

Annual Report FY2024

REPORTING PERIOD: JULY 1, 2023—JUNE 30, 2024



Director's Report



UAMN plays a lot of important roles in the community, but reflecting on this last fiscal year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024), I am particularly proud of the role we played as an *engaging gathering space*.

Last year UAMN welcomed over 91,000 visitors. This number is significant in that it is the first time we broke the “90,000 mark” since 2016, and it surpassed the previous year’s attendance numbers by more than 10,000 visitors. This tells us that UAMN remains a very popular destination for tourists from around the world. But also embedded in this overarching number are a whole host of well-attended events and programs that brought our community together.

For example, we opened two new installations in our Special Exhibitions Gallery, *Black in Alaska: Interior Edition*, and *Thinking Made Visible*. Both exhibitions were literally built around community involvement and both had very well attended opening receptions.

Our annual Halloween and Open House events are ever popular; in fact, we saw over 1,200 people interact with our educators and curatorial staff in just four hours at Open House. Another 5,300 guests participated in several other museum events throughout the year, and 3,400 K-12 students participated in docent and teacher-led field trips. To top it all off, our research and collections staff hosted 489 professional and student visitors to study and work on our world-class natural and cultural history holdings.

These numbers indicate real and positive impact in our community. I look forward to building on this work in the coming year and hope you participate in person. But if not, I invite you to listen remotely to our new museum podcast, *The More You Look*.

Patrick Druckenmiller,
UAMN Director

Photo Above: The UAMN special exhibition *Thinking Made Visible* explores the human instinct to express thought through line, form, and color. PHOTO BY ROGER TOPP. **Front Cover:** Students view the new whale skull wall with docent Tim Doran during a docent-guided field trip. PHOTO BY ELISABETH PADILLA.

Mission, Vision, and Values

UAMN Mission

UAMN illuminates the natural history and cultural heritage of Alaska and the North through collections, research, education, and partnerships, and by creating a singular museum experience that honors diverse knowledge and respect for the land and its peoples.

UAMN Vision

UAMN is an essential contributor to the well-being of the local and global community, an engaging gathering space, and a recognized resource and leader among circumpolar museums.

UAMN Core Values

Preserving our shared cultural and natural history

We are committed to preserving collections in perpetuity to address present and future needs.

Partnership

Collaboration with Indigenous, academic, agency, and other communities is central to our efforts.

Integrity

We foster public trust through openness and ethical approaches to our research, education, and partnerships.

Respect and inclusivity

We are stronger when we honor diversity and are committed to making the museum economically, physically, culturally, and intellectually accessible to everyone.

Engagement

We encourage curiosity, creativity, and lifelong learning through teaching, exhibitions, and programming.

Photo Top Right: UAMN school programs include teacher-led and docent-guided field trips like this Native Cultures program. PHOTO BY ELISABETH PADILLA. **Photo 2:** Senior Collections Manager of Ethnology and History Angela Linn shows a blockhouse model. PHOTO BY ROGER TOPP. **Photo 3:** Collections Manager Della Hall in the Fine Arts collection facility at the Rasmuson Library. PHOTO BY ROGER TOPP. **Photo 4:** Students and their chaperone explore ocean organisms during a docent-led field trip. PHOTO BY ELISABETH PADILLA.



Research and Collections



UAMN archaeologists excavating at the Hollembaek Hill site near Delta Junction, Alaska. PHOTO BY ROGER TOPP.

Collections

The collections are organized into 10 disciplines (archaeology, birds, documentary film, earth sciences, ethnology/history, fine arts, fishes/marine invertebrates, insects, mammals, and plants) and serve as a valuable resource for research on climate change, genetics, contaminants, and other issues facing Alaska and the circumpolar North. The museum is also the premier repository for artifacts and specimens collected on public lands in Alaska and a leader in northern natural and cultural history research.



Holdings

2.54
MILLION*

Total specimens and artifacts in collection

1.74
MILLION

Total cataloged/databased entries

* estimated; backlog cataloging of older holdings is ongoing



Growth

28,791

New catalog/database entries



Members of the Material Traditions of Arctic Ground Squirrels Cohort view the UAMN parka created by master skinsewer Helen Seveck. PHOTO BY ANGELA LINN.



Collections Use

489

Visitors to collections (professional and student)

1,158

Public contacts

49

Publications and technical reports

147

Loans



Digital Data Use

MILLIONS of data records accessed (downloads and queries) through our online database, Arctos.

<https://arctos.database.museum/>

Education & Public Programs

Education & Public Programs offers a wide array of activities and resources for teachers, students, families, community members, and visitors of all ages and backgrounds. We offer opportunities to learn from and be inspired by diverse museum collections and related research. Through collaboration with UAF departments and community members, we are proud to connect the public with Alaska's science, arts, history, and cultures.



