cultural structural supports of Alaskan society. The Forum doesn't receive any regular operating support from the state; it is funded entirely by a federal appropriation from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and is a great CHAMP because of the close relation between its work and its partners in the arts and museum sectors.

Museums Alaska is a consortium of cultural facilities across Alaska, including major museums in the largest communities and smaller places from Anaktuvuk Pass to Delta Junction to Wrangell. By linking like-minded institutions dedicated to the acquisition, conservation, preservation and public enjoyment of artistic, cultural and historic resources, Alaska's museums are more than the sum of their individual parts. Museums Alaska was the major organizer of CHAMP this year, and it brought a nationally recognized expert in effective museum advocacy to train all the partners. Learning the differences between lobbying and advocacy makes for more effective communication in the halls of the Capitol.

The most important part of CHAMP is direct legislative outreach, allowing participants one-on-one time directly with their representatives and senators to explain the importance of support for the arts and humanities and the economic returns they make to Alaska. Complementing the schedule was a lunchtime forum attended by legislators and staff in the Capitol, organized by Juneau Representative Cathy Muñoz. The Butrovich-Fahrenkamp room on the Capitol's second floor was close to standing-room-only as short presentations about each component of CHAMP were made. The first presentation was about the Yupiit Piciryarait Museum

in Bethel, followed by the Alaska State Council on the Arts (on which I serve as chair), the Humanities Forum, and the Alaska Historical Society. There was even a little surprise music by some visiting Anchorage musicians.

The only piece of legislation specifically addressed by this year's CHAMP is House Bill 52, which has been formally endorsed by Museums Alaska. Sponsored by Bethel Representative Bob Herron, HB 52 would establish a museum construction grant program in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to help meet the costs of major renovations by eligible Alaskan museums, institutions able to match state grant dollar-for-dollar. This program is similar to one that currently exists for Alaska libraries. The bill doesn't actually appropriate any funds at this time (a realistic strategy given the current fiscal climate) but it creates a ready-made mechanism for the time when more money will be available for museum projects.

We know here in Juneau from our long wait to replace the aging Alaska State Museum how helpful it will be to have a predictable and reliable source for this specific category of cultural capital projects. We are extremely fortunate that the new State Museum was funded in its entirety last year and won't have to compete for any scarce dollars in what promises to be a very lean capital budget.

CHAMP culminated Thursday evening at the Governor's Awards for the Arts & Humanities in the Juneau Arts & Culture Center. All in attendance were grateful for the presence of Gov. Bill Walker and first lady Donna Walker, and each and every awardee charmingly shared a personal story upon being given the award by the governor. Live musical and dance performances accentuated the evening beautifully, and best of all it was broadcast live on public television and on the Internet, and captured to allow those who missed it to see it still.

For the second year in a row, Juneau has successfully hosted both CHAMP and the Governor's Awards for the Arts & Humanities, and we can look forward to continuing this new tradition in 2016.

- Benjamin Brown is a lifelong Alaskan and an attorney who lives in Juneau. He is chairman of the Alaska State Council on the Arts.



Representative Bob Herron
State Capitol, Room 406
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

January 22, 2015

Waq'aa Representative Bob Herron,

On behalf of the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) Yupiit Piciryarait Museum, I would like to welcome you back to office. As a member of your district, the Yupiit Piciryarait Museum provides a valuable service to the community.

Quyana for supporting our 2015 Museum Alaska advocacy priorities by carrying House Bill 52, "an act establishing a museum construction grant program in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development." With this enabling legislation, it will better allow us to maintain our collection of animal hide, gut skin, wood and ivory objects that are in danger of permanent damage from the lack of humidity control in our museum. In addition, we are working towards building a repository in our community, to better serve our tribes who want us to maintain their collection close to home, in a world-class facility large enough to hold the thousands of objects that are recovered from old settlements in our area.

