

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

**UP HERE,** THE NORTH  
IS WHERE PEOPLE  
COME TOGETHER,  
WHERE IDEAS  
INTERSECT, WHERE  
BOUNDARIES OVERLAP.





ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

625 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 929-9200  
[www.anchoragemuseum.org](http://www.anchoragemuseum.org)

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## MUSEUM OVERVIEW

The Anchorage Museum's mission is to connect people, expand perspectives, and encourage global dialogue about the North and its distinct environment. Located in the heart of downtown Anchorage, the museum offers a distinct cultural experience for residents and visitors.

### CELEBRATING LIFE IN THE NORTH

- **SIZE** The Anchorage Museum is the largest museum in the state, with more than 170,000 square feet of indoor galleries and public space.
- **ORIGINS** The Anchorage Museum opened in 1968 with 60 borrowed Alaska paintings and a collection of 2,500 historic and ethnographic objects owned by the local historical society.
- **COLLECTIONS** The museum's permanent collection holds more than 26,000 objects, 575,000 historical photographs, 14,000 publications and 800 maps.
- **VISITORS** One of the 10 most visited attractions in Alaska, the museum draws more than 200,000 people a year, including 16,000 schoolchildren.
- **EXHIBITIONS** The museum develops and shares celebrated exhibits with museums around the world. Recent major exhibitions include "Brick by Brick," an exhibition of LEGO® toys and bricks, "Arctic Ambitions: Captain Cook and the Northwest Passage," and "Gyre: The Plastic Ocean."
- **DOCENTS** Experts on Alaska history, volunteer docents lead tours throughout the summer.

- **EVENTS** Offering a rich programming for visitors of all ages, the museum inspires people to gather, engage their senses and exchange ideas. Programs include tours, family activities, artist installations and lectures, performances and art classes.

### ART, HISTORY AND SCIENCE SPACES

**ALASKA GALLERY** Dedicated to the history of Alaska's people, the gallery features artifacts from the many distinct Alaska Native cultures, Russian era and the gold rush era. Displays also highlight 20th century historical events such as the 9.2 magnitude earthquake of 1964 and the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Closes for renovation the end of summer 2016, re-opening fall 2017.

**SMITHSONIAN ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER** This center houses an exhibition of 600 rare Alaska Native artifacts from the Smithsonian Institution. The exhibit is designed so visitors can easily compare and contrast different Alaska Native cultural groups.

**DISCOVERY CENTER** In this area, visitors can explore earth, life and physical science through 80 hands-on exhibits. Displays spark intellectual curiosity and put scientific concepts into an Alaska context.

**SPARK!LAB** Spark!Lab Smithsonian encourages kids and families to explore their inventive creativity — to create, innovate, collaborate and problem-solve. Activities invite visitors to tinker, invent, and conduct science experiments.

**THOMAS PLANETARIUM** The planetarium offers a fascinating way to learn about astronomy, the Northern Lights and more and is home to a wide variety of interactive demonstrations, educational programs and films.

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## MUSEUM OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

### FAVORITE THINGS TO SEE

- A Tlingit totem pole carved in the 1800s that was displayed at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis
- Bisection of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, one of the seven wonders of the United States
- Woolly mammoth tusk from the Pleistocene
- Life-size dioramas depicting home life in traditional Alaska Native dwellings
- Marine tanks featuring Alaska-harvested sea stars and crabs
- Cultural artifacts of Alaska Native people dating back at least 10,000 years
- Contemporary art by Alaska artists
- Moon rock collected during the 1971 Apollo 15 mission

### HOURS OF OPERATION

**SUMMER HOURS** May 1 through Sept. 30  
open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., including holidays

**WINTER HOURS** Oct. 1 through April 30  
open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through  
Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, closed Monday

Select galleries are open with special programming and discounted admission from 6 to 9 p.m. Fridays.

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

Call (907) 929-9200 to confirm hours.

### ADMISSION

\$15 adult  
\$12 Alaska resident adult  
\$10 senior/student/military  
\$7 age 3 to 12

Free age 2 and younger

Group rates available. Call (907) 929-9200

Please note: There may be additional fees for premium exhibits and planetarium shows.

### MUSEUM SHOP

The shop carries authentic Alaska Native art, contemporary crafts, books and gifts inspired by the museum's collections. The shop was voted one of the 10 best places to buy authentic Alaska Native art in an Anchorage Daily News readers' poll.

### MUSE RESTAURANT

The elegant and contemporary restaurant Muse offers fresh, handcrafted Alaska cuisine, in a vibrant downtown setting.

### MUSEUM TOURS

Museum docents offer 45-minute tours daily from May through September. All tours are included with museum admission.

The museum also offers familiarization (FAM) tours to tour group leaders, travel agents, media and others. The tours are an excellent way to get an overview of the museum's permanent collection and an update on special exhibits and events. To schedule a FAM tour, call (907) 929-9230. Two weeks notice is appreciated, but every effort will be made to accommodate each request.

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## POLAR LAB

*A series of programs and exhibitions exploring life in the North*

Polar Lab includes films, artist residencies, conversations, lectures, tours, research, outdoor programs, after hours programs, international artists, and local perspective.

The museum curates and creates conversations as we curate objects and exhibitions, to raise awareness and to advocate for a genuine voice of the North at a time when it is endlessly and erroneously portrayed on reality TV.

### NORTH IN TIME OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Working with traditional and non-traditional researchers in residencies, exhibitions and public programs, the Anchorage Museum conveys narratives through contemporary art, science and culture, placing Northern people at the center of a current and pivotal narrative around the environment and global change. The Anchorage Museum has an important role to play as a convener, to curate and create conversations, to raise awareness and to advocate for a genuine voice of the North.

### ARTISTS IN THE ARCTIC

The Anchorage Museum invites international artists to engage the North through short and long-term projects and non-traditional residencies. Artists enter the museum and the North to present insider views of relevant issues impacting northern people and places. Some residencies expand over multiple years and are research-based. Others offer audience engagement within or beyond museum walls.



