

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Homer Society of Natural History dba Pratt Museum****Federal Tax ID: 92-6002856****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition****Homer Society of Natural History dba Pratt Museum -
Museum Building Construction****State Funding Requested: \$1,250,000**
One-Time Need**House District: Kenai Areawide (28-30)****Brief Project Description:**

The Pratt Museum's \$9.5 million New Facility and Site Redesign project will better serve visitors, the region, and the state, well into the future.
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Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$9,500,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$2,058,050)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	(\$1,250,000)
Project Deficit:	\$6,191,950

*Funding Details:**Secured**810000, Federal (NEH/USDA)2009/2010**250000, State (State App/DNR) 2010/2011/2012**125000, PGA Foundation 2009**10000, FNBA 2010**10000, TOTE 2012**205000, Anon 2009/2013**600000, Patrons of the Pratt Society(2009/2010)**48050, Individuals 2011/2012/2013**Future Targeted**\$3,000,000, Foundations**\$1,000,000, Corporations**\$641,950, Individuals***Detailed Project Description and Justification:****MISSION/BACKGROUND**

The national award-winning Pratt Museum is dedicated to the exploration of people and place in the Kachemak Bay region, one of the richest biological and cultural crossroads in Alaska. Built as Homer's centennial project in 1968, the Pratt is one of the nation's leading community museums. Partnerships with entities like the National Park Service, National Geographic, and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology have propelled the Pratt's exhibits and programs far beyond the Museum's walls. And

**\$250,000
Approved**

prestigious grants from the nation's leading museum, arts, and humanities institutions have underscored the groundbreaking work of this small museum, which has always been a source of pride, not only for the local community, but for all Alaskans. The Pratt has long been a gathering place for homesteaders, artists, Native Elders, and others, and remains a nexus of reflection and engagement for its community and visitors.

PLANS/PROGRESS

Nearly a decade of thorough organizational evaluation, professional assessment, and community dialogue has led the Board of Directors and staff to the decision to construct a new building and redesign the Pratt's property. A feasibility study was conducted in 2009 in tandem with the development of draft architectural and site concepts. The McDowell Group conducted an analysis of the economic impact of the Pratt's operations and construction project on the local community, finding that the Museum generates substantial economic activity in the region. Now nearing the end of the Design Phase, the Pratt has secured cash and pledges that represent 22% of the project budget and has laid the groundwork for successful completion of this project through the following critical steps:

- Acquisition of 9.8 acres of urban green space in the heart of Homer, which the Museum now owns debt-free;
- Planning and Pre-development funds were granted, including \$88,625 for planning plus more than \$70,000 of in-kind support, from the prestigious Pre-Development Program of the Rasmuson Foundation and Foraker Group, resulting in substantial Planning Phase cost savings (NOTE: Predevelopment funds are not included in the project budget.);
- Economic impact analysis conducted during Pre-development by the McDowell Group found that the Pratt generates more than \$1 million per year of economic activity in the region;
- Gathering of diverse community and stakeholder input through public meetings, surveys, and other means to guide the Planning and Design Phases;
- Funds have been secured to plan and prepare for the project, including a federal 3 to 1 challenge grant of \$750,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); a federal grant of \$60,000 from the USDA; a state grant of \$50,000 from the Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Outdoor Recreation; \$848,050 in individual gifts and pledges; and total state appropriations of \$200,000 in FY2011 and FY2013;
- Grants, donations and pledges of \$2,058,050 have been secured (22% of the project total), including more than \$800,000 in community support;
- Major planning and research initiatives are underway, including development of the Pratt's Master Exhibit Plan Phase II and a comprehensive audience research initiative, which will guide the redesign of the Pratt permanent exhibits and educational programming;
- Strong partnerships have been developed with the National Park Service, Seldovia Village Tribe, Islands and Ocean Visitors Center, and other groups, expanding the reach of the Pratt's exhibits and programs;
- Community leaders have been recruited for the capital campaign, representing the Pratt's multiple disciplines in the arts, sciences, and humanities;
- A mid-campaign feasibility update was conducted in Homer and nearby communities during the summer of 2012;
- The Pratt is on schedule with the Design Phase, to be completed by February 2014;
- The first part of the site work, an upgrade and expansion of the trail system, was completed during the summer of 2012; and,
- The Project is rated as Priority No. 4 in the City of Homer's Capital Improvement Plan 2013-2018.

STATEMENT OF NEED

The Pratt will construct a new facility and develop its 9.8-acre campus in the heart of downtown Homer. Currently the Museum is an aging building with low-quality and limited gallery space and inadequate environmental systems. The new building, nearly 25% larger than the existing structure, will integrate all activities into one floor and provide an exceptional

experience for the Pratt's 30,000 annual visitors and program participants. Fully ADA-compliant, the facility will be an attractive and inspiring venue for Museum and community events. Expanded galleries will feature the final phase of the Pratt's award-winning permanent exhibit, Kachemak Bay: An Exploration of People and Place. New exhibits on climate change, fish camp in contemporary Dena'ina life, and other themes that have recently emerged through community conversations will explore the most pressing issues we face today.

The Pratt is the community's living room, classroom, and place for sharing. Yet the Museum has no space designated for lively interaction and learning. Currently, community and education programs must take place in galleries, disrupting exhibits and gallery visitors. Dedicated space for education programs and community gatherings will prioritize learning and dialogue. A research and conservation lab will serve as a place where students and scholars can advance their collective understanding of the region through in-depth study of Pratt collections. The lab will enable on-site object conservation, and the research room will provide a quiet location for the recording of oral histories and the examination of collections.

The Pratt's collections include 24,000 objects in art, anthropology, history and natural sciences and are a valuable resource in the region for education and research. The new facility will provide expanded collections storage space with much-needed state-of-the-art environmental controls. New back-of-house areas and support facilities will provide opportunities for the Pratt to engage curators and exhibits from across the state and nation.

Development of the Pratt's wooded campus, located in Homer's Central Business District, will showcase Woodard Creek, Homer's largest urban stream. Wilderness qualities will remain in some areas of the site, while others will feature lively gatherings, exhibits, and performances. Trails and accessible paths will welcome individuals of diverse ages and abilities.

The new facility will maximize function, efficient use of space, and aesthetic appeal. Energy-efficient building systems will keep operating costs at a minimum. Gallery and collections storage spaces will include advanced temperature and humidity controls, and work areas will take advantage of natural light.

The Pratt Museum is the community's historical anchor. The vitality of this institution contributes tangibly to local quality of life, helping make Homer a place where people wish to live, work, and play. This project represents the first major capital initiative the Museum has undertaken in its history. This new building and site redesign will allow the Pratt to continue to be a resource for learning and a place of meaningful conversation decades into the future.