Museums across the country are playing a key role in education - welcoming 90 million students each year, training teachers, serving homeschoolers, and much more. Museums are also playing a key economic role, spending \$20 billion in communities and supporting 400,000 jobs nationally. Many museums are also offering innovative programming: working with under-served youth, offering programs for families dealing with autism or Alzheimer's, and welcoming military families free of charge.

We would very much like the opportunity to give you and your staff an insider's view of how the Yupiit Piciryarait Museum serves our community. As the only museum in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region, our collection of Yup'ik dolls, masks, grass baskets, hunting implements, clothing and tools are world-class objects that are easily accessible to the people of this region. Our elders wanted a museum to teach our future elders about our Yup'ik culture, and we feel by providing objects close to home, our kids can learn about who they are, how the object was made, and how it was used to help us live in this part of the state for a millennia.

As a member of Museums Alaska, a statewide association of Alaska's museum professionals and volunteers, our mission is to provide opportunities for improvement of museum and culture center services in Alaska and to enhance public understanding of the purposes and functions of Alaska's museums and culture centers. Museums Alaska is committed to preserving the natural and human history of Alaska; improving museums as educational institutions; and promoting the improvement of museums in all areas.

Committed to preserving Alaska's heritage and culture, our 2013 Museum Alaska advocacy priorities not only support existing programs and projects, we are advocating for the future. We support three priorities.

- Complete funding for the State Library Archives and Museums (SLAM) capital project, estimated at an additional \$50 million.

- Increase funding to the legislative budget line item for the Alaska State Museum's Grant-in-Aid program to \$150,000 specifically to be re-granted to Alaska's museums, with an additional \$25,000 to be specifically allocated to the statewide Internship Program.
- Establish a task force for the development of a state funded matching fund program for museum capital projects, similar to what has occurred for library capital projects.

Here in Alaska, Museums and Cultural Centers contribute to our economy and well being through employment and cultural tourism. They educate children and adults and enrich communities. (Your Institution) looks forward to supplying you with more information about our advocacy priorities, our cultural presence and contributions in our community.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Eva Malvich

Eva Malvich, Director/Curator
Yupit Piciryarait Museum, AVCP
PO Box 218 Bethel, AK 99559 907/543-7335 Work or 907/545-6059 Cell
www.facebook.com/yupikmuseum
www.avcp.org



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

Jacqueline Fernandez
Sheldon Jackson Museum,
Sitka

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.

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



Alaska Historical Society

P.O. Box 100299, Anchorage, AK 99510-0299

907.276.1596

www.alaskahistoricalsociety.org

February 18, 2015

Representative Bob Herron
State Capitol, Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Herron,

Thank you for sponsoring HB 52. This bill promises to markedly improve the ability of Alaska museums to exhibit and care for collections, educate the public about our great state, and serve as anchors within our communities.

The Alaska Historical Society strongly endorses HB 52. In fact, the board of directors has passed a resolution supporting a museum capital project bill. Members of the Alaska Historical Society from around the state will benefit from HB52, since our members live in the many communities with museums and cultural centers that are preparing for capital projects over the next few years. Our members serve as staff, volunteers, visitors, and researchers at museums that will benefit from HB 52. Moreover, the Alaska Historical Society is dedicated to promoting and preserving the history of Alaska, and these Alaskan institutions serve as frontline guardians of this heritage that we treasure so dearly. They require facilities that provide the optimum environment for preserving collections with sufficient space to accommodate the acquisition of new collections. Alaska's history deserves to be highlighted in engaging and innovative exhibition spaces, which this bill will also help to facilitate.

In 2017, Alaska will be commemorating the 150 year anniversary of the Purchase of Alaska. In fact, it was at the 100 year anniversary of this same event that many of Alaska's museums and cultural centers were first funded and founded. Now, nearly fifty years later, in honor of this milestone in our history, it is imperative that Alaska again invests in the cultural infrastructure of our state. HB 52 provides a pathway to do just that. It ensures that Alaska's history and culture is cared for, cherished, and utilized by Alaskans and visitors alike, at the time of the 150th anniversary of the Purchase of Alaska and far into the future.