Through artist residencies, temporary installations, performance works and pop-up programs with artists from Alaska and around the world, the Anchorage Museum provides and presents an inside look at the complexity of the North and its issues.

For example, in 2015, Alaska Native artists and culture bearers responded to an exhibition about Captain Cook with Out of the Box performance on the commodification of culture.

### CURATED CONVERSATIONS

Curated Conversations is a series of dialogues held in Alaska and across the globe that seeks to offer provocative, cross-platform, cross-discipline discussions relevant to issues faced by Northern people and places, exploring the relationship between landscape and culture. The conversations invite participants from multiple perspectives – artists, indigenous communities, policy leaders and scientists – to address common misperceptions inside and outside the North.

### INSPIRED TECHNOLOGY

The Anchorage Museum is using 3-D printing to replicate objects in our collection, putting GoPro® cameras in the hands of visitors, and re-creating the museum in the popular game Minecraft. The Smithsonian's Spark!Lab invites visitors to become inventors. Exhibitions like "Van Gogh Alive – The Experience" invite visitors to experience art like they've never done before.

[#ThisIsPolarLab](https://twitter.com/ThisIsPolarLab)

For more information, visit  
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## POLAR LAB STORY IDEAS

*What happens in Alaska, what changes in Alaska, now matters to everyone on Earth.*

Alaska's largest museum tells the real story, the many-faceted story, the unsuspected story of the North. A story that weaves together social, political, cultural, scientific, historical and artistic threads.

The Anchorage Museum has an important role to play as a convener, to curate and create conversations, to raise awareness and to advocate for a genuine voice of the North.

This is the Anchorage Museum's POLAR LAB:

- Artist residencies in Alaska and the Arctic
- Insider views of issues affecting Northern people and places
- Audience engagement beyond museum walls
- Curated conversations across cultures and disciplines

### HELP US TELL THE STORY OF THE TRUE NORTH

We have enlisted artists from around the world to tell this story of the true North during a time of dramatic environmental and cultural change

- A Danish photographer travels to Little Diomed, a tiny Alaska island bordering Russia, in search of the last living nomads
- Polar bears and their dens are teaching artists from England and Iceland how to build better human structures
- Indigenous women from Greenland and Alaska are reviving the lost tradition of skin-sewn tattoos

- Pingos, mounds of Arctic and sub-arctic earth-covered ice molded by climate change, become the obsession of a Seattle sculptor
- A Danish artist arms ordinary people with Go-Pro® cameras to capture the daily lives of Greenlanders
- Sound recordings of ice fields merge with music of the Anchorage Symphony when a New York composer and a Detroit-based artist blend imagery and sounds of Alaska landscapes to create and score a film, revealing an intimate and bold environment
- Pleistocene-age permafrost land forms made of ice still exist in Alaska's Brooks Range, an area with no ocean water source, and a Los Angeles-based architect is using them to inspire his work

For more information, visit [anchagemuseum.org/polarlab](http://anchagemuseum.org/polarlab).

[#ThisIsPolarLab](https://twitter.com/ThisIsPolarLab)

[#ThisIsTheMuseum](https://twitter.com/ThisIsTheMuseum)



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## SMITHSONIAN ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER

### OVERVIEW

In the first arrangement of its kind, the Smithsonian Institution loaned hundreds of Alaska artifacts to their place of origin, allowing access for hands-on study by Alaska Native elders, artists and scholars. These cultural and historical treasures are exhibited at the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center within the Anchorage Museum.

The Center presents more than 600 objects from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and National Museum of the American Indian collections. These objects were selected and interpreted with help from Alaska Native advisers and will be on loan in Anchorage until at least 2022.

### VISITOR EXPERIENCE

The 10,000-square-foot Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center opened in 2010 on the second floor of the Anchorage Museum's West Wing.

#### **Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska**

This exhibition of more than 600 objects demonstrates how each Alaska Native nation is unique — and how all are connected. Visitors to this exhibition see many objects never displayed before, including an 1880s Iñupiaq caribou skin parka, a masterwork of Arctic clothing design, and a 1903 Tlingit crest hat made of woven spruce root topped with a raven carving.

Objects and information represent the history and culture of Alaska Native peoples: Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Athabaskan, Eyak, Unangax, Sugpiaq, Yup'ik, St. Lawrence Island Yupik and Iñupiaq. Eastern Siberian groups are also represented. The exhibition explores three universal themes: Living from the Sea, Land and Rivers; Ceremony and Celebration; and Community and Family.

Visitors learn about objects through touch screens: They can zoom in on a photo of an object or scroll through more information, such as related oral histories and archival images.

The exhibition also includes two multimedia installations. A video installation about Alaska Native life plays on seven large screens. A 3-D sound art installation immerses visitors in the Arctic through recordings of howling wolves, cracking ice and Alaska Native storytellers.

The exhibit was curated by Smithsonian anthropologist Aron L. Crowell, Ph.D., and assistant curator Dawn Biddison.

### Public Resources

- **Exhibit catalog:** "Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska" is available in the Anchorage Museum Shop. The 315-page book emphasizes cultural continuity, placing the exhibited masterworks of the past into a contemporary context through essays by 20 Alaska Native authors.
- **Exhibition website:** The Sharing Knowledge website at [alaska.si.edu](http://alaska.si.edu) is the virtual version of the exhibition and is updated with new information from ongoing collaborative studies. Features include overviews by Alaska Native scholars, images and detailed information about every object in the exhibition.
- **Programs website:** Short videos are available on the Sharing Knowledge Alaska microsite, [www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/html/sharing-knowledge-alaska/Index.html](http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/html/sharing-knowledge-alaska/Index.html). These videos offer teachers, students and lifelong learners access to Alaska Native languages and lifeways, including how to sew salmon, weave porcupine quill and more. Teacher's guides are available.