In summary, goals of the project include:

- Dedicated education program/community gathering space;
- Implementation of the final phase of Master Exhibit Plan exhibit renovations;
- Site redesign and stewardship to expand outdoor exhibits and fully integrate the Museum into its 9.8-acre green space;
- Expanded collections storage space with state-of-the-art environmental controls;
- Creation of back-of-house support space for research, collections conservation, and exhibit preparation;
- Full Americans with Disability Act compliance; and
- Increased building system efficiency for long-term cost savings.

COMMUNITY SERVED

Each year, the Pratt serves more than 30,000 visitors and engages about 4,000 students and adult learners in its programs. The Pratt is an integral part of Alaska's educational infrastructure, filling critical gaps in this infrastructure by providing hands-on programs to school groups visiting from the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island, Anchorage, Mat-Su Borough and Fairbanks North Star Borough School Districts. These programs help develop skills and knowledge in the sciences, arts,

and humanities. The Pratt is an important repository in Alaska for collections that represent the cultural, natural, and historical heritage of South Central Alaska. These are significant collections in the region and are a resource for students, researchers, writers, educators, and the general public. They include archaeological materials that represent Kachemak Bay's earliest inhabitants, historic photographs, oral histories, and community archives. For Alaska residents, the Pratt is an expression of civic and cultural identity. For summer travelers, the Pratt is a highly-anticipated destination where they can learn about and explore Alaska.

The Museum is a regional economic engine, according to the 2009 McDowell Group study, "Economic Impact Analysis of the Pratt Museum Renovation and Expansion," generating approximately \$1 million in annual economic activity and drawing visitors to our community from across the state, across the nation and around the world. A source of pride for southern Kenai Peninsula residents, the Pratt has earned broad local, regional, state and national support from its individual members and donors, businesses and corporations, Native organizations, and private foundations.

FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA

REQUEST: \$2,800,000

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$9,500,000

TOTAL COSTS, CONSTRUCTION PHASE : \$7,250,000

A State of Alaska capital grant of \$2,800,000 will help the Pratt continue to be an economic engine on the Kenai Peninsula and one of Alaska's leading cultural institutions. The Pratt's projected total State of Alaska funding request of \$3,000,000 started in 2010 with an appropriation of \$100,000; in 2012 another \$100,000 was appropriated. This year's request of \$2,800,000 will help fund the completion of design, construction documents, and the start of construction.

The architects and engineers have worked with the staff and community to complete conceptualization, determination of need, and refinement of the program and budget during the Schematic Design Phase. The next step in the timeline is design development, followed by creation of construction documents: all drawings, specifications, permits and other documents needed to begin construction and complete the project. A grant from the State of Alaska will allow the Museum to maintain project momentum at a critical stage. This grant will help the Pratt leverage significant additional funding for a capital project that will invigorate the region and transform the Museum.

A prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant of \$750,000 jump-started the capital campaign and, to date, the Pratt has secured \$2,053,050 million: approximately 22% of project funds. The Pratt will activate diverse funders to meet campaign goals, helping to secure its long-term financial sustainability and bolster its role as an economic engine in the community. This appropriation will also be used to match the above-noted \$750,000 NEH challenge grant which requires a 3 to 1 non-federal match.

Support from the State of Alaska will help build the future of the Pratt Museum. This participation will deepen Alaskans' collective understanding of the Kachemak Bay and surrounding region, including the Kenai Peninsula and Lower Cook Inlet. State funding will inspire dialogue, lifelong learning, and community engagement. State financial support is needed as we strive to provide a gathering place that inspires people to reflect on the past, explore the present, and understand how we can shape our future.

Project Timeline:

February 2014, Construction Documents Finalized

April 2014, Construction Begins

April 2014-October 2015, Construction Continues

Spring 2016-September 2016, Move Museum Collections, Exhibits and Personnel into New Building

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Homer Society of Natural History, dba Pratt Museum

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Michele Miller
Title: Development Director
Address: 3779 Bartlett Street
HOMER, Alaska 99603
Phone Number: (907)435-3343
Email: mmiller@prattmuseum.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

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**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Manager

RESOLUTION 13-018

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE 2013-2018 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO DELETE THE HOMER TIDAL ENERGY INCUBATOR PROJECT AND AMEND THE HOMER EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTER UPGRADES.

WHEREAS, On October 15, 2012 the City Council of the City of Homer adopted Resolution 12-087(S) adopting the 2013-2018 Capital Improvement Plan and establishing capital project legislative priorities for FY 2014; and

WHEREAS, Subsequent to the adoption of Resolution 12-087(S) the City Council funded the Homer Tidal Energy Incubator Project via Ordinance 12-51(A) in the amount of \$100,000 through a reimbursable grant; and

WHEREAS, The Homer Tidal Energy Incubator Project can be deleted from the FY 2014 State Legislative Request because it has been funded; and

WHEREAS, Subsequent to the adoption of Resolution 12-087(S) new information has become available about the cost of upgrading the current Homer Education and Recreation Center to current code standards; and

WHEREAS, It may be more cost effective to build a new facility or upgrade a different building than the current Homer Education and Recreation Center building; and

WHEREAS, This project should be amended to read Homer Education and Recreation Center to include the possibility of upgrading an existing building or new construction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council hereby amends the Capital Improvement Plan by deleting the Homer Tidal Energy Incubator Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Homer City Council hereby amends the 2013-2018 Capital Improvement Plan by deleting the term "Upgrades" after Homer Education and Recreation Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following capital improvement projects are now identified as priorities for the FY 2014 State Legislative Request:

1. Harbor Improvement Revenue Bond Projects
2. Port and Harbor Building
3. Skyline Fire Station
4. Pratt Museum New Facility and Site Redesign
5. Homer Education and Recreation Center
6. Harbor Entrance Erosion Control

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 Roberts

4 **RESOLUTION 13-005**

5
6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER,
7 ALASKA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PRATT
8 MUSEUM'S LEGISLATIVE GRANT REQUEST IN THE
9 AMOUNT OF \$2.8 MILLION FOR ITS NEW FACILITY.

