

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Kodiak Historical Society****Federal Tax ID: 92-6002560****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

# Kodiak Historical Society - Building Meaning Creating Additional Museum Collections Storage

**State Funding Requested: \$7,750****House District: 35 / R**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

This project will renovate existing spaces at the Baranov Museum so they can be used to store museum collection objects. This will alleviate some of the current storage problems within the museum and support an existing permanent exhibit redesign.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$7,750
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$7,750)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**No previous state funding***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Kodiak Historical Society has a truly unique and invaluable resource in the Baranov Museum building. The museum building is a two-story, 3,800 square foot log structure built in 1808 by the Russian colonists in Alaska. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1962, the magazine is the oldest continuously occupied building in Alaska, the oldest of only four remaining Russian structures in the United States and the earliest documented log structure on the west coast.

The current year-long project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, the State of Alaska's Grant-in-Aid program, the City of Kodiak and the Kodiak Historical Society to redesign the museum's permanent exhibits is grounded in the building being witness to 200 years of Kodiak history. The building's ownership and evolving use over time provide an excellent framework for understanding social, cultural and environmental history on Kodiak Island. The building itself is a potential narrative tool to explore themes of migration, cross-cultural interactions, and the development of new economies based on natural resource extraction.

While the building provides a priceless and irreplaceable setting for a historic museum, it also presents some challenges. The ground floor of the building is occupied by exhibits and a small staff space, so the second story is required to house all staff offices and the Kodiak Historical Society's complete archives and collection objects which are not currently on exhibit. The Baranov Museum houses and cares for nearly 3,000 historic, archaeological and art objects integral to the history of Kodiak and Southwest Alaska. We are rapidly running out of space for our collections which not only impacts the objects already accessioned, but restricts our ability to accept and care for new items. We have had to refuse donations due to a lack of space and inability to ensure that we would be able to care for them in perpetuity.

Our collections storage currently consists of only two small rooms off of the main staff office space. American Alliance of

Museum National Standards and Best Practices requires that all collections pieces should be in locked storage, preferably in light, temperature and humidity controlled spaces. Given the limited space in the museum's current collection storage and the number and size of some collections items, this standard is not possible. Historic furniture is presently stored in office spaces, Alutiiq stone lamps are underfoot and several objects are being kept on the ground out of a lack of professional-grade museum cabinets, including very rare examples of historic paddles, fox skin stretchers and Benny Benson's crutches. In addition, there are several pieces on exhibit that should be stored out of the public space, but there is no space to store them.

The lack of storage space will soon become an even larger problem with our exhibit redesign project. As the exhibits will be designed to present a more coherent and engaging view of Kodiak's history, many large objects will need to be stored on the second floor and there is currently no secure space to put any large objects.

Even with the restricted space of a historic building, there is the potential for additional collections space within the museum.

On the second floor, under the eaves of the gabled roof, is unfinished space which, with modifications, could house collection objects. The space has lights, insulation and a fire suppression system -- all the mechanical fixtures required for collections storage -- it simply needs adequate flooring, paint, drywall and sufficient access. One part of the space is already accessible by a door from an existing collections storage room (Phase I). This space has completed walls, but an open hole along the back wall leads to the unfinished space. To make this room comply with museum standards would require re-painting with a low VOC paint, refinishing the floor with a low-VOC varnish, re-hanging the door so it opens to the left and filling the space with storage cabinets.

The other space is part of the same eaves on the east end of the building (Phase II). Between the two spaces are two metal rods which appear to be support structures. These rods make the space between them difficult for collections storage, but there is considerable space beyond them. This second space would require drywall, flooring and a door to be put in the wall between it and the curator of collection's office area. The total estimated projected cost for both phases of this renovation would be \$7,750. The work would be performed by Don Corwin of West Wind Woodworking, a historic preservation carpenter who performed much of the restoration work on the Museum in 2009 and 2010 (see attached estimate for a detailed budget).

Creating additional collections space would relieve some of the storage issues we are presently dealing with and would allow the museum to better interpret its collection as unrelated objects could be stored out of the public areas. Funding for this project would allow the Baranov Museum to better preserve its collections, accept additional objects related to Kodiak's history, as well as provide a more engaging and informative visitor experience in our exhibits.