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## SMITHSONIAN ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER (CONTINUED)

### RESEARCH

Research spaces for Alaska Native elders, artists and scholars include:

- **Cultural Consultation Room:** One of the goals of the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center is to provide access to the descendants of the people who created the Living Our Cultures collections. Exhibit cases open and mounts allow the removal of objects for study in the consultation room. Research visits are scheduled in advance with Smithsonian and Anchorage Museum staff.
- **Gillam Archaeology Laboratory and Art Space:** The laboratory enables Alaska Native communities and archaeologists to collaboratively study artifacts, animal bones and environmental evidence collected from ancient settlements and campsites. The space also serves as a studio for the Alaska Native Artists in Residence program.
- **Field research:** The Arctic Studies Center works with Alaska Native communities to explore culture, language, arts, and history. Projects emphasize co-design with tribal leadership, documentation of indigenous knowledge, participation by youth, and relevance of the work to community goals. Current work includes archaeological investigations at Yakutat Bay and along the outer coast of the Kenai Peninsula. Archaeological evidence and geological reconstructions are joined with oral traditions and place names to create integrated human and natural histories of life on Alaska's dynamic coasts, which are influenced by climate change, glacial advances, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Summer field research is combined with student work in the Center's archaeology lab during the academic year. Projects have produced numerous publications, films and websites.

### THE PROJECT: Sharing Knowledge

Exhibition items were chosen as part of a long-term Smithsonian Institution endeavor called the Sharing Knowledge Project. Through this project, members of indigenous communities from across Alaska worked with the Smithsonian to interpret the western Arctic and subarctic collections of the National Museum of Natural History and National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. These combined holdings are vast — more than 30,000 items, many dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The great majority have never been published, exhibited or seen before by Alaska Native people.

Collaborative work began in 2001 with a series of study trips to Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C., by more than 40 Native elders and tribal representatives. Regional Alaska Native organizations helped select the participants, who then examined and chose objects for the new Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center. For more information, visit <http://alaska.si.edu> and [www.mnh.si.edu/arctic](http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic)

### BACKGROUND

The Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, established in 1988, is a federal research and education program focusing on peoples, history, archaeology and cultures across the circumpolar North. The center is part of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. In 1994, the center partnered with the Anchorage Museum to open a local location.

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*Exhibits in the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center were designed by Ralph Appelbaum Associates, Inc., New York, whose client list includes the American Museum of Natural History, New York.*

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## SMITHSONIAN ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER (CONTINUED)

### PROGRAMS

#### **Smithsonian Spotlight Lecture Series**

Alaska Native elders, artists, scholars and researchers from around the state present a variety of topics with this monthly lecture series. Topics reflect the full spectrum of traditional and contemporary arts and culture.

#### **Alaska Native Artists in Residence**

During week-long residencies in the Arctic Studies Center gallery, accomplished artists demonstrate their work in important cultural forms and materials, combining traditional with innovative and experimental techniques. Follow-up workshops and classes extend the program to rural communities. Artists study “Living Our Cultures” exhibition objects to discover ancestral approaches that can be incorporated into new work and share their expert knowledge with students, visitors and museum staff. Information provided by participants is added to the exhibition website and interactives. Recent residencies have featured snowshoes, bentwood hunting hats, fish skin clothing, seal intestine parkas, and walrus ivory carving, with new programs planned on an ongoing basis.

#### **Alaska Native Languages**

All of Alaska’s 20 indigenous languages are considered endangered and their recovery is an urgent priority for Alaska Native communities. Video recordings and classroom lessons from the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center’s Listen and Learn series feature discussions about museum objects by fluent speakers and provide a resource for learning Alaska Native languages and for learning about Alaska Native cultures.

#### **Alaska Native Artists in the Collections**

In this series, early-career Alaska Native artists go behind the scenes to explore the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center and Anchorage Museum collections, finding resources and inspiration.

### QUOTES

“We can shoot this arrow up in the air. I wonder, how far will it go? That’s the future. That’s what we were here for: future generations need to know our cultures.” — Trimble Gilbert, Gwich’in Athabascan elder, summing up a week spent in Washington, D.C., with other Athabascan elders to document the Smithsonian collections

“What does it mean to be Haida? The answer now is different from that of the past, obviously. We need to know our history and learn from it; we need to know our culture and draw strength from it. We need to make it work for us today.” — Jeane Breinig, Haida, exhibition adviser and English professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage

“I once asked my late grandmother why we Yup’iks used dance fans and headdresses and everything else to dance. Her answer was simple and poignant. She said, ‘Our ancestors are happy to see us so beautiful.’” — Chuna McIntyre, Yup’ik, exhibition adviser and master artist

“The Yupik culture has a very long, rich history, and at the Smithsonian you will see artifacts that our ancestors created hundreds or even thousands of years ago. I can only imagine those old-timers, sitting next to the seal oil lamp during the wintertime and etching walrus ivory with such skill.” — Merlin Koonooka, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, exhibition adviser and retired teacher

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*Alaska Native adviser comments are from interviews conducted as part of the Sharing Knowledge Project.*

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# DISCOVERY CENTER

## OVERVIEW

The Discovery Center is a stimulating, changeable, hands-on science center designed to make earth, life and physical sciences fun for all ages. The center's displays and programs spark intellectual curiosity and imagination — the foundations for scientific learning.

## HISTORY

The Imaginarium, Alaska's only hands-on science center, merged with the Anchorage Museum in 2008, adding science to the museum's mission. The Imaginarium's former facility on Fifth Avenue closed in 2009 and re-opened in 2010 within the Anchorage Museum.

## FACILITY

Science is a process we use to explore the world and learn more about our relationship to it. The Discovery Center features exhibits that provide visitors a chance to explore that world through activity. With more than 70 exhibits, a hall devoted to current science, live animal displays, and the Exploration Station, the Discovery Center gives visitors a chance to ask new questions, observe unusual phenomena, and investigate the forces that shape Alaska and all that live here.

### BP Kinetic Space

This area focuses on physics, such as principles of energy, force and motion.

- **BERNOULLI TABLE** Sometimes the behavior of air is just boggling. By placing a flat disc up against a nozzle blowing air, visitors begin to explore the physics of airplanes and birds, the secrets of wings and propellers.