10
11 WHEREAS, The Pratt Museum is a national award-winning museum that serves more
12 than 30,000 visitors and engages more than 4,000 education program participants annually; and
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14 WHEREAS, The Pratt Museum is consistently recognized as one of Alaska's leading
15 cultural institutions and a model among community museums across the nation; and
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17 WHEREAS, The Pratt Museum is the recipient of the Governor's Award for the
18 Humanities and the National Award for Museum Service, the country's highest honor for
19 museums; and
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21 WHEREAS, The Pratt Museum is a regional economic engine, generating about \$1
22 million in annual economic activity and drawing visitors to our community from across the state,
23 nation, and world; and
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25 WHEREAS, The Pratt Museum is embarking on a construction project to better serve its
26 visitors and the community long into the future by providing new exhibits; full handicap
27 accessibility; expanded research capacity to serve students and scholars; and improved ability to
28 expand and preserve the largest collections in the sciences, arts, and humanities on the Kenai
29 Peninsula; and
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31 WHEREAS, The Pratt Museum was awarded a Challenge Grant of \$750,000 from the
32 National Endowment for the Humanities, which must be matched three to one with non-federal
33 dollars to leverage these funds; and
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35 WHEREAS, A capital grant of \$2.8 million from the State of Alaska will provide
36 necessary funding for the Pratt Museum's \$9.5 million new facility and site redesign project,
37 enabling the Museum to maintain project momentum at this crucial stage; and
38

39 WHEREAS, The Pratt Museum's construction project is included as Priority No. 4 in the
40 City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan and the City supports the Pratt Museum with
41 operational and capital project funding.
42

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council hereby expresses
44 support for the Pratt Museum's legislative grant request in the amount of \$2.8 million for the
45 Design Phase of the Museum's New Facility and Site Redesign Project.
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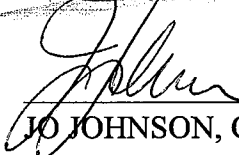
47 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Homer, Alaska, this 14th day of
48 January, 2013.

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CITY OF HOMER


MAYOR

ATTEST


JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A

Introduced by: Smith, Haggerty
Date: 01/22/13
Action: Adopted
Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2013-007**

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PRATT MUSEUM'S
GRANT REQUESTS FOR ITS NEW FACILITY AND SITE REDESIGN PROJECT**

- WHEREAS,** The Pratt Museum is a national award-winning museum on the Kenai Peninsula that serves more than 30,000 visitors and engages more than 4,000 education program participants annually; and
- WHEREAS,** The Pratt Museum is consistently recognized as one of Alaska's leading cultural institutions and a model among community museums across the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** The Pratt Museum is a regional economic engine, generating about \$1 million in annual economic activity and drawing visitors to the Kenai Peninsula from across the state, nation and world; and
- WHEREAS,** The Pratt Museum has embarked on a construction project to better serve its visitors and the community long into the future by providing new exhibits; full handicap accessibility; expanded research capacity to serve students and scholars; and improved ability to expand and preserve the largest collections in the sciences, arts, and humanities on the Kenai Peninsula; and
- WHEREAS,** The Pratt Museum was awarded a Challenge Grant of \$750,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which must be matched three to one with non-federal dollars to leverage these funds; and
- WHEREAS,** A capital grant of \$2,800,000 from the State of Alaska will provide necessary funding for the Pratt Museum's \$9.5 million new facility and site redesign project, enabling the Museum to maintain project momentum at this crucial stage; and
- WHEREAS,** The Pratt Museum's construction project is included as a No. 4 Priority in the City of Homer's FY14 Capital Improvement Plan list and the City of Homer supports the Pratt Museum with operational funding;

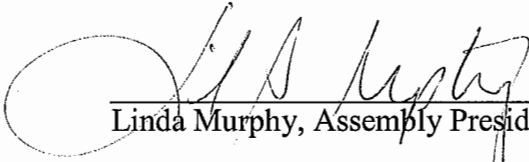
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI
PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly hereby expresses support for the Pratt Museum's Alaska State legislative grant requests and Federal Grant Requests and other potential grants in aid of construction for the Museum's New Facility and Site Redesign Project.

SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough's Alaska State House and Senate Delegation, and to the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 22ND DAY OF JANUARY, 2013.



Linda Murphy, Assembly President

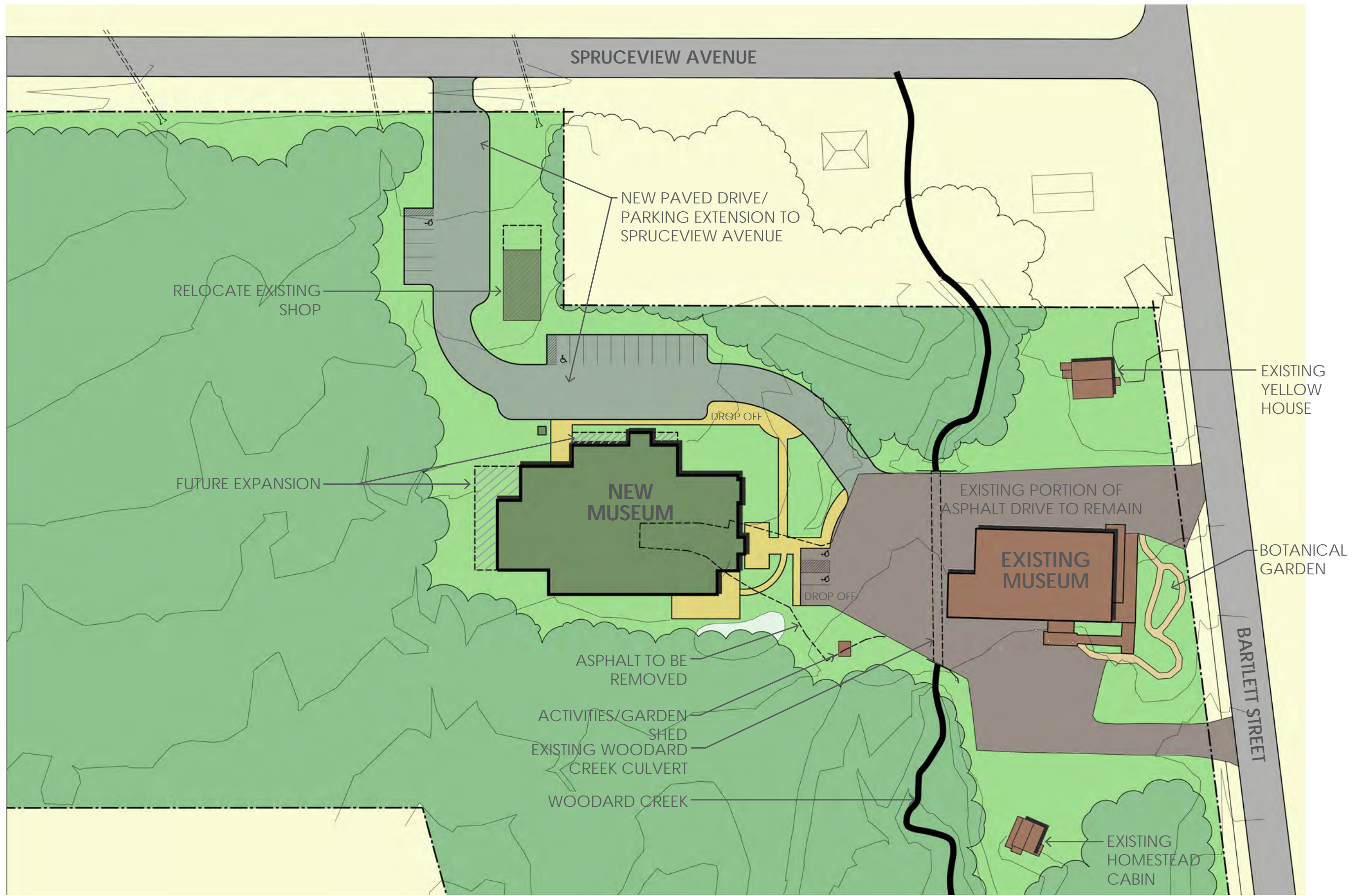
ATTEST:



Johmi Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk

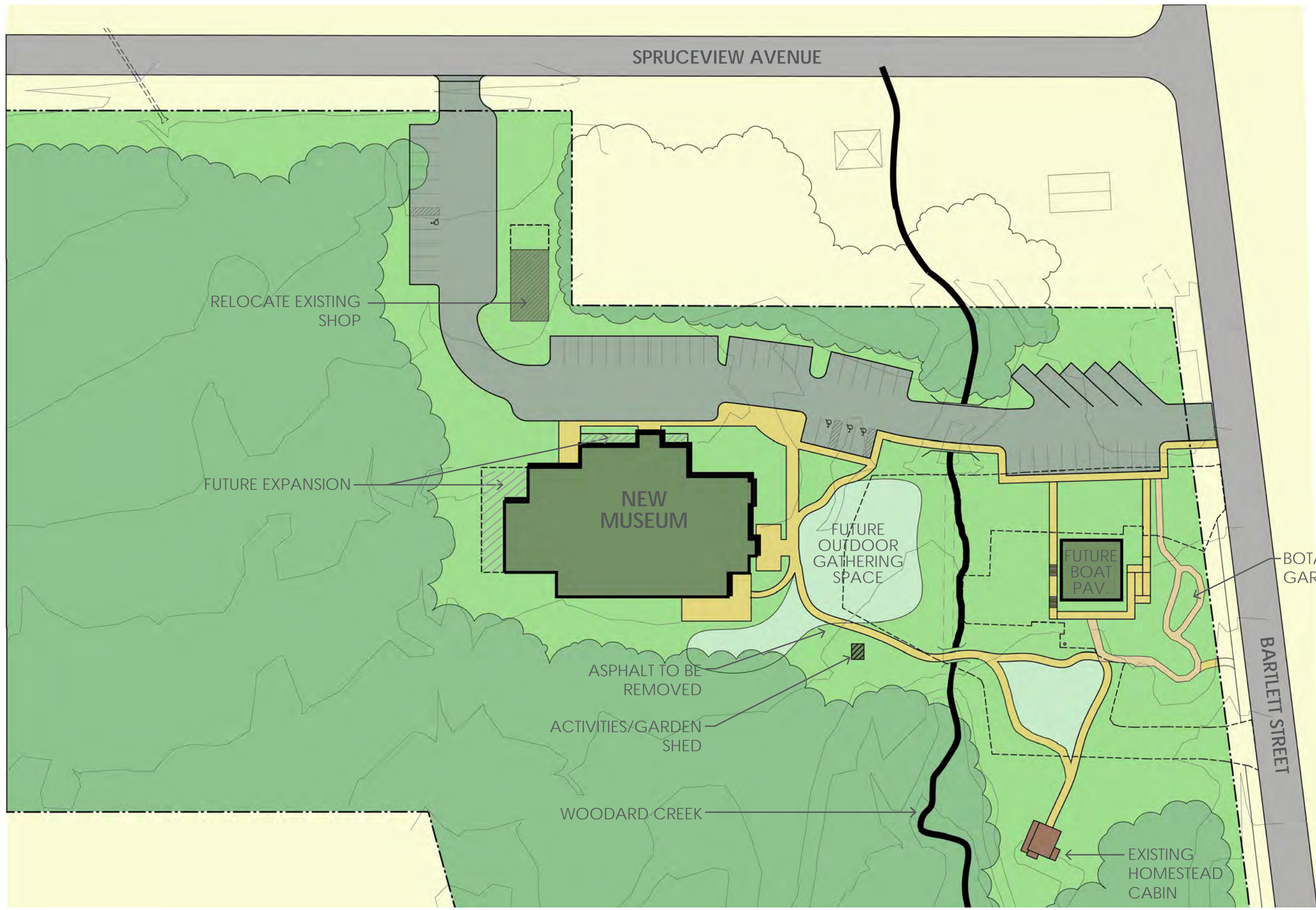


Yes: Haggerty, Johnson, McClure, Smalley, Smith, Tauriainen, Murphy
No: None
Absent: Pierce, Wolf