Sincerely,

Anjali Grantham
Advocacy Chair,
Board of Directors



Alaska Library Association • P.O. Box 81084, Fairbanks, AK 99708 • www.akla.org

Resolution

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature wisely established a major renovation/new constructions grant program for public libraries in 2008; this grant program residing in DCCED and,

WHEREAS although unfunded, the program allows for public libraries with building projects to authenticate their "shovel-readiness" and be placed upon a construction readiness matrix maintained by the Alaska Library Association, and

WHEREAS this construction readiness matrix has proven useful in legislative line-item funding requests; public libraries in Alaska having received over \$50 million in capital funding since the legislation passed, and

WHEREAS this funding has allowed major construction projects in 18 public libraries in as many communities, thereby improving library services and information access to a huge number of Alaskans, and

WHEREAS communities that have benefited from the program with new or renovated public libraries are Cordova, Kenai, Seward, Petersburg, Barrow and Sutton in 2011; Soldotna, Ketchikan, Skagway and Kodiak in 2012; Fairbanks, Talkeetna, Juneau and Sitka in 2013. Wasilla and Anchor Point received partial funding in 2014, and

WHEREAS museums and cultural centers play an important role in the preservation of Alaska's physical history and culture, and, through outreach efforts, teach students and lifelong learners alike, and

WHEREAS museums and cultural centers have a close relationship with public libraries; in many communities library collections, archival materials and museum collections and other historic materials are co-located, and

WHEREAS many students, communities and Alaska history collections could benefit from a museum/cultural center construction grant program akin to the one for public libraries, and

WHEREAS museums, cultural centers and libraries form a natural learning alliance,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Library Association endorses and wholeheartedly supports a legislative initiative, HB 52, to provide a grant program for constructing and renovating museums and cultural centers in Alaska.

Signed, Alaska Library Association President

Date

1-22-15

ENDORISING LEGISLATION FOR ALASKA MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL CENTERS CAPITAL PROJECTS

WHEREAS for the 1967 centennial celebration of the Alaska Purchase, the federal government funded the construction of museums across the state, and

WHEREAS since then the number of museums in Alaska has grown to 80, representing the smallest villages to the largest cities and,

WHEREAS on the eve of the 150th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase, to be commemorated in 2017, the Alaska State Legislature passed a resolution calling for statewide activities related to recognizing this important milestone, and

WHEREAS members of the Alaska Historical Society are committed to preservation, education, and scholarship related to Alaska history and cultures, all of which museums provide, and

WHEREAS members of the Alaska Historical Society desire that our state's artistic, historic, and cultural treasures be cared for, exhibited, and interpreted in a manner that reflects 21st century practices, and

WHEREAS members of the Alaska Historical Society are volunteers, staff, board members and visitors of Alaska museums and cultural centers, and

WHEREAS Alaska museums house irreplaceable cultural, historic, artistic, archival, and natural collections that together tell the story of Alaska and its people, and

WHEREAS Alaska museums receive over half a million visitors a year, introducing those from outside Alaska to the cultural and natural wonders of the state and educating Alaskans about our cultural and natural legacies, and

WHEREAS tens of thousands of Alaska's schoolchildren each year go on field trips to Alaska's museums, getting place-based and hands-on exposure to cultural, artistic, and scientific learning, and

WHEREAS the study of Alaska history is a requirement for high school graduation, and

WHEREAS seventy five percent of museums surveyed are currently planning for significant capital projects, and

WHEREAS in 2008, the Alaska State Legislature established a matching grant program for libraries, which has resulted in new and renovated libraries around the state,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Alaska Historical Society endorses and wholeheartedly supports legislation to provide a grant program for capital improvements for museums and cultural centers in Alaska.