- **HOIST CHAIR** Sitting in a specially designed chair, visitors experiment with levers and pulleys to haul themselves vertically, demonstrating how mechanical systems can lower the force needed to lift something.
- **INFRARED CAMERA** The heat visitors give off is detected by a thermographic camera, so visitors see themselves in the infrared range on a large screen.
- **AURORA IN A BOX** This magnetized metal sphere simulates Earth and allows visitors to introduce different conditions to create an aurora.

### Thomas Planetarium and Science Hall

The 46-seat planetarium focuses on astronomy, the Earth's atmosphere and the solar system. The Science Hall presents up-to-date and unusual science from astronomy, biology, geology, physics, and engineering.

### Shell Bubble Space

The space features bubbles both as items of play and as tools to understand surface tension, shape and light reflection. It includes a Big Bubble that creates a cylinder-shaped bubble large enough to fit an adult and child inside.

- **SHADOW WALL** Play with shadows and sculpt the landscape as you raise mountains, cause volcanoes to erupt, push around icebergs and make the snows fall in this interactive art-and-exploration exhibit.

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## DISCOVERY CENTER (CONTINUED)

### ConocoPhillips Earth and Life Space

This area presents earth sciences and life sciences while focusing on the forces that shape our landscapes and the adaptations of the animals that populate them.

- **CREATURES NEAR AND FAR** Compare aquatic animals from the southeast US and contrast them with marine animals from Alaska's shores. Explore how animals bodies and behaviors reflect their environments and histories as you peer closely, perhaps discovering animals you never before knew existed.
- **SHAKE TABLE** Visitors can erect a building, place it on the earthquake shake table, simulate an earthquake and observe how well their building withstands the tremors.
- **TSUNAMI** Observe how a submarine landslide can produce monstrous waves that strike a coastal community, much like the events of the Great Alaska 1964 Earthquake.

### TOTE KidSpace

Since this inquiry-based gallery is specifically designed for infants and children through age 5, everything can be touched. Children and parents can explore art, history and science through play.

- **SMART FLOOR** A video projection on the floor senses and responds to human movement. As children crawl or walk across the floor, the pond responds - water ripples, plants and flowers grow and dragonflies flutter.
- **OTHER TACTILE EXPERIENCES** include an art wall, puppet stage, light box, dollhouse, and train set.



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# ALASKA GALLERY REDESIGN

## CLOSING END OF SUMMER 2016

One of the most visited areas of the museum since it was added during an expansion in 1986, the current Alaska Gallery welcomes thousands of Alaska children each year and greets thousands more tourists each summer. After 30 years of daily use, the exhibition is showing its age, and the museum has been developing plans for a new Alaska Gallery over the past several years.

## SHOWCASING HISTORY OF ALASKA

The Alaska Gallery tells Alaska's story from its earliest settlement at the end of the last ice age through the building of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline. The new Alaska Gallery exhibition will reveal Alaska as a land of contrasts, a land of extremes, a complex social and natural landscape that lends itself to myth and cliché.

Alaska is a place that wastes little time making a home for itself in the hearts and minds of the people who spend time here.

The Alaska Gallery will lay bare the mythologies of Alaska and invite its visitors to consider what Alaska really is: what is real, what is myth, and what lives in that place in between.

The Alaska Gallery will showcase Alaska's rich history and feature hundreds of objects and photographs from the museum's collections. The new installation will also take advantage of new exhibition technologies. Emphasizing the voices of the people and the state's rich diversity, the exhibition will include multiple viewpoints and offer more engaging and interactive experiences relevant to today's visitors.

## EXHIBIT DESIGNERS

The exhibition design firm gsmprjct° (previously known as GSM Design) will be working with the museum staff to design and produce the exhibition. Selected from among 20 design firms that responded last fall to the museum's Request for Qualifications, gsmprjct° has more than 50 years experience in exhibition design and production. Based in Montreal, gsmprjct° has a portfolio that includes international work in exhibition environments that cross media and span disciplines from ancient civilizations to contemporary art, from science to history to popular culture.

gsmprjct° is currently designing the new history galleries for the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa. Previous projects include Treasures of Vacheron Constantin for the National Museum of Singapore, Collapse?, a multi-sensory exhibition for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and projects for Smithsonian Institution, McCord Museum, Musee de la Civilisation du Quebec and Pointe-A-Calliere, the Montreal Museum of Archeology.

## RE-OPENING FALL 2017

Planning for the multi-year \$15 million project began in the early 2000s in conjunction with the museum's most recent addition. The new Alaska Gallery is scheduled to open in September 2017 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase.

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## EXPANSION 2017 - RASMUSON WING

### OVERVIEW

The Anchorage Museum will add approximately 25,000 square feet to its existing building to create more exhibition space for its permanent art collection and art mission in an expansion slated for completion in 2017. Plans include adding one story onto the existing east wing that faces Sixth Avenue.

### EXPANDING GALLERY SPACE

“This new expansion will help us better fulfill our mission of putting more of our art collection on view for visitors while allowing us to add to that collection, as well as adding gallery space for changing art exhibitions,” says Museum Director and CEO Julie Decker. “At the same time, we will also move forward on our long-term goal of renovating and updating the current Alaska Gallery, which explores Alaska through history and other disciplines.”

The new wing will house formal and informal galleries, offices, and a new member and donor lounge. “The museum’s last expansion, designed by David Chipperfield and completed in 2010, gave us the ability to house the Imaginarium Discovery Center and to take long-term loan of the Smithsonian’s Alaska Collection. These were key goals of the expansion, along with gaining gallery space to accommodate large traveling exhibitions from around the world and major exhibitions developed by the museum,” says Decker.

“This expansion will provide for significant permanent exhibition space to allow the museum to put more of its collection on view and will create gallery space to accommodate art of the North and works by noted

Alaska landscape artists, from historical to contemporary, including artists such as Sydney Laurence and Eustace Ziegler. It also provides space for rotating exhibitions and other art from the museum’s permanent collection, including contemporary Alaska Native art.”

Early construction estimates for the project are approximately \$17.5 million, excluding increased operating costs and the planned Alaska Gallery renovation, which will occur at the same time. The new space will be named the Rasmuson Wing. The project will be privately funded with gifts from Ed Rasmuson and Rasmuson family members, and the Rasmuson Foundation. Increased operating expenses will be covered by earned revenues from admissions, facility rentals and other enterprise activities, along with increased funding from the museum’s endowment.