SITE PLAN - PHASE 1





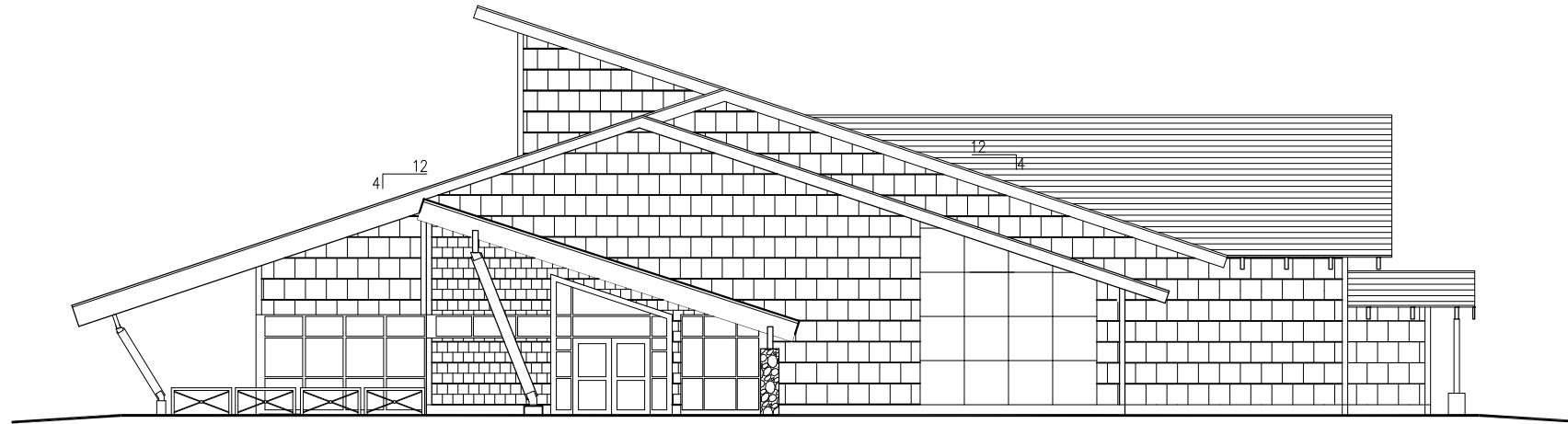
SITE PLAN - PHASE 2



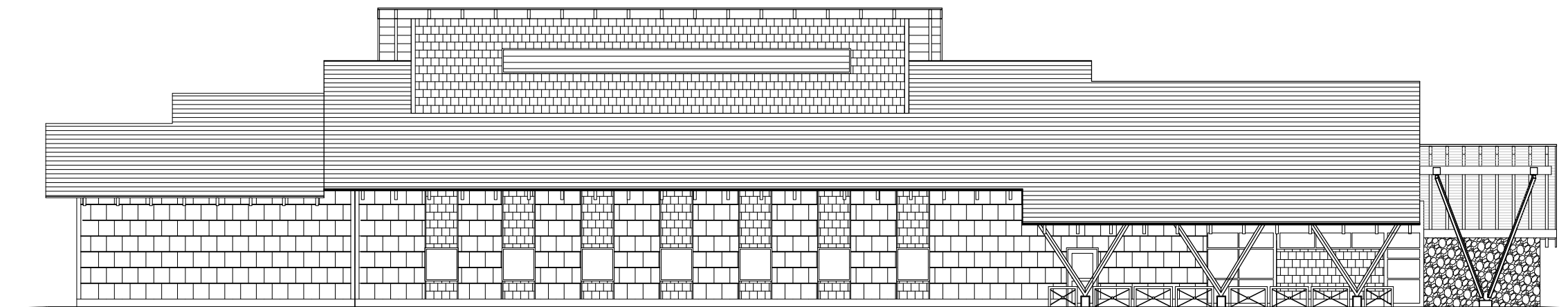


FLOOR PLAN

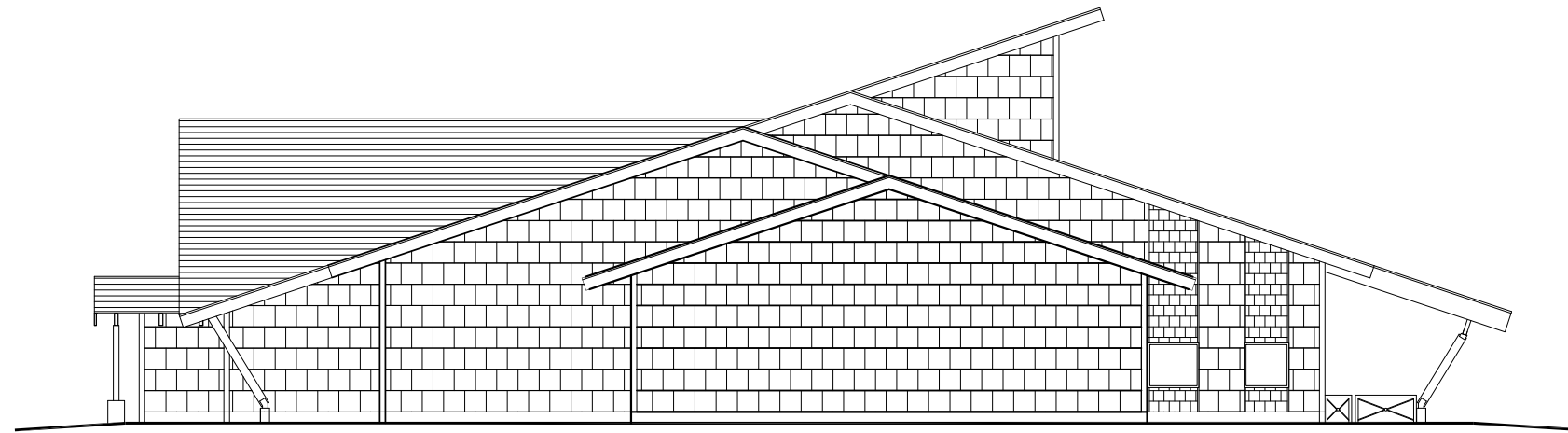




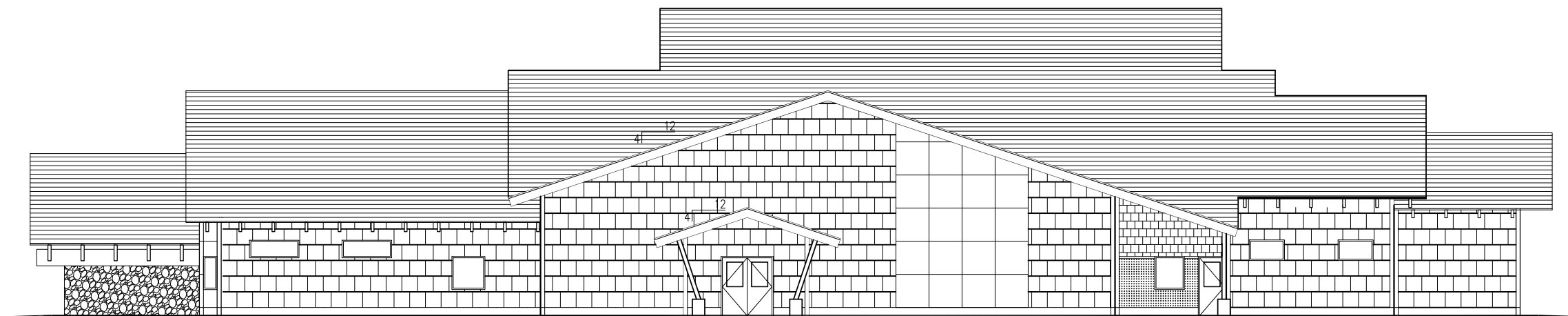
EAST ELEVATION
SCALE : 1/8" = 1'



SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE : 1/8" = 1'



WEST ELEVATION
SCALE : 1/8" = 1'



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE : 1/8" = 1'



EXTERIOR PERSPECTIVE



January 23, 2013

Senator Peter Micciche
Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol

Gentlemen,

The Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center, representing over 500 member businesses, staunchly supports the request by the Pratt Museum for \$2.8 million for the remaining stages of their capital expansion project.

The project will enhance the experience of culture, history and entertainment enjoyed by visitors and locals alike while certainly aiding the efforts of our entire community toward sustainable long term economic development.