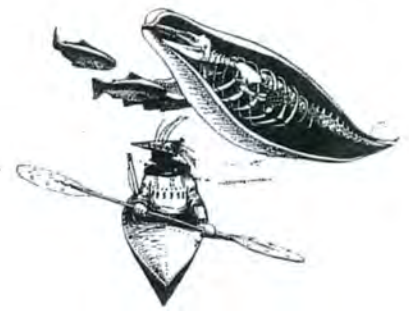
Signed, Alaska Historical Society President



Date 4/23/15

Pratt Museum

Homer Society of Natural History, Inc.



March 4, 2015

Representative Bob Herron
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Herron,

This letter is in support of House Bill 52, establishing a museum construction grant program. Thank you for your sponsorship of this bill, which provides the structure for establishing a systematic approach to prioritizing museum capital project funding requests in Alaska.

The nationally-recognized Pratt Museum serves as an anchor institution on the Kenai Peninsula, educating children and adults, and contributing to our community's sense of place and identity through history, art, and culture; and through exploration of the natural environment. Like museums all over Alaska, the Pratt contributes to the state's economy through employment and cultural tourism.

The Pratt Museum is one of the 50% of museums in Alaska currently fundraising for a new facility. With the passage of this legislation into law, construction projects will be funded by the merits of their projects, prioritized by their ability to match state funding, and where they are in the construction process.

Similar to the library construction statute, which has helped build 14 new libraries through \$50 million of awards, this legislation will allow museums to plan to protect valuable collections well into the future.

Again, thank you for your sponsorship of House Bill 52.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Converse". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Diane Converse
Museum Director/CEO



3779 Bartlett Street, Homer, Alaska 99603

Email: info@prattmuseum.org

Web: www.prattmuseum.org

(907) 235-8635

Fax: 235-2764





Museum Construction, Expansion, and Major Renovation Matching Grant Program

Goal

- ❖ Advance HB52 to establish a matching grant program for eligible museum construction, expansion, and major renovation projects.

Background

- ❖ Legislation HB52 sponsored by Representative Bob Herron mirrors an existing program for libraries in the state: the creation of a ranking mechanism from which financial assistance may be provided, to help build, expand, or renovate existing facilities to present and preserve Alaskan collections that are held in the public trust.

Rationale

- ❖ The Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program has successfully provided communities with the financial assistance needed to help construct and expand public libraries throughout Alaska. Alaskan Museums are also worthy of this assistance.

A 2014 McDowell Group survey for the Foraker Group demonstrates critical infrastructure needs for Alaska's cultural institutions that care for and exhibit our Alaskan collections. Of the 36 museums contacted, 27, or 75%, have identified significant capital improvement* needs within the next five years. The top four priorities are: exhibition space expansion or improvement; increase in facility size; collections storage expansion; and security

2017 marks the 150th anniversary of the 1867 purchase of Alaska. This event offers a unique opportunity to celebrate and support the cultural, social, educational and economic value of Alaska's heritage.

Museums and Cultural Centers are anchor institutions in Alaskan communities of every size. They educate children and adults. They contribute to a community's sense of place and identity through history, art, culture, and knowledge of our natural environment. They contribute to our economy and wellbeing through employment and cultural tourism.

Museums Alaska is a statewide association of Alaska's museum professionals and volunteers whose mission is to provide opportunities for improvement of museum and culture center services in Alaska and to enhance public understanding of the purposes and functions of Alaska's museums and culture centers. Museums Alaska is a CHAMP partner. For more information, please see the Museums Alaska web site at www.museumsalaska.org.