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

5,350 +
Attendees

16 Family Programs

11 Offsite events

5 Family Days

4 Annual Events

Educators' Night • Museum Halloween
Homeschool Day • Open House

2 Teen Workshops

2 Space Camp sessions

2 Exhibit Receptions

1 Osher Lifelong Learning
Institute Class

1 Sleepover



EDUCATION KITS

4,035
Students served
in 13 Alaskan communities

91 Classroom Kit Loans
to 13 Alaska communities

42 Homeschool Kit Loans
to 6 Alaska communities



9 Berry Field Kits
Created and distributed to
communities throughout Alaska



FIELD TRIPS

3,458
Students

85 Directed Discovery
Docent-guided field trips

65 Exhibit Exploration
Teacher-guided field trips

Photo Left: Events like Museum Halloween allow visitors to get up close with collections and talk to museum curators and staff. UAF PHOTO BY MARINA BARBOSA SANTOS. **Above:** Event volunteers Mary Ann Fathauer and Judy Ferri assist guests during Arctic Life Family Day. PHOTO BY EMILY KOEHLER-PLATTEN.



VOLUNTEER HOURS

1,903
Volunteer hours



Volunteers

DOCENTS

Charley Basham	Helyn Lefgren
Lynn Basham	Dori Olsen
Janet Brower	Will Schendel
Bekah Chatterley	Leslie Swenson
Jody Demientieff	Richard Stolzberg
Tim Doran	Betsy Sturm
Mary Ann Fathauer	Amy Taylor
Judy Ferri	Janet Taylor
Carolyn Foelsch	Avalon Wappet
Stephanie Krueger	Nicole Webster
Sandy Lachman	David Weissman

DOCENT LONGEVITY AWARDS

Lynn Basham, *Spruce Award*, 10 years
Tim Doran, *Birch Award*, 8 years
Carolyn Foelsch, *Birch Award*, 8 years
Janet Taylor, *Birch Award*, 8 years
Sandy Lachman, *Willow Award*, 5 years
Dori Olsen, *Willow Award*, 5 years

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Kelsey Aho	Vicki Koehler
Marcus Alphin	Helyn Lefgren
Charley Basham	Lyric St. John
Lisa Guffey	Betsy Sturm
Justin Guffey	David Weissman
Judy Ferri	

Exhibits, Design, & Digital Media

August 2023

The new Gallery of Alaska introduction was expanded through the inclusion of an updated Alaska Native Languages map. Later, in November, staff installed an archaeological exhibit highlighting decades of work on the UAF campus.



September 2023

The museum began airing episodes of the podcast, *The More You Look*, a journey into museum collections, research, exhibition, and public programming. The first episode featured UAMN Curator of Insects, Derek Sikes.



Scan to explore the podcast.



Cynthia Gibson's *20,000 Bones Under the Sea*, a dress made of salmon vertebrae, was placed on display in the Gallery of Alaska's Southeast area.

The Changing Alaska "New in Collections" exhibit case was installed at the entrance of the Gallery of Alaska with the first temporary exhibit, *The Road to Exhibition: Changing Perspectives of Bus 142*. In February 2024, the second exhibit, *Birds of Beringia*, was installed.

November 2023

The museum opened the *Black In Alaska: Interior Edition* show in the Special Exhibits Gallery in partnership with the Rasmuson Foundation and BlackInAlaska.org.



The Bus 142 virtual exploration kiosk was installed in the Gallery of Alaska, featuring both the conservation project and the future bus exhibition behind the museum.



December 2023

The Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery interpretive expansion was kicked off with the first meeting of the gallery's new external advisory committee.



ABOVE: PHOTOS BY ROGER TOPP.

May 2024

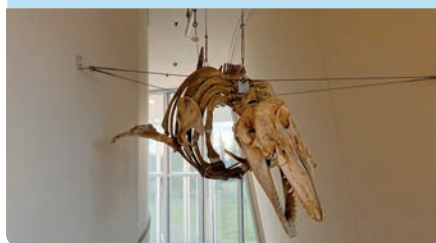
UAMN opened the special exhibition, *Thinking Made Visible*, exploring the human instinct to express thought through line, form, and color. The exhibit will run through April 2025.



ABOVE: PHOTO BY ROGER TOPP.

June 2024

A Cook Inlet beluga whale skeleton was hung from the museum's lobby ceiling to complement the much larger bowhead whale installed in spring of 2021.



