

Caring for Kootéeyaa

Harnessing of the Atom Kootéeyaa (Totem Pole) was carved by renowned Lingít carver and artist, Jeet Yaaw Dustaa Amos Wallace of the T'akdeintaan Clan of the X'aakw Hit (Freshwater marked Coho House) in 1967. In 1976, this kootéeyaa was installed outside the Juneau Memorial Library which is now the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. It is still located on the Calhoun side of the museum.

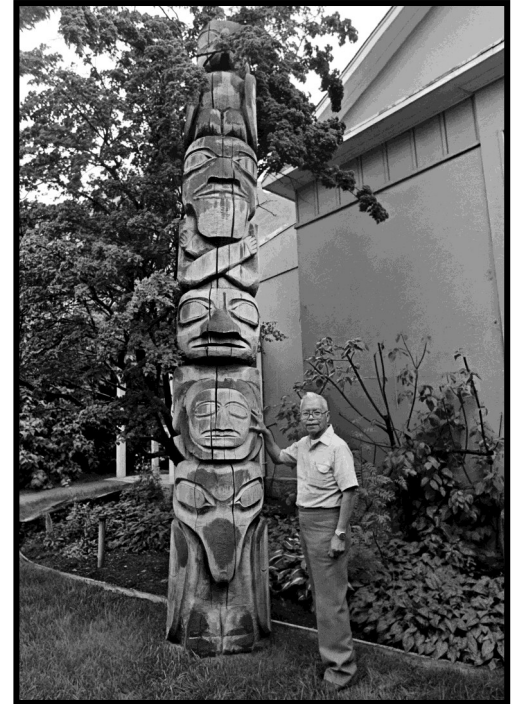
While Wallace was born in Juneau, AK on November 28, 1920, the son of Frank Thomas and Anna Cora Allen Thomas, his family lived in Hoonah for six years. After the death of his father, his family moved back to Juneau and his mother married Frank Wallace. Amos Wallace attended two boarding schools during his primary education. He also began to carve around the age of seven and worked with his brother Lincoln to develop his talent. Wallace joined the Army in 1942 during the Japanese invasion of Alaska and was honorably discharged in 1945 as a Private First Class. In 1960, he married Dorothy Wanamaker and adopted her children.

As a Master Lingít carver, Amos Wallace held a national reputation, and his work was displayed throughout the US and Alaska. According to Rosita Worl at Sealaska Heritage Institute, where a large archive of his drawings, photographs, notes, and newspaper clippings now reside, Wallace was an important artist, craftsman, and ambassador for Lingít. In an interview, Wallace's son, Brian, refers to his father as the first Lingít TV star because in August of 1958 he appeared on the Tonight Show with Jack Paar to talk about the totem pole he carved for Abraham and Strauss, a large department store in Brooklyn. During his time in New York, Wallace spoke to school-children about his art and the Lingít culture and many of those children, who may have seen him carving, can now take their children to the Brooklyn Children's

Museum to see that same totem pole he carved for the department store. His appearance on national television led to other commissions like a 1960 contract to carve a totem pole at Disneyland. Wallace, however, didn't forget his home state and community. He was very involved with the Alaska Native Brotherhood and fought for civil rights. He also served the community on the Juneau Housing and Community Development Citizens Committee, the Juneau Community Education Council, the state's Historic Sites Advisory Committee and helped plan for the Alaska State Centennial in 1980. One of his totem poles was the centerpiece for the Alaska State Museum's Statehood Exhibit. In addition to carving totem poles, Wallace carved large wall plaques, and he also enjoyed working as a silversmith and jeweler.

Here at the City Museum, we are fortunate to care for several art pieces by Amos Wallace in addition to Harnessing of the Atom Kootéeyaa. Included in our permanent collection are a black resin cast of a bird shaped ceremonial dish with formline designs on the face and tail, a black resin cast candleholder with formline designs, a pencil drawing of a totem sculpture, and a variety of photographs and documents. Amos Wallace died in 2004 and in 2012, his son Brian transferred most of his father's personal archive spanning his 70-year career to Sealaska Heritage Institute.

Harnessing of the Atom is a 15-foot tall unpainted kootéeyaa carved of western red cedar. Cedar is the most commonly used tree for carving totem poles because it withstands the elements so well. The pole has five figures carved and tells the story of the harnessing of the atom. At the top of the pole is the bald eagle, representative of the United States. Next is a Russian Orthodox priest, illustrating the influence of Russia and Christianity on Alaska.



Jeet Yaaw Dustaa Amos Wallace and Harnessing of the Atom Kootéeyaa at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum (C. Late 1980's). Photo by Brian Wallace/Sealaska Heritage Institute.



Above: JDCM 2006.30.001

Below: "Story Time" Linoleum Cut, Print by Judy Cooper, JDCM 89.02.001



A Letter from the Director



Dear Friends,

As the City Museum embarks on its 50th year of operation in July, we will certainly be looking

back at our own history but more importantly, we will be looking forward to the next 50 years. What is important to you about the museum and how do you want to see the museum evolve and change in the future? To help us in this endeavor, we've undertaken a project to measure the museum's social impact in our community and we need your help.