**Alaska Museums with Significant Capital Improvement Needs in the Next Five Years
Actively Planning a Capital Improvement Project***

Museum & Location	Planning Stage	Project Type
Alaska Museum of Science and Nature, Anchorage	Design and construction.	A list of items, including a parking lot upgrade (\$175,000) and electrical upgrades (\$120,000).
Alaska Veterans Memorial Museum, Palmer	Thinking about project and beginning to build a consortium.	Moving and upgrading from current, limited space.
Alaskaland Pioneer Air Museum, Fairbanks	Basic concept in place, preliminary fundraising.	Building expansion.
American Bald Eagle Foundation, Haines	Not available.	Addition of dorm rooms, enclosed flight center on donated property. Security system installation.
Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, Anchorage	Planning, funds partially raised (\$10 million out of \$15 million), design.	Renovation of the Alaska History Gallery. Planning process started in January 2014, de-installation of exhibits in 2015, and completion 18 months after.
Baranov Museum, Kodiak	Planning, funds have been raised for planning; need to be raised for design/construction.	Permanent exhibit redesign and installation.
Beringia Center of Culture and Science, Nome	Planning.	Capital campaign for new Cultural Center and Tribal Museum Facility.
Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, Nome	Funding secured; in design/construction.	New facility. Building completion projected for 2016.
Cordova Historical Museum, Cordova	Partial plan for funding and actual move to new facility in place.	New facility.
The Dorothy Page Museum, Wasilla	Planning, renovate and move into vacated City Library; return museum to multi-use w/ exhibits.	Facility Remodel.
Duncan Cottage Museum, Metlakatla	Assessment complete, by Alaska State Museums.	Not available.
The Hammer Museum, Haines	Pre-Planning discussions.	Renovation or new facility.
Inupiat Heritage Center, Iisagvik College, Barrow	Secured funding for project design, in design process. Next step: bond funding decision and voter approval.	Facility expansion. Estimated project completion in Fall 2015.
Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center, Klukwan	Exterior construction complete; funding sought for completion of interior and exhibits.	New facility; estimated project completion 2015.
Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Juneau	Planning complete for permanent gallery redesign.	Renovation of 26 year old gallery exhibits and cases.
Pratt Museum, Homer	Schematic design complete, fundraising continues.	New facility.
Sitka Historical Museum, Sitka	Initial planning complete, fundraising plan pending.	Expansion for collections and exhibit space.
Talkeetna Historical Society & Museum, Talkeetna	Pre-development process.	Major renovation of three historic buildings.
Tongass Historical Museum, Ketchikan	Plan complete, funding on hold.	Expansion, building upgrade.
University of Alaska Museum of the North, Fairbanks	Phase 1 of 5 (design); initial fundraising	Renovation and re-installation of 35-year old <i>Gallery of Alaska</i> .
Valdez Museum and Historical Archive, Valdez	Pre-planning discussions.	Renovation or new facility.
Yupiit Piciryarait Museum, Bethel	Proposal complete.	Proposal for a new Repository/ Museum.

Source: Infrastructure Needs Study of Alaska Museums and Capital Improvement Planning Guide/ McDowell Group prepared for the Foraker Group & Museums Alaska survey of Capital Improvement planning 2014; Museums Alaska membership survey
*Significant capital improvements are defined for this study as any improvements over \$500,000. State and federally operated museums are not included in this analysis.

March 8, 2015

Representative Herron
Alaska State Capitol
Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Herron:

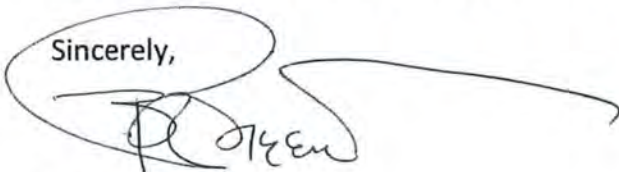
I am writing to ask that you **support HB52, establishing a museum construction grant program**. This bill provides the structure for establishing a systematic approach to prioritizing museum capital project funding requests in the state. There are many museums in Alaska that are either currently involved in a construction project or will be in the next five years – Valdez Museum and Historical Archives is no exception.

Museums and cultural organizations in Alaska are a critical part of the educational and economic infrastructure, spurring tourism and partnering with schools to teach the local curriculum. Museums contribute to our economy and wellbeing in so many ways. Some examples: employing Alaskans in stable year-round jobs, spending (>\$23,553,294), hosting more than 600,000 visitors and importantly serving as an educational conduit for over 36,290 school children annually.

