

Agency: Department of Education and Early Development

Project Title:

Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition

Alaska State Library, Archives and Museum Facility Construction

State Funding Requested: \$64,500,000
One-Time Need

House District: Juneau Areawide (3-4)

Brief Project Description:

Funding for construction of new, consolidated facility for Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$75,000,000						
	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
State Funds	\$10,400,000	02-09				
Total	\$10,400,000					

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

In 2002, with a \$1.5 million appropriation from the legislature, the state acquired a 1.58 acre vacant lot contiguous to the Alaska State Museum facility in downtown Juneau. Once the design is completed, this capital appropriation will pay for site preparation and provide a start on facility construction. The project will allow the state to consolidate the collections of the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums in one modern facility that will efficiently and effectively showcase Alaska's past and protect our heritage for the future. In September, 2009, Governor Sean Parnell declared the proposal "an important project for all citizens of Alaska."

The new museum, archives and library will provide a cornerstone building in the capital city and be a dynamic public cultural center and major research institution for the State of Alaska. After 25-30 years in their respective facilities, all three programs are facing space crises. Not one of the facilities meets the security or environmental needs of its respective collection. Since 1979 part of the State Museum's collection has been housed in temporary storage buildings in the parking lot, and staff work areas are severely overcrowded. The museum collection alone is valued at over \$30 million.

The State Archives facility faces two major problems. First, it is within a year of reaching its storage capacity for the state's permanent archival records. Second, the facility itself is literally breaking in two. The front of the building is torquing away from the back causing separation and destruction of the building's structural integrity. A roof failure during a fall 2009 rainstorm damaged countless documents, and only the good fortune of having a convention of historic restoration experts in Juneau at the time saved hundreds of pieces of Alaska's history. The archive's collection is unique and irreplaceable. The State Library's historical collection houses a permanent collection of books, periodicals, Alaska state documents, manuscripts, photographs and maps. There is neither a fire-suppression system nor an adequate security system for this collection, which is valued at over \$50 million. The government section has been at capacity since the mid 1980s. The combined facility will result in cost savings in several areas, including shared HVAC, fire-suppression and security systems, high density storage of materials, a shared laboratory for conservation and microfilm processing, and patron use areas for the Historical and Archival collections.

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

\$18,500,000
Approved

The collections presently held in Juneau by the Alaska State Library, the Alaska State Archives and the Alaska State Museum are located at three different sites and housed in buildings that are insufficient in size, lack proper security and are structurally deficient. The collections share similar needs: All must be stored under controlled environmental conditions, there must be adequate storage capacity to meet present and future needs and the space has to be sufficiently secure to protect the collections without unduly restricting access. The appraised value of these collections is over \$80 million, and the historic value is immeasurable.

This project will result in a 100,000 square foot expansion of the current State Museum facility. It will vacate about 41,200 square feet of space in other state facilities.

The department has involved the three sub-agencies and various user groups from around the state to determine design elements for a building that will accommodate the private, public, research and educational users of a consolidated facility. Design and construction management has now moved to the Public Facilities section of DOT&PF. That department held a competitive process and awarded the design contract this spring. The contract will result in a complete package of bid ready design/construction documents.

Project Timeline:

Site preparation work can begin in FY 2011.

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

Department of Education & Early Development - Division of Library, Archives, & Museums

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Linda Thibodeau, Director, LAM
 Address: P.O. Box 110500
 Juneau, AK 99811
 Phone Number: (907)465-2911
 Email: linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov

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



Resolution of The State Board of Education & Early Development

Libraries, Archives & Museums Construction Project In Juneau, AK

Resolution 01-2010

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums preserve and make available to the public our state's rich heritage for pleasure, education and research;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Libraries, including the Historical Collections, serves an increasing number of patrons, 42,194 in 2008, as well as local and school libraries and library patrons across the state;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Archives served 453 patrons in 2008 and assists the state and local governments in maintaining their public records;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Museums serves an increasing number of patrons, 62,741 in 2008, as well as local museums and museum visitors across the state;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Libraries in the State Office Building in Juneau is overcrowded and vulnerable to water leaks, and subject to light and heat conditions that compromise the collections;

WHEREAS, the most notable leak in the Alaska State Library occurred on February 9, 2005, ruining some books, damaging others, and forcing the closure of the library for approximately six weeks during recovery;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Archives in Juneau is housed in a decrepit building, with cracked walls and an aging roof that leaked in August 2009, damaging 1,000 boxes of documents, blueprints and maps, forcing the Archives to close for one month to recover documents;