The ADA accessible community space the Pratt Museum continually offers to local constituencies and the educational opportunities offered to local and statewide students will recognize huge benefits from this project.

We are proud that the award winning Pratt Museum is located in our community. This project will undoubtedly offer long lasting economic impacts – from the construction itself through to the finished product – for all of us here in Homer.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the Pratt Museum request.

Monte Davis
Executive Director



Smithsonian Institution

**Arctic Studies Center
Department of Anthropology
National Museum of Natural History**

January 25, 2013

Senator Peter Micciche
Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Micciche and Representative Seaton:

The Pratt Museum is one of Alaska's best – a genuine leader in discovering, sharing, and preserving the state's bounteous cultural and natural heritage. Now the museum must grow to sustain its mission, exchanging an outdated and inadequate structure for a modern facility with new space and infrastructure to support its nationally-recognized programs, collections, and exhibitions.

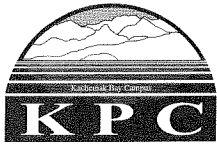
Having seen the exceptional work of the museum over many years, including science education and heritage projects that have involved and engaged all of Kachemak Bay's culturally diverse communities, I want to express my enthusiastic support for this urgently needed expansion.

As you may know, the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center is the only U.S. government program with a special focus on northern cultural research and education. The Center is dedicated to the exploration of the history of northern peoples, cultures, and environments and the issues that matter to northern residents today. We have worked closely with the Pratt on a variety of scientific and educational endeavors, a collaboration that will continue as the new facility and its exhibitions are developed.

Please support this vital institution and help it to grow to meet the needs of Alaskan residents and community stakeholders.

Truly yours,

Aron L. Crowell
Alaska Director, Arctic Studies Center
625 C St.
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-929-9207 / crowella@si.edu



Kachemak Bay Campus

Kenai Peninsula College
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

533 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624
T 907.235.7743 • F 907.235.1686
www.homer.alaska.edu

January 30, 2013

Senator Peter Micciche
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Micciche;

The Kachemak Bay Campus of Kenai Peninsula College is pleased to express its support for the Pratt Museum's 2.8 million legislative capital request towards funding the construction of a new community-based "state of the art" facility.

This extensive project will significantly enhance the Pratt's abilities to better serve our community, State and its numerous visitors. Our anthropology, history, biology, art and other students through our continuing education and post-secondary academic programs will benefit from the expanded and accessible exhibits, interpretive trails and significant collections storage.

The Pratt Museum, a world-class and award-winning museum committed to excellence, has long demonstrated its commitment to community-based programs and professional exhibit planning. This campus's students and faculty have greatly benefited from the Pratt's numerous exhibits and activities over the years and greatly look forward to new and exciting collaborative opportunities that this greatly needed project will provide.

Thank you for this opportunity to enthusiastically recommend your support of funding for the new facility's design. Your support will be greatly appreciated for years to come.

Sincerely,

Carol Swartz, Campus Director



Kachemak Bay Campus

Kenai Peninsula College
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

533 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624
T 907.235.7743 • F 907.235.1686
www.homer.alaska.edu

January 30, 2013

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Seaton;

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Thank you for this opportunity to enthusiastically recommend your support of funding for the new facility's design. Your support will be greatly appreciated for years to come.

Sincerely,

Carol Swartz, Campus Director

Homer High School Mariners



Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

D. Allan Gee, Ed.D., Principal
Doug Waclawski, Assistant Principal
Pam Newton, Athletic Director
Cindy Koplín, Head Secretary

Senator Gary Stevens
Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

January 22, 2013

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative Seaton,

I am writing to express my support of the Pratt Museum's \$2.8 million request to the State of Alaska for the Design Phase of the New Facility and Site Redesign Project.

As a resident of Homer for four years, I am well aware of the worthwhile contribution that our Pratt Museum demonstrates through its wonderful exhibits and engaging lessons that provide an opportunity for our students to learn about the history of the Kachemak Bay region.

The recognition of having received a \$750,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities speaks to the national respect that has been garnered by the Pratt Museum as it continues its focus on the arts, sciences, and humanities of the Kenai Peninsula.

It is without reservation that I support their request and I eagerly look forward to the day when the ribbon-cutting ceremony opens the doors to even more opportunities for our children to learn and grow from our Pratt Museum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Allan Gee".

Dr. Allan Gee



Jan. 22, 2012

Senator Peter Micciche
Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Micciche and Representative Seaton,

This is a letter in support of the Pratt Museum's new facility project. I strongly support their capital budget request of \$2.8 million to construct the building..

As the director of Kenai Peninsula College with campuses in Homer and Soldotna, and extension sites in Seward and Anchorage, I am very aware of the great work and wonderful partnership the Pratt has had with the college over the years. I believe this project will provide invaluable benefits to the college and our students.

As I understand it, the renovation and expansion project will preserve collections, enhance educational opportunities, and increase scholarship and learning about the Kachemak Bay region. This work will improve the ways that KPC students can access cultural and natural history collections and enhance the educational opportunities for students, Kenai Peninsula residents and the thousands of visitors the Pratt hosts each year. These opportunities could open the door to internships leading to jobs for our students, new research projects to uncover the region's rich cultural history and improved interpretive programs.

The opportunities above are just a few that may be realized as the Pratt embarks on its ambitious goals. The Pratt Museum has the full support of the college in their efforts and I ask that you support their budget request this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Gary J. Turner
Director/CEO



KENAITZE
INDIAN
TRIBE

WWW.KENAITZE.ORG

PHONE: (907) 335-7200 • FAX: (907) 335-7239

P.O. Box 988 • KENAI, AK 99611

February 1, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Kenaitze Indian Tribe is federally recognized under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA), as amended for Alaska in 1936, as a sovereign independent nation. Tribal members number over 1,405; the Tribe has established long term goals which enhance the health, social and economic well-being, cultural heritage, and governmental concerns of its people, and serves approximately 5,000 Alaska Natives, American Indians and others who reside in central Kenai Peninsula. We share our ancestors' deep respect and caring for the land and its resources and continually seek to reaffirm and preserve our cultural traditions by promoting greater awareness of our history.

We are writing to express our support for the Pratt Museum's proposed new museum facility. We are particularly supportive of the plans for improved collections storage space for long-term care of cultural collections and the plans for continued development of cultural exhibits and programs. To that end, we support the Museum's request to the State of Alaska for \$2,800,000 in funds to support design of the new building.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe has a long history of working closely with the Pratt Museum for the benefit of Tribal members and the public at large. In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kenaitze Indian Tribe placed cultural objects collected from the Sqilantnu Archaeological District in Cooper Landing at the Pratt Museum for long term storage and curation. This collection is vital to our Tribal efforts to preserve, protect, and present our Kenaitze Dena'ina culture and traditions. Many of the objects were collected by our youth at Susten Camp over a period of 14 years, forging strong connections between our past and future.