Despite this vital role of museums, our facilities and collections are at risk through decreasing federal, local and charitable giving. As collection grow and visitation increases, the pressure on our aging infrastructure must be managed. The Valdez Museum and Historical Archive is no stranger to this trend. We are presently evaluating a new structure and have the approvals of our City Council and Leadership to evaluate possibilities. The City has given us money for a feasibility study and a Building Committee of interested citizens has been formed. Community support is strong, but there is not enough money to build a museum on goodwill nor private donations.

I urge you to support HB52, establishing a museum construction grant program, so that museums throughout the state of Alaska may continue to serve their communities. Help us make this bill a reality, let your leadership voice speak up for Alaska's museums! Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara L. Bigelow', is written over a circular scribble. A long horizontal line extends to the right from the end of the signature.

Barbara L. Bigelow
Valdez Museum and Historical Archives Board Member
PO Box 912, Valdez, Alaska 99901 (907) 821-1990

MUSEUMS ALASKA

Museums and Cultural Centers are anchor institutions in Alaskan communities of every size.

They contribute to our economy and wellbeing through employment, cultural tourism and educational programs.



Anchorage Museum

260

Alaskans Employed by Museums

\$23,553,294

Spent Annually in Alaska by Museums



Sheldon Jackson Museum

624,695

Annual Visitors to Alaskan Museums



Pratt Museum

36,290

School Children Served Annually by Museum Educational Programs



Maxine & Jesse Whitney Museum

33

Museums plan major renovation or construction projects in the next five

40 of the 50 Museums and Cultural Centers in Alaska took part in this survey.



Berengia Center

Economic and Educational Impact of Alaska Museums

Museum/ Cultural Center	Location	Paid Staff	Annual Budget	Annual Visitation	K-12 Visitors	Planned capital project
Alaska Aviation Museum	Anchorage	6	\$ 500,000	25,000	2,800	Yes
Alaska Heritage Museum	Anchorage	2	\$ 12,000	10,500	600	Yes
Alaska Jewish Museum	Anchorage	3	\$ 130,000	2,500	1,200	Yes
Alaska State Museums	Juneau & Sitka	16	\$ 1,832,000	50,537	7,000	Yes
Alaska Veterans Museum	Anchorage	0	\$ 43,000	7,000	633	Yes
Alaska Warbird Museum	Yakutat	0	\$ 50,000	500	N/A	Yes
Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository	Kodiak	11	\$ 1,000,000	8,000	1,000	Yes
Anchorage Museum	Anchorage	62	\$ 9,200,000	179,052	3,251	Yes
Beringia Center of Culture & Science	Nome	3	\$ 175,921	5	104	Yes
C'ek'aedi Hwnax 'Legacy House'	Copper Center	5	\$ 100,000	5,700	150	No
Clausen Memorial Museum	Petersburg	3	\$ 96,211	3,327	260-600	Yes
Cordova Historical Society & Museum	Cordova	4	\$ 125,000	7,500	1,200	Yes
Dorothy G. Page Museum	Wasilla	2	\$ 190,000	9,000	1,000	Yes
Duncan Cottage Museum	Metlakatla	1	\$ 10,000	500	150	Yes
Eagle Historical Society & Museums	Eagle	1	\$ 29,000	450	20	Yes
Elfin Cove Museum	Elfin Cove	1	\$ 250	675	N/A	Yes
Hammer Museum Inc.	Haines	2	\$ 22,000	4,800	20-40	Yes
Ilnaka Cultural Center	Cordova	2	\$ 450,830	2,800	200	Yes
Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center	Klukwan	18	\$ 95,200	500	75	Yes
Juneau-Douglas City Museum	Juneau	4	\$ 425,700	11,865	2,862	Yes
Kasilof Regional Historical Museum	Kasilof	0	\$ 9,000	500	60	Yes
Ketchikan Museums	Ketchikan	8	\$ 924,435	57,000	400	Yes
Kodiak Historical Society & Baranov Museum	Kodiak	7	\$ 300,000	10,000	1,000	Yes
Kodiak Maritime Museum	Kodiak	1	\$ 65,000	2,500	25	Yes
Maxine & Jesse Whitney Museum	Valdez	4	\$ 113,000	4,000	500	No
McCarthy Kennicott Historical Museum	McCarthy	2	\$ 2,000	5,000	N/A	Yes
Pioneer Air Museum	Fairbanks	6	\$ 30,000	2,000	120	Yes
Port Alexander Museum	Port Alexander	0	\$ 2,500	100	12	Yes
Pratt Museum	Homer	10	\$ 520,000	25,000	2,500	Yes
Seldovia Museum	Seldovia	1.2	\$ 120,000	4,800	110	No
Seward Community Library & Museum	Seward	4.5	\$ 545,822	6,865	458	No
Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center	Haines	7	\$ 330,000	12,000	1,400	Yes
Skagway Museum	Skagway	4	\$ 215,000	24,000	1,000	Yes
Talkeetna Historical Society & Museum	Talkeetna	2	\$ 90,000	14,000	120	Yes
Tochak Historical Society & Museum	McGrath	0	0	500	200	No
UA Museum of the North	Fairbanks	36	\$4,300,000	90,000	3,500	Yes
Valdez Museum & Historical Archive	Valdez	8	\$ 731,336	20,000	1,500	Yes
Wickersham House Museum	Fairbanks	6	\$ 12,000	11,800	N/A	No
Wrangell Museum	Wrangell	6	\$ 231,000	3,600	200	No
Yupit Piciryarit Museum	Bethel	2	\$ 130,000	1,500	300	Yes