First, you might be wondering, what is social impact? According to Philips and Wong (2016) it is "the effect of an activity on the social fabric of a community and the wellbeing of the individuals and families who live there." This is measured through four long-term outcomes: continued learning and engagement, increased health and well-being, valuing diverse communities, and strengthened personal relationships. Questions might include does coming to the museum lead you to incorporate learned information into your day-to-day life? Do you feel more relaxed after visiting the museum? Are you able to see things from a new point of view after engaging with an exhibit? Do you have more meaningful conversations with your friends because of your experience at the museum? These are the kinds of social impact outcomes we are interested in understanding through the Museum Social Impact study which is sponsored and funded by the American Alliance of Museums, the Institute for Library and Museum Services, and the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. The

Juneau-Douglas City Museum is part of a cohort of 40 museums from 25 states, Washington DC and Puerto Rico to undertake this initiative.

To accomplish this, we need you to register and participate in the study by coming to the City Museum three times for free and then completing a 15–30-minute survey. That's it. And to thank you for participating, you'll earn some great rewards, like a complimentary one-year membership to the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum or a free walking tour. Also, upon completion, you'll be entered into a drawing to win some fun prizes like tickets to your favorite performing arts events.

Speaking of the performing arts, we are thrilled to bring you this summer's exhibition *Wild Joys: Creating Community through the Performing Arts*. Juneau has a rich performing arts history and many organizations that produce outstanding music, dance, and theater. But what's left to exhibit after the performances are over? From posters to props, costumes and even a clarinet, the exhibition showcases those ephemeral objects that help bring a performance to life and the residual images that remain as a reminder of this fleeting artform. You too can also be part of the exhibition by signing up to perform on one if the days the exhibition comes to life.

Summer is shaping up to be a fun time to visit the City Museum. You'll find some of your favorite performers here at the City Museum this summer so be sure to visit often.

See you at the City Museum.

—Beth Weigel

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Mission and Vision

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum fosters among its diverse audiences an awareness of Juneau's cultural heritage, values and community memory so we may draw strength and perspective from the past, inspire learning, and find purpose for the future. As a public trust, we collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit those materials that document the cultures and history of the Juneau and Douglas area.

Get in Touch

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juneau.org/museum



jdcity_museum, #jdcem



JuneauDouglasCityMuseum



Juneau Douglas City Museum

Caring for Kootéeyaa

Continued from page 1

Below is a human being holding the sun, which has been released by Raven, the final figure at the base of the pole. Through this visual language typical of kootéeyaa, this carving reveals aspects of Alaska's American and Russian history, humankind's efforts to control energy, and Lingít spirituality. It suggests an interesting parallel between the Lingít story of how light was bestowed to the world of humans, and the development of nuclear energy by 20th century physicists.

When the pole was installed in 1976 a traditional method of mounting a totem was used. This involved digging a hole for the lower end of the post to rest in. Rocks lined the hole to provide drainage and stability. By 2003 the pole had developed a distinct lean and was in danger of severe damage. It was removed from its original, traditional mount. A new aluminum support post was mounted in a concrete base to provide better stability and prevent further damage. Traditionally, a leaning pole might sometimes be propped up but once fallen it



Harnessing of the Atom
TLINGIT
KOOTÉEYAA

is generally left to return to the earth. Decay is natural in totem poles exposed to the effects of wind, weather, insects and a hard life outside in the Southeast Alaska weather. Due to the organic material, cracks are natural and should not be seen as a flaw in the carving.

It's been a little over 20 years since Harnessing of the Atom Kootéeyaa was remounted and stabilized and once again the pole is in need of conservation and care. This kind of care will require taking the pole down, replacing the base, stabilizing any worsening open checks, and cleaning and applying fungicide. Thanks to Juneau Rotary, the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum and individual donors, we can continue to carry this 58-year-old kootéeyaa forward in life so artists can learn from Wallace's carving mastery and future generations can enjoy and experience this important monument.

To support this conservation effort visit fojdcem.org to make a donation.

2025 Summer Exhibition

Wild Joys, Creating Community through the Performing Arts

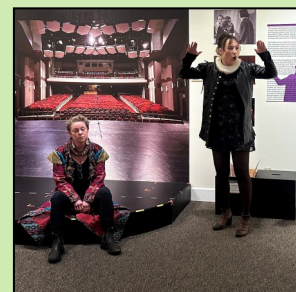
The City Museum's 2025 summer exhibition, *Wild Joys, Creating Community through the Performing Arts* is an interactive exhibition that explores the history of the performing arts in our community. With a focus on dance, theater, and music, *Wild Joys* encourages the viewer to participate in the exhibition while learning local history. Visitors are invited to take selfies with props on a small stage, thumb through historic show posters, and view live performances by local artists during scheduled open mic hours.