### OPENING FALL 2017

The museum will remain open during construction with only affected areas closed. The museum’s second-floor Alaska Gallery will close beginning July 2016 when work begins on the re-envisioned Alaska Gallery, which is slated to open in September 2017.

The Anchorage Museum selected Davis Constructors as general contractor to participate in the pre-construction design process with McCool Carlson Green of Anchorage as architects, in addition to other project consultants.

### MEDIA INQUIRIES

Laura Carpenter, Public Relations Manager, (907) 929-9227, [lcarpenter@anchoragemuseum.org](mailto:lcarpenter@anchoragemuseum.org)  
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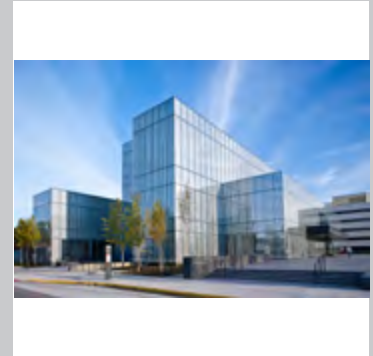
## Anchorage Museum 1

The Anchorage Museum connects people, expands perspectives, and encourages global dialogue about the North and its distinct environment. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



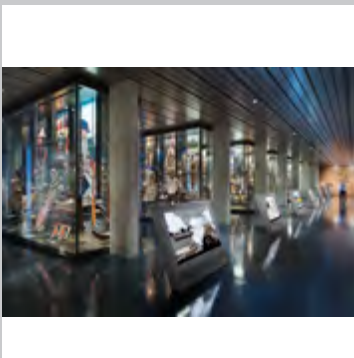
## Anchorage Museum 2

The Anchorage Museum connects people, expands perspectives, and encourages global dialogue about the North and its distinct environment. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



## Anchorage Museum 3

The Anchorage Museum connects people, expands perspectives, and encourages global dialogue about the North and its distinct environment. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



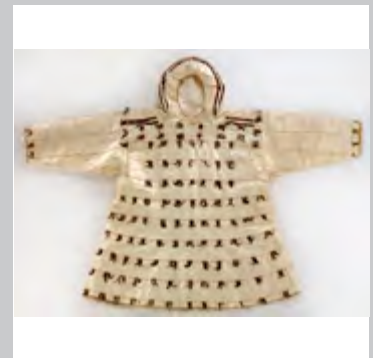
## Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center 1

The Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center features floor-to-ceiling artifact cases and a video installation which plays on floor-mounted flat screens. The graphics in the cases depict contemporary Alaska Native life. Image credit: Chuck Choi/Anchorage Museum



## Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center 2

This Tlingit war helmet found in Taku, Alaska in 1893 is one of the more than 600 objects exhibited in the new Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center. Tlingit warriors wore battle helmets depicting crest animals or ancestors. This helmet, depicting a wrinkled human face, was once embellished with bear fur, whiskers and shocks of human hair. Helmets were carved from hard, dense spruce burls, so that “*sha wduxeeji tlel kuwal’x* (when the head is clubbed, it doesn’t break),” according to elder Peter Jack. Image credit: Courtesy of the National Museum of Natural History



## Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center 3

This St. Lawrence Island Yupik ceremonial seal intestine parka was found in St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, in 1923. This parka is decorated in a man’s style, using plumes and beak parts from crested auklets. Baby walrus fur was applied along the bottom edge, dyed seal fur on the shoulders, and strips of seal skin around the hood. People dressed in this style of parka for religious ceremonies, such as *Kamegtaaq*, a thanksgiving after hunting season. This parka is one of more than 600 objects on view in the new Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center. Image credit: Courtesy of the National Museum of the American Indian

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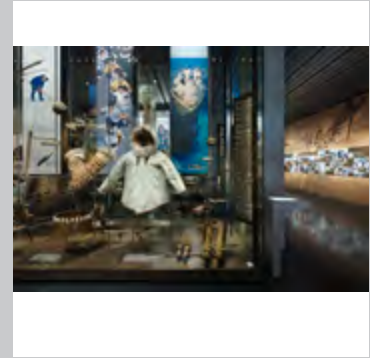
## Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center 4

A Smithsonian employee demonstrates touch screens in the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center. These screens allow visitors to zoom in on images of the artifacts and get a closer look or a 3-D view. The screens also allow visitors to find more information about the artifacts, including excerpts from oral histories given by Native elders. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



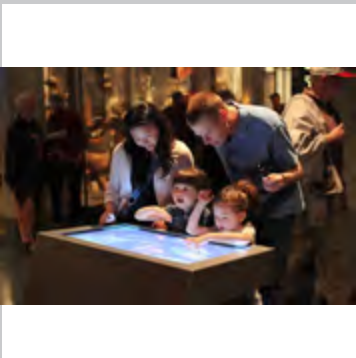
## Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center 5

This Athabascan “Wild Man” or “Cry Baby” mask was worn during a special mask dance. An ornament representing snot, now missing, would have dangled from the nose. This mask is one of more than 600 objects on view in the new Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center. Image credit: Courtesy of the National Museum of Natural History



## Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center 6

The Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center features floor-to-ceiling artifact cases and a video installation which plays on floor-mounted flat screens. The graphics in the cases depict contemporary Alaska Native life. Image credit: Chuck Choi/Anchorage Museum



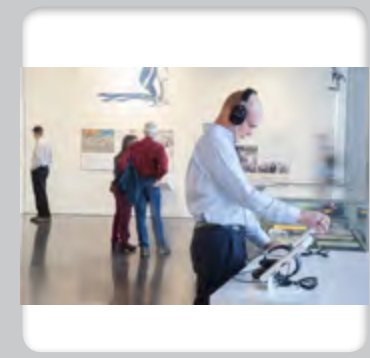
## Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center 7

The Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center features floor-to-ceiling artifact cases and a video installation which plays on floor-mounted flat screens. The graphics in the cases depict contemporary Alaska Native life. Image credit: Brad Johnson/Anchorage Museum



## Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center 8

Elaine Kingeekuk (left) and Sonya Kelliher-Combs examine a gut parka during a Material Traditions Gut Sewing Residency at the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center at the Anchorage Museum. Image credit: Wayde Carroll/Anchorage Museum



## Anchorage Museum Gallery 1

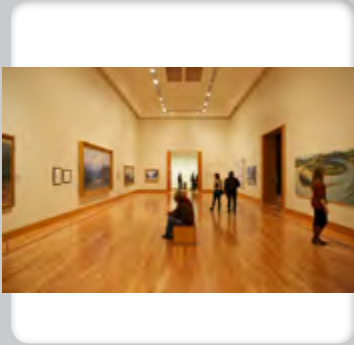
Visitors explore art, science and culture of the North at the Anchorage Museum. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum

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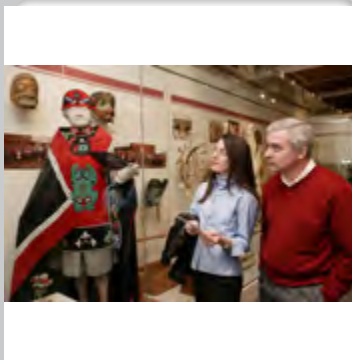
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## Anchorage Museum Gallery 2

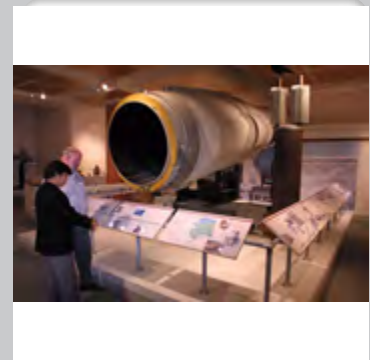
Visitors explore art, science and culture of the North at the Anchorage Museum. Image credit: Brian Adams/Anchorage Museum



## Alaska Gallery 1

The Anchorage Museum's Alaska Gallery covers 10,000 years of Alaska history through artifacts, art, video and life-size dioramas. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum

Note: The Alaska Gallery will close summer of 2016 for renovation, re-opening fall 2017.



## Alaska Gallery 2

The Anchorage Museum's Alaska Gallery includes a section of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline. Its construction is one of the most ambitious engineering projects in United States history. The pipeline is 800 miles long and runs from Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's north coast to Valdez, an ice-free port in southeast Alaska. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum

Note: The Alaska Gallery will close summer of 2016 for renovation, re-opening fall 2017.



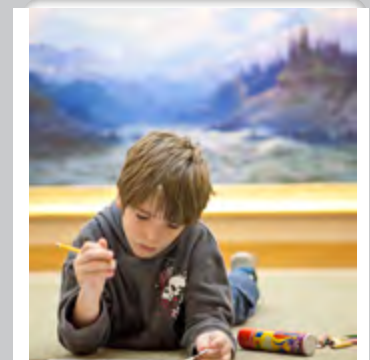
## Art of the North 1

Sydney Laurence's "Sunset on Snow" is one example of the many Laurence oil paintings in the Anchorage Museum's permanent collection. Laurence is considered one of Alaska's most influential artists, as he helped visually define Alaska as The Last Frontier. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



## Art of the North 2

The Anchorage Museum's collection includes this 1973 oil painting by Alaska artist Fred Machetanz titled "Quest for Avuk." Machetanz participated in whale hunts and often used his own photographs as source material. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



## Art of the North 3

Visitors explore art, science and culture of the North at the Anchorage Museum. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum

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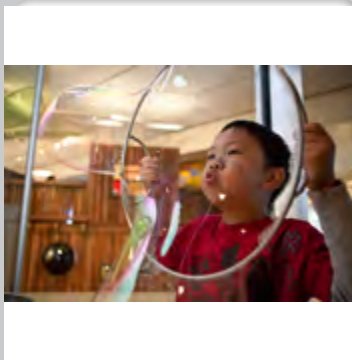
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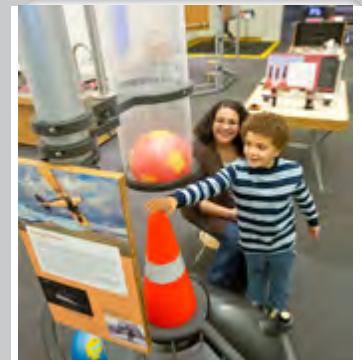
## Spark!Lab

Spark!Lab Smithsonian encourages kids and families to explore their inventive creativity - to create, innovate, collaborate and problem-solve. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



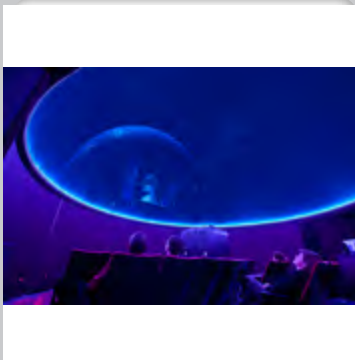
## Discovery Center 1

The Discovery Center includes a Bubble Space, which features bubbles both as items of play and as tools to understand surface tension, shape and light reflection. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



## Discovery Center 2

The Discovery Center includes the BP Kinetic Space, focusing on physics, such as principles of energy, force and motion. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



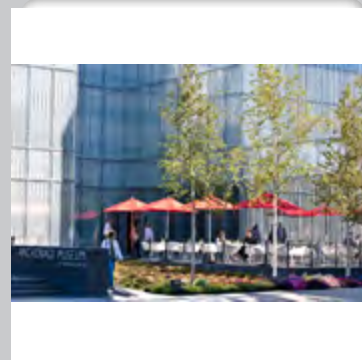
## Thomas Planetarium

The Thomas Planetarium at the Anchorage Museum focuses on astronomy, the Earth's atmosphere and the solar system. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



## Muse 1

The Anchorage Museum's elegant and contemporary restaurant Muse offers fresh, handcrafted Alaska cuisine, in a vibrant downtown setting. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



## Muse 2

The Anchorage Museum's elegant and contemporary restaurant Muse offers fresh, handcrafted Alaska cuisine with indoor and outdoor seating. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum

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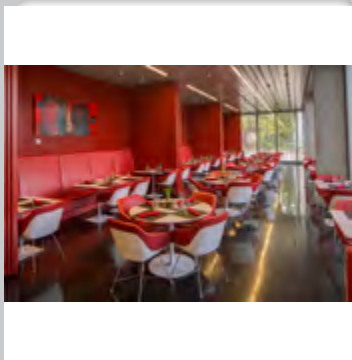
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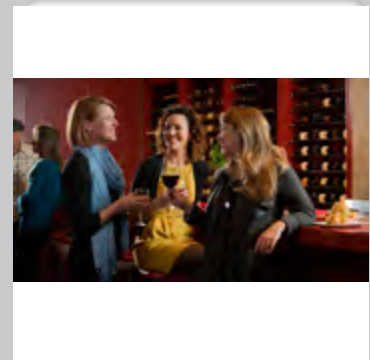
## Muse 3

The Anchorage Museum’s elegant and contemporary restaurant Muse offers fresh, handcrafted Alaska cuisine, in a vibrant downtown setting. Image credit: Greg Martin/Anchorage Museum



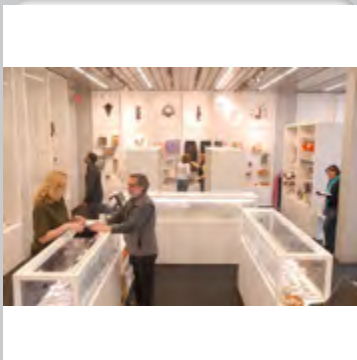
## Muse 4

The Anchorage Museum’s elegant and contemporary restaurant Muse offers fresh, handcrafted Alaska cuisine, in a vibrant downtown setting. Image credit: Chris Arend/Anchorage Museum



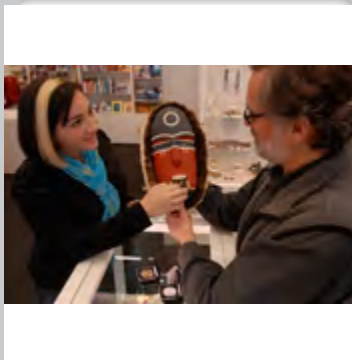
## Muse 5

The Anchorage Museum’s elegant and contemporary restaurant Muse offers fresh, handcrafted Alaska cuisine, in a vibrant downtown setting. Image credit: Greg Martin/Anchorage Museum



## Museum Shop 1

The Anchorage Museum Shop offers authentic Alaska Native art and craft, handmade jewelry, educational toys for children and books about Alaska history and culture. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



## Museum Shop 2

The Anchorage Museum’s knowledgeable shop staff helps visitors learn more about the authentic Alaska Native art available for purchase. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



## Museum Shop 3

The Anchorage Museum Shop specializes in authentic Alaska Native art and craft, including masks, sculptures and beading. Offerings include traditional styles as well as contemporary interpretations. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



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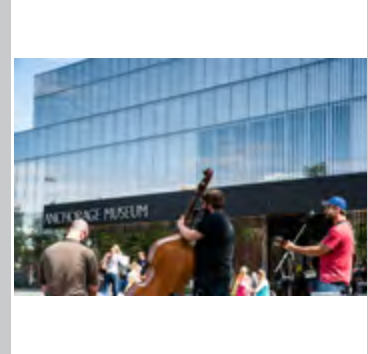
## Atwood Alaska Resource Center

The new Atwood Alaska Resource Center is home to the museum's 575,000 historical photographs, 14,000 publications and 800 maps. Here, museum staff assists a member of the public with map research during walk-in hours. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



## Anchorage Museum Collections

Alaska Native writer Joan Kane studies objects in the Anchorage Museum collection as part of her Polar Lab artist project. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



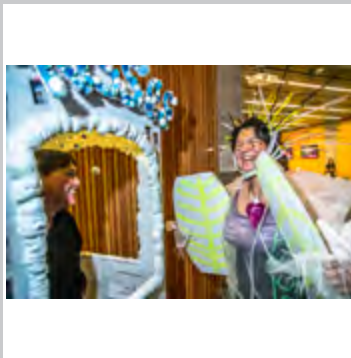
## Outdoor Programs

The Anchorage Museum activates spaces around the museum, including outdoor concerts and programs. Lunch on the Lawn is a weekly program on the museum's lawn with live music, food trucks and activities during the summer months. Image credit: Don Mohr/Anchorage Museum



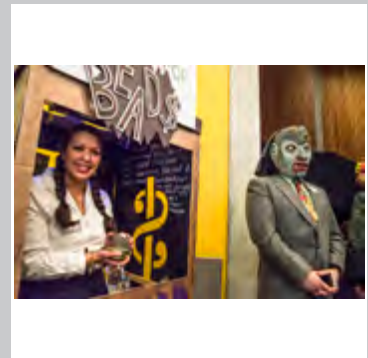
## Polar Nights

The Friday night series Polar Nights enlivens Anchorage nights through activities centering around art, culture, the environment, and the way northern urbanites gather and meet. Part of the Anchorage Museum's Polar Lab, a series of programs exploring life in the North. Selected galleries and spaces are open late every Friday, and admission is half the usual price. Image credit: Brian Adams/Anchorage Museum



## Museum Interventions 1

Through artist residencies, temporary installations, performance works and pop-up programs with artists from Alaska and around the world, the Anchorage Museum provides and presents an inside look at the complexity of the North and its issues. In “Out of the Box” Alaska Native artists and culture bearers responded to an exhibition about Captain Cook with a performance on the commodification of culture. Image credit: Michael Conti/Anchorage Museum



## Museum Interventions 2

Through artist residencies, temporary installations, performance works and pop-up programs with artists from Alaska and around the world, the Anchorage Museum provides and presents an inside look at the complexity of the North and its issues. In “Out of the Box” Alaska Native artists and culture bearers responded to an exhibition about Captain Cook with a performance on the commodification of culture. Image credit: Michael Conti/Anchorage Museum