Museums Alaska is a statewide association of Alaska's museum professionals and volunteers. Our mission is to provide opportunities for improvement of museum and culture center services in Alaska and to enhance public understanding of the purposes and functions of Alaska's museums and culture centers. www.museumsalaska.org



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JUNEAU-DOUGLAS CITY MUSEUM HOUSE BILL 52 AND SENATE BILL 61, ESTABLISHING A MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, The Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum is organized exclusively to engage in activities within the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) to maintain an association of persons interested in the mission of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum; focus public attention on the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, facility, and needs; stimulate use of Juneau-Douglas City Museum services; receive and encourage gifts, endowments and bequests to the Juneau-Douglas City Museum; support and cooperate with the Juneau-Douglas City Museum in developing special services, programs, and exhibits; and do all and everything incidental to and in furtherance of the accomplishment of the objects and purposes stated herein.

WHEREAS, Museums and cultural centers are anchor institutions in Alaskan communities of every size and contribute to our economy and wellbeing through employment and cultural tourism while protecting and promoting important regional cultural history.

WHEREAS, Museums and cultural centers protect and preserve the artifacts and stories that reflect our history and culture, promoting local pride and establishing our sense of place.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Alaska, in its current legislative session, will be considering whether to approve HB 52 and SB 61, acts establishing a matching grant program for museum construction, expansion, and major renovation; and



WHEREAS, an entity, individual, organization, or municipality in charge of construction, expansion, or major renovation of an eligible museum may apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations adopted by the department; and

WHEREAS, subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than 50 percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant; and

WHEREAS, “major renovation” means a significant physical upgrade that allows a museum to better preserve artifacts and present artifacts to the public or improve space to allow a museum to provide improved educational services to the public; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum as follows:

Section 1: That the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum supports the passage of Legislative House Bill 52 and Legislative Senate Bill 61.

Section 2: This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum on this 17th day of March 2015.

Joel Probst, Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum President
Mike Blackwell – Katrina Woolford Pearson – Jim Geraghty
Don Harris – Mike Pearson – Jean McBride – Kathryn Cohen