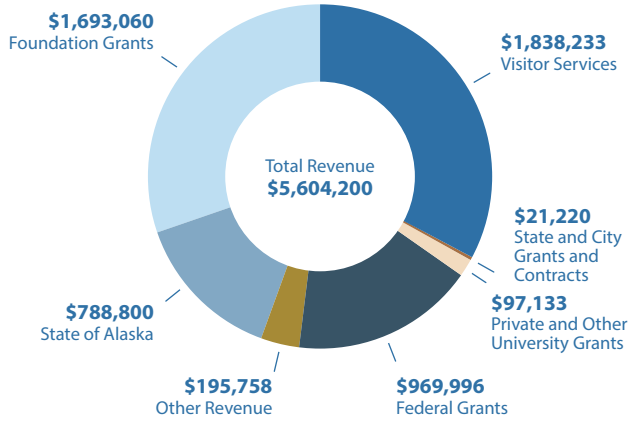
The special exhibit *Camera Trapping* was installed at the west entrance of the museum's lobby. The installation highlights student work on the North Slope and features a wide array of Arctic animals imaged by remote cameras.



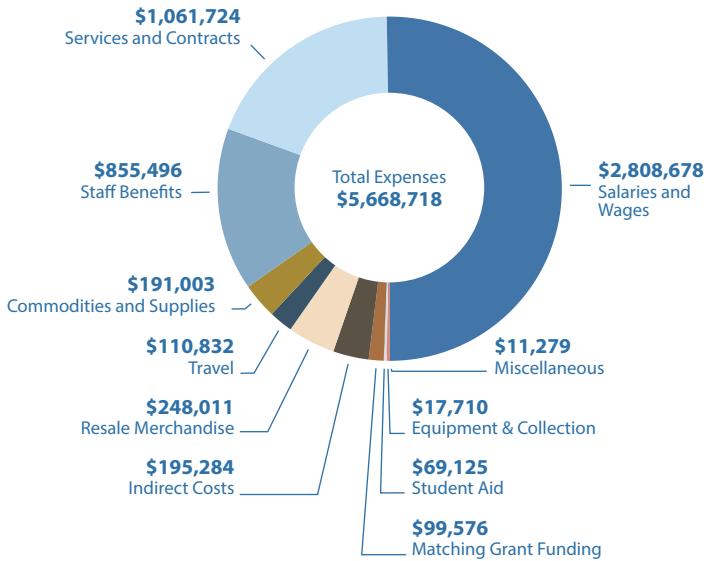
ABOVE: PHOTOS BY TAMARA MARTZ.

Financials | Museum Staff

REVENUE



EXPENSES



The UA Museum of the North is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, educational institution and provider and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual:
www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination/.

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www.youtube.com/@alaskamuseum
www.buzzsprout.com/2218808
www.uaf.edu/museum

FY24 MUSEUM STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Pat Druckenmiller
MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Emilie Nelson
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS MANAGER

Barbara Ellanna
FISCAL PROFESSIONAL

Kevin May
HEAD OF OPERATIONS

DEVELOPMENT

Aelin Allegood
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

VISITOR SERVICES

Christina Parks
DIRECTOR OF VISITOR SERVICES

Marcus Avugiak
VISITOR SERVICES MANAGER

Carson Frank
STORE MANAGER

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Jennifer Arseneau
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Elisabeth Padilla
OUTREACH SPECIALIST & FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR

Emily Koehler-Platten
OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Nan Werdin-Pfisterer
OUTREACH SPECIALIST

EXHIBITS, DESIGN, AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Roger Topp
DIRECTOR OF EXHIBITS, DESIGN, AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Tamara Martz
LEAD DESIGNER

Jonah Wright
CHIEF PREPARATOR

ALASKA CENTER FOR DOCUMENTARY FILM

Leonard Kamerling
CURATOR EMERITUS

ARCHAEOLOGY

Josh Reuther
CURATOR

Scott Shirar
COLLECTION MANAGER

Audra Darcy
RESEARCH ARCHAEOLOGIST

Haley McCaig
RESEARCH ARCHAEOLOGIST

EARTH SCIENCES

Patrick Druckenmiller
CURATOR

ENTOMOLOGY

Derek Sikes
CURATOR

Jessica Rykken
COLLECTION MANAGER

ETHNOLOGY & HISTORY

Angela Linn
SENIOR COLLECTIONS MANAGER

FINE ARTS

Della Hall
COLLECTION MANAGER

GENOMIC RESOURCES

Mallory Gulbranson
COLLECTION MANAGER

HERBARIUM

Stefanie Ickert-Bond
CURATOR

Cam Webb
BOTANIST AND BIODIVERSITY INFORMATICSIST

Carolyn Parker
RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL

FISHES AND MARINE INVERTEBRATES

J. Andrés López
CURATOR

MAMMALOGY

Link Olson
CURATOR

Aren Gunderson
COLLECTION MANAGER

Marissa Breslin
MUSEUM RESEARCH SPECIALIST

ORNITHOLOGY

Kevin Winker
CURATOR

Jack Withrow
COLLECTION MANAGER

ADDITIONAL 2024 UAMN EMPLOYEES

- 30 TEMPORARY STAFF MEMBERS
- 24 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
- 8 GRADUATE STUDENTS