

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center****Federal Tax ID: 92-0059987****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

# Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center - Alaska Gallery Re-Design and Renovation

**State Funding Requested: \$5,000,000****House District: Anchorage Areawide (11-27)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

15,000-square-foot, long-term exhibition that tells the rich and diverse story of Alaska's history from pre-European contact to the present time. Originally opened in 1986; needs redesign and updating to bring it up to modern exhibition standards.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$15,000,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$10,000,000)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$5,000,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**This is the third phase of 2 other phases at \$5m each***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center is planning a major new 15,000-square-foot, long-term exhibition that will tell the rich and diverse story of Alaska's history from pre-European contact to the present time. The current Alaska Gallery exhibition was opened in 1986, and for the past 25 years, has become Alaska's most visited museum gallery, with nearly 2.5 million visitors during that time. However, the gallery has become static, dated, and is beginning to deteriorate in some areas. Also, the perceptions, perspectives, and facts about Alaska have changed in the last three decades. It is the goal of the Anchorage Museum to redesign and re-envision this beloved gallery for the next generation, bringing it up to modern exhibition standards.

The development of the new Alaska History Gallery exhibition will be based upon current scholarship, using contemporary interpretive strategies and techniques to present a dynamic concept of locality----one that captures the connections between Alaska's diverse peoples and places. The new exhibition will showcase Alaska's rich history to over 200,000 annual visitors to the Museum and will feature 500 historic objects from the museum's collection, incorporating state-of-the--art technology, including multi-media touchscreens, to engage the visitor. The design of the new exhibition will compliment the state-of-the=art Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center gallery and museum expansion changing galleries.

Major interpretative goals for the new Alaska History Gallery are to: 1) Portray a sense of the vastness of Alaska; 2) Interpret the presence of Alaska's Native peoples, as well as the changing diversity of Alaska residents since Russian settlement; 3) Convey Alaska's path to becoming the first noncontiguous state beginning with the purchase of Alaska from

Russia in 1867 to the present day, and; Provide the perspectives of Alaska Natives, Russians, Europeans, American settlers, and more recent ethnic groups. We also will include narratives regarding resources, industry and other contemporary stories. Included in the redesign will be space for changing exhibitions to address current topics, to keep the gallery relevant and vibrant. Upgrades to the gallery space in the form of deferred maintenance will be done in conjunction with this project.

One highlight of the new Alaska History Gallery will be an Orientation Theatre. It will feature a carefully choreographed multimedia program consisting of a five-to-seven minute looping sequence of narration, music, and changing images in sync with lighting effects that highlight specific objects and locations on a map of Alaska. Transitioning smoothly from one to the next, dozens of historic and contemporary photographs as well as images of paintings, combine to offer a unique perspective of Alaska's history and geography. The program plays out in a semicircular-shaped theatre.

Some planning for the new Alaska History Gallery occurred as part of the Museum expansion project, but additional planning as well as community advisory, design, development, production and fabrication processes need to occur to realize completion. The industry standard of production costs for projects of this scope are \$1,000 per square foot.

### Project Timeline:

2014-2017 for planning, curation, redesign, and installation.

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

Anchorage Museum Association

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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