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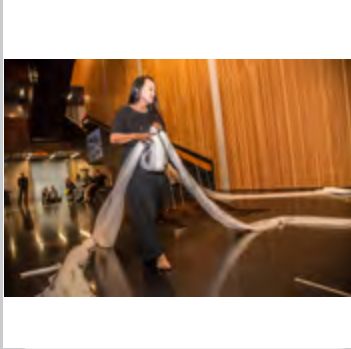
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## Museum Director Julie Decker

Julie Decker is the Director and CEO of the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, Alaska's premier art, history, science and cultural institution. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



## Artist Intervention

Through artist residencies, temporary installations, performance works and pop-up programs with artists from Alaska and around the world, the Anchorage Museum provides and presents an inside look at the complexity of the North and its issues. Greenlandic artist Jessie Kleemann performed “Homage to Soil for Scoresbysund.” Image credit: Michael Conti/Anchorage Museum



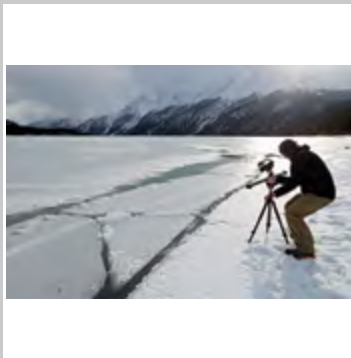
## Polar Lab 1

The Anchorage Museum activates spaces around the museum, including turning galleries into stages. Pulse Dance Company presented “in darkness and light” as part of the Anchorage Museum's Polar Lab. Image credit: Michael Conti/Anchorage Museum



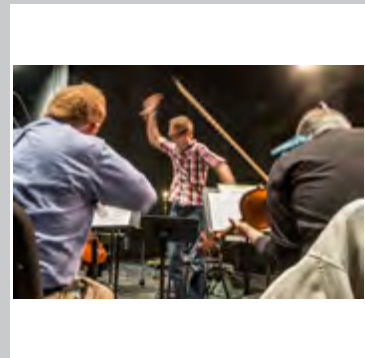
## Polar Lab 2

Working with traditional and non-traditional researchers in residencies, exhibitions and public programs, the Anchorage Museum conveys narratives through contemporary art, science and culture, placing Northern people at the center of a current and pivotal narrative around the environment and global change. Image credit: Brian Adams/Anchorage Museum



## Polar Lab 3

The Anchorage Museum invites international artists to engage the North through short and long-term projects and non-traditional residencies. Artists enter the museum and the North to present insider views of relevant issues impacting northern people and places. Artist Derek Coté records sounds for his Polar Lab project. Image credit: Tim Remick/Anchorage Museum



## Polar Lab 4

The Anchorage Museum invites international artists to engage the North through short and long-term projects and non-traditional residencies. Artists enter the museum and the North to present insider views of relevant issues impacting northern people and places. Derek Coté and Paul Hass rehearse with the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra as part of their Polar Lab project. Image credit: Michael Conti/Anchorage Museum

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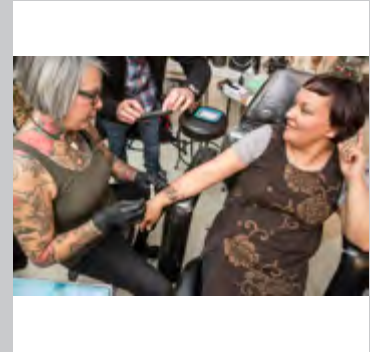
## Polar Lab 5

The Anchorage Museum invites international artists to engage the North through short and long-term projects and non-traditional residencies. Artists enter the museum and the North to present insider views of relevant issues impacting northern people and places. Artist John Grade made a cast of an Arctic tree for his Polar Lab project. Image credit: Maria Grade/Anchorage Museum



## Polar Lab 6

The Anchorage Museum sent a visual artist, a poet, curator, educator and a filmmaker into the Arctic desert – Kobuk Valley National Park, one of the least-visited national parks in the United States – to discover its distinguishing characteristics, its role in the lives of residents who border it, and to experience why it has become a center for research into the potential for life on Mars. Image credit: Courtesy of the Anchorage Museum



## Polar Lab 7

Greenlandic tattoo artist Maya Jacobsen joined Anchorage-based Inupiaq artist Holly Nordlum in an exploration of the cultural significance of traditional tattooing. Jacobsen tattooed Nordlum's arm and chin using traditional skin-stitch techniques. Part of the Polar Lab's Urban Interventions series to empower youth through healthy creative expression. Image credit: Michael Conti/Anchorage Museum



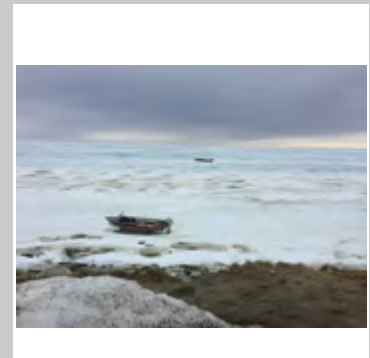
## Polar Lab 8

The Anchorage Museum invites international artists to engage the North through short and long-term projects and non-traditional residencies. Artists enter the museum and the North to present insider views of relevant issues impacting northern people and places. Dutch photographer Jeroen Toirkens traveled to one of the most isolated places in Alaska, the island of Little Diomedede. Image credit: Jeroen Toirkens/Anchorage Museum



## Polar Lab 9

Polar Lab artist in residence Paul Walde listens to the sound of the tide underneath the ice on the Kuskokwim River. The Anchorage Museum invites international artists to engage the North through short and long-term projects and non-traditional residencies. Image credit: Brian Adams/Anchorage Museum



## Polar Lab 10

The museum curates and creates conversations as we curate objects and exhibitions, to raise awareness and to advocate for a genuine voice of the North at a time when it is endlessly and erroneously portrayed on reality TV. Image credit: Jayson Smart/Anchorage Museum

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# ANCHORAGE MUSEUM AT RASMUSON CENTER

#THISISTHEMUSEUM

#ANCHORAGEMUSEUM

#THISISPOLARLAB

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ANCHORAGE MUSEUM