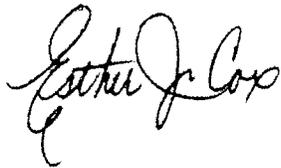
WHEREAS, the Alaska State Museums' building in Juneau, the Historical Collections of the State Library and the Alaska State Archives building in Juneau are at capacity, requiring off-site storage;

WHEREAS, the State Libraries, Archives and Museums Project would integrate the three entities in a spacious and properly controlled campus, and promote administrative and operational efficiencies;

WHEREAS, such a campus would properly preserve and display Alaska's heritage to the public, and allow for future growth in the collections;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature has appropriated \$7.5 million to plan and design the campus;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the State Board of Education & Early Development supports capital funding to construct the State Libraries, Archives and Museums Project.



Esther Cox, Chair
Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development

Dated: October 26, 2009

Did You Know . . .



- ◆ The Alaska State Archives hold the official government records of the State of Alaska, dating back to **1874**, including territorial and state gubernatorial and legislative files, territorial court records, and community-based state government records
- ◆ The Archives are **open to the public**, and provide research assistance to state agencies and the general public
- ◆ The Archives were established in 1970, and their current home was **constructed in 1977**. The original secured vault storage facility became **inadequate in the 1980s**, and the archives expanded into the record storage area, holding historic documents under conditions designed for short-term processing of modern records. Some records must now be stored offsite. Approximately five years ago, the **lobby area was converted to storage**. In recent years, the loading docks have been used as temporary storage as well.
- ◆ The rear half of the building was constructed on bedrock, but the front half was **constructed on silt**. This construction flaw has led to the front half sinking, walls cracking, doors shifting, and other structural failings.
- ◆ Leaks threaten the integrity of the inner vault, with **high humidity, standing water and mold growth**.
- ◆ The Archives occupy more than **10,000 square feet of prime downtown state-owned office space**



PICTURES, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: historic ledgers in storage on the loading dock; cracks in the wall from the unstable foundation, legislative records on microfiche, and boxes of documents in the records room

Did You Know . . .



- ◆ The Alaska State Historical Library and Museum was **founded in 1900** by the US Congress. The Museum was opened to the public in 1920, and moved into its **current facility in 1968** when the Library and Museum were divided
- ◆ The current building was **constructed by the City of Juneau and donated** to the state in honor of the centennial of the United States purchasing Alaska from Russia
- ◆ Since then, the Alaska State Museum's collection has grown from 5,600 objects to **over 27,000**. Since the **mid-1980s**, the building has been **over capacity**, and an off-site storage annex holds the overflow collections
- ◆ The Museum is **open to the public**, and provides research assistance to individuals, groups, and agencies. It also sends **traveling exhibits statewide** and maintains an **online collections database**
- ◆ A network of **museums around the state** rely on grants-in-aid and technical assistance from the State Museum for artifact preservation, collection management, educational programming, exhibit design and museum management.
- ◆ Collections are stored under conditions which **endanger their long-term stability**, including threats of moisture, water, and mold damage, rodent infestations, and overcrowding of available space



PICTURES, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Guests enjoy the State Museum; Sen. Ellis tours the museum's collections facilities; Sen. Ellis and Sen. Dyson with the flag that flew over Sitka during the ceremonies which transferred Alaska to the United States



Did You Know . . .



- ◆ The Alaska Historical Museum and Library was established by the U.S. Congress in 1900, and the State Library was created in 1955, and moved into the **current location in the State Office Building in 1974.**
- ◆ Five years after expansion into the last available space, the Library is at **full efficient operating capacity**, with 163,000 rare books, maps, and photographs filling 3,500 linear feet of shelves and files
- ◆ The Historical Collections maintains the **personal papers of prominent Alaskans** and business records of companies that played a major role in Alaska's development. The book collection is a **comprehensive source for published material about Alaska** as well as a depository of record copies of agency publications
- ◆ The Library occupies **20,400 square feet on the 7th and 8th floors of the State Office Building.** The use of prime office space as library storage is inefficient, and the **lack of environmental control inhibits preservation** and storage efforts in the Historical Collections
- ◆ The Library **coordinates the statewide interlibrary loan program**, provides **research assistance** to the public and state agencies, and **promotes local libraries** through grants, training, and consulting



PICTURES, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: documents in the Historical Collections in storage; the nameplate identifying a book as a part of the James Wickersham collection, whose library is the core of the Library's Alaskana collection; record copies of state agency publications



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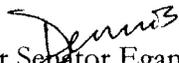
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Governor Sean Parnell
STATE OF ALASKA

September 14, 2009

The Honorable Dennis Egan
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 510
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Alaska State Library, Archives and Museum Project

Dear  Senator Egan,

Thank you for your August 21 letter regarding funding for the Alaska State Library, Archives, and Museum (SLAM) project. The expansion of the existing museum facility in Juneau to preserve and protect archival documents and photographs along with the extensive collection of artifacts is an important project for all citizens of Alaska.