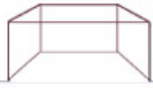
We chose to place the collections at the Pratt Museum for several reasons. The first is the fact that the Pratt is the only accredited museum with excellent standards for curation and conservation easily accessible by our Tribal members and staff. The second is the fact that the employees at the Pratt are respectful and honor our cultural perspective. Third, we are active participants in the design and implementation of exhibits that feature Kenaitze Dena'ina culture and benefit all learners and museum visitors.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe values and appreciates the Pratt Museum. Ours is a relationship based on mutual trust and appreciation and a shared mission of excellence in education and programming. We are eager to participate in the growth and development of the Pratt Museum and have been in ongoing conversations with the Museum during the planning of the new facility.

Sincerely,

Jaylene Peterson-Nyren
Designee

Jaylene Peterson-Nyren
Executive Director
Kenaitze Indian Tribe



January 21, 2013

PRESIDENT

Angela Linn

Museum of the North,
Fairbanks

VICE PRESIDENT

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Anchorage Museum
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Jane Lindsey

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City Museum

Michele Miller

Pratt Museum, Homer

Amy Russell

Beringia Center of
Science & Culture, Nome

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Heather Beggs

Each year, approximately 850 million visitors pass through the hallways of America's museums to absorb important lessons about the past, present, and future. In Alaska, over 300,000 individuals annually visit our local institutions to learn the stories of the place we call home. These museums, stretching from Barrow to Ketchikan, Unalaska to Eagle, are helping to preserve and perpetuate our cultural heritage and protect our natural environment through education, research, exhibition, and public programming.

Museums and cultural centers contribute to our Alaskan economy and wellbeing through employment and cultural tourism. We educate children and adults, enriching our communities and supporting cultural pride through a deeper understanding of history, art, and knowledge of our surroundings.

Despite this vital role of museums, our facilities and collections are at risk through decreasing federal and local support and charitable giving. As collections grow and visitation increases, the pressure on our aging infrastructure must be managed. Many of our museums are planning for, or are currently undergoing, capital campaigns for expanding or renovating their facilities. Museums Alaska, our statewide association of Alaska's museum professionals and volunteers, is asking for your help to support these valuable community assets.

An amendment to **The Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program** that extends this financial support to Museums would help make these capital project goals attainable.

The **Pratt Museum**, in Homer, is in the midst of a capital campaign focusing on improving the visitor experience and safeguarding the valuable collections. This community-centered museum is seeking funds to become fully-ADA-compliant, to improve the efficiency of their facility, and redesign their exterior exhibits and grounds, all of which reflect their institutional commitment to being a good neighbor. Museums Alaska fully supports their efforts and considers this capital campaign to be a priority project.

On behalf of the Museums Alaska Board of Directors, I urge you to consider your personal experience of Alaska's museums and help support the preservation and education efforts of our institutions by supporting this program. Our communities and visitors will thank you for it.

Respectfully,

Angela Linn

President, Museums Alaska Board of Directors

ajlinn@alaska.edu



Kachemak Bay Wooden Boat Society

PO Box 97 • Homer, Alaska 99603

Phone: 907-235-2986

Diane Converse, Director
Pratt Museum
3779 Bartlett St.
Homer, AK 99603

1-23-2013

The Kachemak Bay Wooden Boat Society supports the Pratt Museum's efforts to upgrade their facilities to better serve the community of Homer and the Lower Kenai Peninsula, especially in the area of maritime heritage.

The mission of the KBWBS is to foster knowledge and appreciation of local and regional maritime history, to showcase and support new construction and ongoing marine projects by local practitioners, and to support efforts toward the preservation of important local maritime icons.

We recognize that the Pratt is the logical repository for local historical information, for important local icons, stories, and artistic endeavors and we see their need for the expansion to make this possible into the future, especially for maritime concerns. We will continue to support their efforts to preserve significant vessels and their histories.

David S Seaman III, President, KBWBS

Miranda Weiss • P.O. Box 1498 • Homer, AK 99603 • mirandaweiss@gmail.com

January 22, 2013

Senator Peter Micciche & Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Micciche and Representative Seaton,

I'm writing to urge you to support the Pratt Museum's capital request for the new museum facility. As you know, I'm a mother of two young daughters. The Pratt is a place we rely on for learning and play. I'm excited by what the new facility will bring to our community: a new resource we'll instantly wonder how we lived without.

I know I don't have to remind you that Homer recently completed another capital project this past May: the new Karen Hornaday Park Playground. Thanks to both of you for your support and involvement in that project. That project became a reality because a bunch of parents wanted a new playground in our town. We all knew one was badly needed. We'd seen great playgrounds in other towns (including Soldotna) and knew ours was not up to snuff. We'd observed pieces of the existing playground equipment being carted away when they fell apart. And we'd noticed the yellow "caution" tape going up around some of the existing components like a weedy vine.

We knew one was needed. But it wasn't until we completed the new playground last May that we realized how essential the new playground was going to be to the fabric of our community. Overnight, the new playground filled with kids and families. It became a popular gathering place—a place for birthday parties and informal bar-b-ques and pizza dinners, a place for parents to meet up and talk, and a place for different parts of our community to come together. We built a playground but we created a lot more than that.

When the new museum facility is completed in the not-too-distant future, it too will become an essential strand in the fabric of our community. Already the museum is an important shared space here: it is a place for dialogue about community issues, for viewing exhibits of local art, for remembering and celebrating the recently deceased, for learning and for playing. But the current building isn't keeping up with the times. It leaks, is crowded at peak times, and lacks any space for kids' programs.

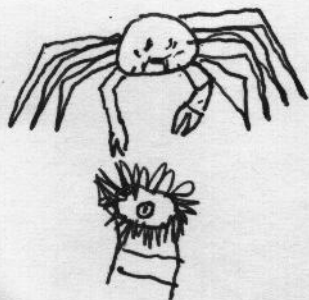
Once the new museum building is finished, overnight, it will fill with people from all parts of our community. Kids will be able to get messy with hands-on programs. Others will find ample space for quiet contemplation. Scholars will find space for research and—finally—adequate collections storage facilities. There will be ample room to gather, discuss, create, and think. We will be building a new museum facility but, again, we will create much more than that. And as soon as it's completed, we'll all wonder how we lived without it.

Please work hard to secure the necessary capital funds for this project. We are supporters and members of the Pratt and will support the capital project. But state funds are needed too.

