



Anchorage Museum

AT RASMUSON CENTER

121 W. SEVENTH AVE. • ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
907.343.4326 • WWW.ANCHORAGEMUSEUM.ORG

EXPLORE ALASKA'S HISTORY AND CULTURE



museum

Anchorage Museum Expansion Fact Sheet

About the Anchorage Museum

- The Anchorage Museum is the largest museum in Alaska and one of the top 10 places visitors come when they visit the state.
- The current Anchorage Museum is a museum of the North with an emphasis on the art and history of Alaska and the circumpolar North. With the expansion in 2010, the museum will add a new dimension to its mission – interpreting the science of the North.
- This museum first opened in 1968 with 60 borrowed paintings and 2,500 historic and ethnographic objects owned by the local historical society.
- The museum's collection currently holds more than 24,000 objects and 500,000 historical photographs.

Expansion Overview

The \$106 million expansion of the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center will bring a new era to one of Alaska's premier visitor attractions with the completion of an 80,000-square-foot wing and renovation of the existing building by early 2010. With the grand opening in the spring of 2010, visitors to the museum will be able to enjoy:

- the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, a centerpiece of the expansion housing an exhibition of rare Alaska Native heritage objects from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of the American Indian with an interactive database of the items on exhibit;
- the Bob and Evangeline Atwood Alaska Resource Center, including the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation Reading Room, which invites perusal of the museum's collection of 500,000 historic photographs and 10,000 books;
- hands-on science from The Imaginarium, an interactive science discovery center which is relocating to the existing museum building, allowing the museum to offer hands-on exhibits for visitors of all ages to explore physics, living plants and animals;
- a new Thomas Planetarium where visitors will journey to the stars, taking trips through the solar system, or join in planetarium presentations that explore the night sky;
- the TOTE KidSpace, a place where everything can be touched and children and parents can explore art, history and science through play;
- new and expanded museum café and museum shop featuring extensive collections of Alaska art, books, jewelry and more;

Expansion Overview (continued)

- a two-acre common, a landscaped public area that celebrates the environment while creating an active, vibrant place for outdoor exhibits, gatherings and recreation; and
- a new main entrance reoriented on C Street and windowed galleries clad in fritted (striped) glass that protects the art and artifacts while affording views to the outside majesty of Alaska, imparting a “sense of place.”

Floor-by-Floor Breakdown and Timing – New Addition

- **First Floor – Lobby, Museum Shop, Library and Archives (Spring 2009)**
On the first floor off the lobby, visitors may begin exploring galleries immediately, get a bite to eat in the new café with outdoor patio or browse the extensive collection of Alaska art, books, jewelry and more in the larger gift shop. A new Alaska resource center with a reading room also is on the first level.
- **Second Floor - Smithsonian Institution’s Arctic Studies Center (Spring 2010)**
More than 600 objects from the Smithsonian’s collections will come to the museum on long-term loan. Visitors may learn about Alaska Native life through video, audio and interactive displays in this 8,000 square-foot gallery. The Smithsonian’s Arctic Studies Center will also feature an archaeology laboratory, an interactive database of the items on exhibit, visiting master artists, and ongoing research and collaboration with cultural centers and museums across Alaska.
- **Second Floor – Contemporary Native Art in the ConocoPhillips Gallery (Spring 2010)**
The Anchorage Museum is fortunate to have one of the most extensive collections of contemporary Alaska Native art in both traditional and non-traditional styles. Featuring the work of nationally known artists, Contemporary Alaska Native art helps shape our perception of what it means to be Native in Alaska today. The sculptures, carvings, paintings and mixed media in the Contemporary Native Art gallery often represent traditional values, but present them from a fresh perspective or in an unusual medium.
- **Third Floor – Special Exhibitions and Children’s Gallery (Spring 2009)**
The open, flexible gallery space on the third floor will display traveling exhibitions from around the world and special exhibitions from the museum’s vast collections. The Children’s Gallery, also on the third floor, features a hands-on art exhibition that changes annually.
- **Fourth Floor – Vista Viewing Area (Spring 2009)**
From the gallery on the fourth floor, enjoy vistas of the Chugach Mountains and downtown Anchorage. Comfortable benches allow visitors a place for reflection.

Renovations to Existing Museum Building and Timing

- **Hands-on Science Discovery and The Imaginarium (Spring 2010)**
The Thomas Planetarium and the hands-on science learning areas, including BP Kinetic Space and TOTE KidSpace, will be located on the east side of the existing museum and will replace the current Children’s Gallery and temporary exhibition galleries which are moving to the new addition.

Green Building

The expanded museum is seeking certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the nationally accepted standard for energy-efficient and sustainable building. If achieved it will be the first LEED-certified building in Anchorage.

Green Building (continued)

Among the environmentally friendly elements of the museum expansion:

- minimal building footprint through stacking on four levels plus a basement and maximized use of planted landscape and green space;
- use of locally produced, recycled content building and landscaping materials whenever possible;
- implementation of an air quality management plan during and after construction to flush out contaminants before occupancy; and
- recycling collection areas for building users.

The museum will remain open throughout construction with periodic partial and full closures during March and April 2009. For more information on the Anchorage Museum expansion visit www.anchoragemuseum.org or call (907) 343-4326.