### **Project Timeline:**

The project will occur in February of 2014, during the museum's annual closure. Don Corwin of West Wind Woodworking, a historic preservation and restoration carpenter, will be performing the work and expenditures will occur in February of 2014. This is not a lengthy project so all activities should be finished within the month.

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

Kodiak Historical Society/ Baranov Museum

### **Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Tiffany Brunson  
 Title: Interim Executive Director  
 Address: 101 E Marine Way  
 Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
 Phone Number: (907)486-5920  
 Email: baranov@ak.net

Total Project Snapshot Report

2013 Legislature

TPS Report 60301v1

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



## BUILDING MEANING

### CREATING ADDITIONAL MUSEUM COLLECTIONS STORAGE

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Top: Baranov Museum

Bottom: Collections Room II

kept on the ground out of a lack of professional-grade museum cabinets, including very rare examples of historic paddles, fox skin stretchers and Benny Benson's crutches. In addition, there are several pieces on exhibit that should be stored out of the public space, but there is no space to store them.

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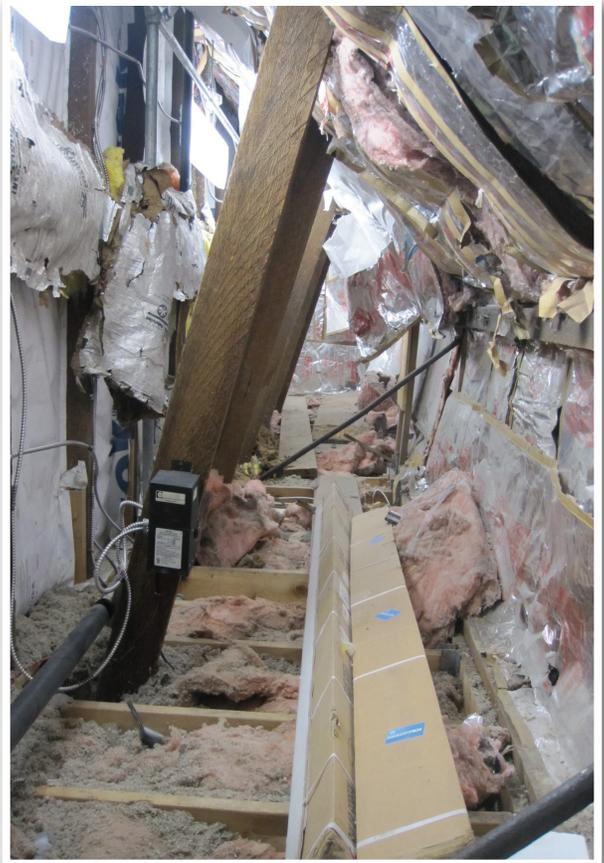
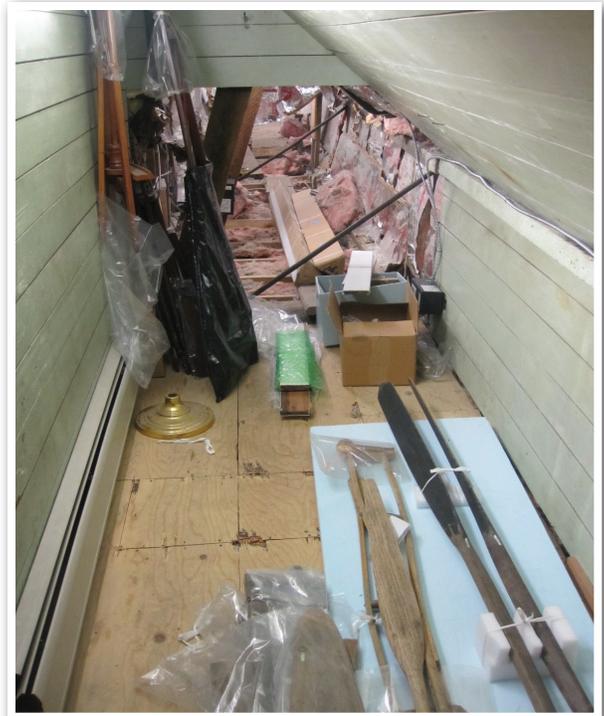
need to be stored on the second floor and there is currently no secure space to put any large objects.