Thank you,



Miranda Weiss



Dear Pratt Museum,

Thank you for teaching us about lots of
other sea life

The most interesting I learned was
about the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Sincerely,
Christiana

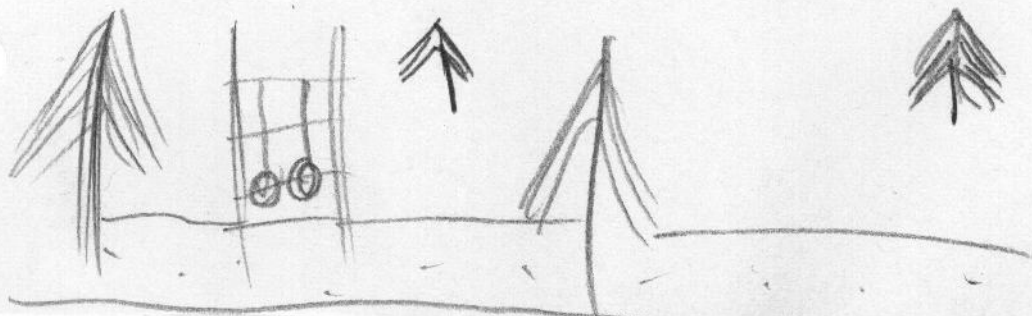


Dear Pratt Museum,

Thank you for taking your time to give us a tour of the grounds and museum. The most interesting thing I learned was that you have an outdoor art exhibit.

Sincerely,

Taia F.



Dear Pratt Museum,

Thank you for showing
the Forest, and the Museum.
The most interesting thing I
learned was that spruce beetles
will make spruce trees die.

Sincerely,

Taylor Henke

Thank you!

I liked

the bones.

AUSTINTT.

Pratt
Museum



I

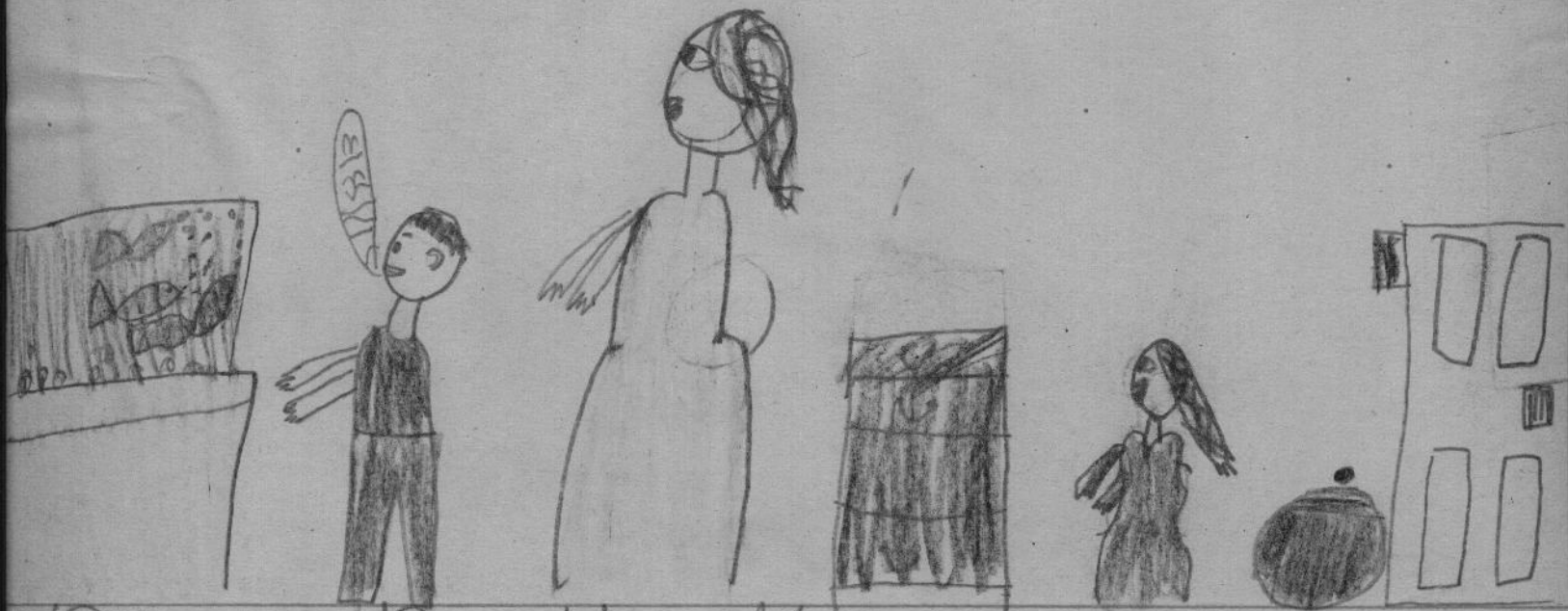
love you
art + work

Dear Pratt,

Thank you for opening your gallery for our class. It was really cool how artists came and talked about their art with us. I liked how near the end of our trip you let us go into the marine gallery to see all the cool marine creatures.

Also I liked the homesteading gallery because it had a lot of skeletons of whales and really old weapons. Thank you for keeping the museum in order and for scheduling a time for our class to come.

Sincerely, Teddy and Robby

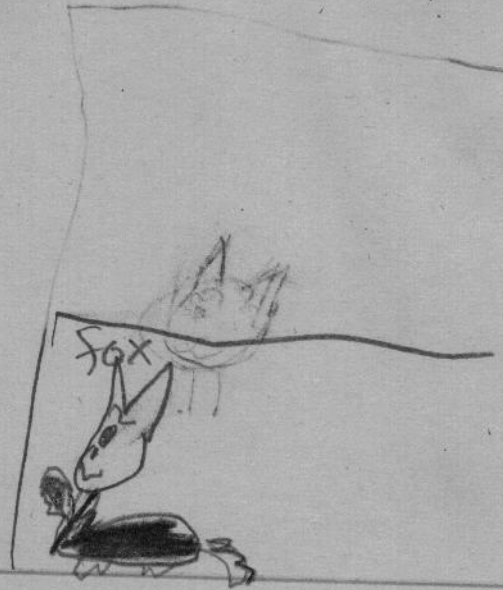


Dear Pratt Museum,

Thank you for letting
us come to visit the museum.

The part I liked the best
was when we went to
study the fish and animals.

Sincerely, Kirriakia



Dear Pratt Museum,

Thank you for letting us come to
visit the Museum. The part I liked
the best was when we saw the foxes.
They were a little scary.

Sincerely,

Rosie S.



Dear Pratt Museum,

Thank you for letting us come to visit the museum. The part I liked the best was when we looked at the things and draw them.

Sincerely,
Zoya