I am working with state agencies on development of the FY2011 operating and capital budgets that will be released to the public in December. Positioning us for economic development and strengthening Alaska's families continue to be my priorities. These priorities will be the focus as funding decisions are made. Alaskans will also see a significant effort to provide relevant information to the public that ties state investments to results. Within this framework, I will look carefully at what is possible in the FY2011 budget to advance the SLAM project.

With continuing pressure on the operating and capital budgets, it is imperative that we make good funding decisions today that will enhance opportunities for our state in the future. I look forward to working closely with you, other legislators, and the public to address critical needs in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sean Parnell in black ink.

Sean Parnell
Governor

*Look forward to working
w/ you on this!*


Distribution:

The Honorable Con Bunde, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Dennis Egan, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Johnny Ellis, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Hollis French, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Lesil McGuire, Alaska State Senate

The Honorable Dennis Egan
September 8, 1009
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The Honorable Linda Menard, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Donny Olson, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Joe Paskvan, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Gary Stevens, President, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Joe Thomas, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Bill Wielechowski, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Bob Buch, Alaska House of Representatives
The Honorable Sharon Cissna, Alaska House of Representatives
The Honorable Harry Crawford, Alaska House of Representatives
The Honorable Bryce Edgmon, Alaska House of Representatives
The Honorable Max Gruenberg, Alaska House of Representatives
The Honorable David Guttenberg, Alaska House of Representatives
The Honorable Mike Hawker, Alaska House of Representatives
The Honorable Beth Kerttula, Alaska House of Representatives
The Honorable Cathy Muñoz, Alaska House of Representatives
The Honorable Pete Petersen, Alaska House of Representatives
The Honorable Woodie Salmon, Alaska House of Representatives

cc: Larry LeDoux, Commissioner, Department of Education and Early Development
Jerry Gallagher, Director, Communications and Governmental Affairs, Office of the
Governor

Alaska State Legislature

Official Business



State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182

August 21, 2009

The Honorable Sean Parnell
Governor
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Governor Parnell:

Members of the legislature are coming together seeking funds to house the Alaska State Library, Archives and Museum (SLAM) in one location. Currently, each section is housed in facilities that are overcrowded at best, and in such disrepair that one building is literally splitting in two.

The buildings that house these facilities are failing, too small, and technologically insufficient. They are not integrated for efficient research and operations. The collections are not connected physically or digitally for statewide access. A new building will give Alaska a modern facility to house our history. It will bring together staff and resources to create an efficient and unified resource.

The SLAM project has been in the works for more than a decade. It enjoys support from organizations around the state and past administrations of both political parties. The state owns an appropriate piece of land, and funds for planning and design are in hand. We ask your support in the FY 11 budget to move the project forward.

It's time to protect Alaska's treasures in an integrated space. It's time to provide actual and virtual access to the citizens of Alaska and beyond. We can make operations more efficient and better connect our state to the rich resources of our shared history.

We appreciate your support for this important project. We look forward to working with you to secure funding. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sen. Dennis Egan.

Sen. Dennis Egan

Handwritten signatures of Rep. Beth Kerttula and Rep. Cathy Muñoz.

Rep. Beth Kerttula

Rep. Cathy Muñoz

Governor Sean Parnell
August 21, 2009
Page Two



Rep. Bob Buch



Rep. Harry Crawford



Rep. Max Gruenberg



Rep. Woodie Salmon



Rep. David Guttenberg



Rep. Sharon Cissna



Rep. Pete Petersen



Sen. Linda Menard



Sen. Gary Stevens



Sen. Johnny Ellis



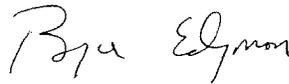
Sen. Lesil McGuire



Sen. Con Bunde



Sen. Hollis French



Rep. Bryce Edgmon



Rep. Mike Hawker



Sen. Bill Wielechowski



Sen. Joe Paskvan



Sen. Donny Olson



Sen. Joe Thomas

cc: Karen Rehfeld, Director