The inability to store our total collections in museum standard spaces does result in damage to objects. Light is a particular hazard to wooden furniture; we have pieces of historic furniture that sit in the museum office space, exposed daily to near constant artificial and natural light. There are other pieces on exhibit that would benefit from lower light conditions, but we can't accommodate the space to store them. Half of the second room of our exhibit space is set up as historic living space, with much of our large furniture collection. The space does little to tell the history of Kodiak and any attempts to redesign the space to better interpret the objects is stymied by a lack of collections storage for any of the pieces.

Even with the restricted space of a historic building, there is the potential for additional collections space within the museum. On the second floor, under the eaves of the gabled roof, is unfinished space which, with modifications, could house collection objects. The space has lights, insulation and a fire suppression system – all the mechanical fixtures required for collections storage – it simply needs adequate flooring, paint, drywall and sufficient access. One part of the space is already accessible by a door from an existing collections storage room (Phase I). This space has completed walls, but an open hole along the back wall leads to the unfinished space. To make this room comply with museum standards would require re-painting with a low VOC paint, refinishing the floor with a low-VOC varnish, re-hanging the door so it opens to the left and filling the space with storage cabinets.

The other space is part of the same eaves on the east end of the building (Phase II). Between the two spaces are two metal rods which appear to be support structures. These rods make the space between them difficult for collections storage, but there is considerable space beyond them. This second space would require drywall, flooring and a door to be put in the wall between it and the curator of collection's office area. The total estimated projected cost for both phases of this renovation would be \$7,750. The work would be performed by Don Corwin of West Wind Woodworking, a historic preservation carpenter who performed much of the restoration work on the Museum in 2009 and 2010 (see attached estimate for a detailed budget).

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*Top: Finished portion of eaves space, Phase I.  
Bottom: Unfinished portion of eaves space, metal rods in foreground, secondary space visible beyond second rod, Phase II.*

TO: Tiffany Brunson-Interim Executive Director  
Kodiak Historical Society  
Baranov Museum  
101 Marine Way  
Kodiak, Alaska  
99615

2-1-13

FROM: Don Corwin-historic preservation carpenter  
West Wind Woodworking  
Box 2995  
Kodiak, Alaska  
99615  
907-973-2021

Subject: Cost estimate-Phase I & II- Adaptive Use of Eave Storage Areas.

Please accept these costs as "not to exceed" figures for the rehabilitation-reconfiguration of eave space on the North side of the Baranov Museum building.

Work is broken into 2 phases because of the differing state of the 2 areas, with Phase I area being readily developed. Phase II area is in a more crude state, with no floor system, bare-exposed insulation, and limited access.

Phase I-reconfigure existing door access, paint floor,  
install metal shelving.

Shelving	-	\$400.00
Paint,caulk	-	\$ 50.00
door work	-	\$150.00
misc.Labor	-	\$900.00 (30 hrs @ \$30.00)
<b>TOTAL-NOT TO EXCEED</b>	-	<b>\$1,500.00</b>

Phase II-install new door access,move baseboard cabinet,  
install new floor, clean up, restore insulation,  
install vapor barrier-tyvek to seal wall & floor  
cavities.

Door work	-	\$500.00
Plywood Floor	-	\$500.00
Paint & Caulk	-	\$100.00
Insulation	-	\$400.00
Tyvek	-	\$250.00
LABOR	-	\$4,500.00 (150 hrs @ \$30.00)
<b>TOTAL- NOT TO EXCEED</b>	-	<b>\$6,250.00</b>

2-1-13

Phase I & II Eave Project- continued.

TOTAL- Phase I & II  
NOT TO EXCEED - \$7,750.00

This estimate uses the "not to exceed" format in order to protect the Contractor from changes in material costs.  
Actual costs, with receipts, will be provided for verification by the Executive Director.

Thank You for this opportunity,

Don Corwin  
West Wind Woodworking  
Box 2995  
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2-1-13