Wild Joys opened on First Friday, May 2nd with a wonderful lineup of performing artists. Roblin Gray Davis and Darius Mannino did a juggling and clown routine as the Fabulous Flying Tchaikovsky Brothers, Kelsey Bryce Riker shared their love of tap and some of the history of different tap styles through multiple dances (including one with Taylor Dallas Vidic accompanying

on guitar), Donnie Gott and Natalia Spengler regaled us with Shakespeare and an interpretation of Sir Thomas More's Immigrant Speech, and the evening ended with Taylor Dallas Vidic and Spencer Edgers performing original songs from Vidic's upcoming album.

Next we were honored to collaborate with Juneau Jazz and Classics in bringing classical pianist Bryan Wallick to the museum for a free concert as part of the Jazz and Classics Festival. Wallick delighted a packed house with his virtuosic piano stylings.

There is still plenty of room to sign up to perform at the City Museum this summer, so spread the word. Interested performers can sign up from the City Museum's website at Juneau.org/museum or scan the QR code located on page 6 along with our schedule of summer performance dates. We hope to see you at the City Museum this summer. Cheers to Wild Joys!



Donnie Gott & Natalia Spengler



Kelsey Bryce Riker



Above: Taylor Dallas Vidic & Spencer Edgers



Left: Roblin Gray Davis & Darius Mannino



This summer's exhibition, *Wild Joys: Creating Community through the Performing Arts*,

focuses on the

ephemeral nature of performance art, the communities it creates, and its history in Juneau. When I talk about ephemeral nature of art, I specifically mean that a performance can't happen the same way twice.

While each performance will be similar, there are always slight differences despite the artists best efforts. Timing in how a line is delivered, the exact angle of a hip drop, or a beat being accidentally added during a rest, the moment passes and is gone. The only way to imagine them as having happened are the tools that were used to create them in the first instance. A play-book of lines, a choreography book, and a sheet of music. The concept of objects being the bearers of stories continues to fascinate and inspire my work in collections and now exhibitions. Thinking about that and how my personal story will be told through the tools of my hobbies, dance and trumpet playing, inspired this exhibition and the research I put into it.

As this exhibition is about performing arts, I wanted to find a title that encompassed what it means to be a performing artist. I came across New York artist and musician Laurie Anderson's quote that says, "Performance art is about joy, about making something that's so full of kind of a wild joy that you really can't put into words." The phrase that obviously stuck out to me as I read that is "wild joy." This is an apt

statement for what I feel when I perform. Like Laurie, I cannot put the feeling of performance into words, but I had an entire exhibition to pull together conceptually about those feelings with objects and words in some way. Describing the process as a "wild joy" seemed a good starting point for bringing all the stories together cohesively.

One goal for this summer exhibition was to create ways for the community to be involved in the exhibition. As the conversations around the exhibition progressed, we reached out to current performing art organizations for donations of photographs and an object or two to represent their recent history. By engaging in this active collecting process, I was able to grow the museum collection in a purposeful manner over a period of six months. The very first group to respond was Halau Hula o Manoa with a costume and instruments. Then other organizations began sending in photographs, posters, and programs from their archives. I ended up creating a small collection of objects from the early 2000s to today of arts organizations in our community. It seemed fitting that the photographs be displayed in the community gallery space together, showing a portion of our current community of performance artists.

Next, the stage component of the exhibition is directly interactive, and a community showcasing space built into the area. When not in use as a performance space, it serves as a backdrop for visitors to interact

with props that are replicated objects on display. One can pretend they are a performer taking a selfie in front of an audience on stage. As people upload their photographs, a community is formed through the shared experience. Throughout the exhibition the stage will function as a pop-up performance space. Performing artists have been invited and encouraged to use the stage as a place to have a low stakes performance. This part of the exhibit makes the objects displayed truly come alive and shows how much our performing artists are beloved in our community.

Lastly, a highlight of *Wild Joys* is the title wall decal. One may notice that the title wall has signatures on it, not unlike a show poster that the cast and crew sign as memorabilia. The signatures on the decal are from the performing artists that have graced our stage and the museum staff who had a hand in creating and promoting the exhibition. In a museum exhibition, the title wall is the focal point, intended to bring visitors into the space. It functions to say, "Look here!" and "Come explore!" to visitors wandering the museum. This one is filling that role and also acting as a visual representation of the community of performing artists that Juneau created.

Overall, this exhibition was truly a joy to work on. I love the performing arts and I love the performing arts community that Juneau has created. I hope you see that passion and enjoy *Wild Joys: Creating Community through the Performing Arts* during your visit.

—Dara Lohnes-Davies

New Acquisitions

While one of our goals for summer exhibitions is to feature more objects from our already existing collection, they can also provide opportunities for us to round out parts of that collection with a specific topic and purpose in mind. This exhibition's topic lends itself to community and engagement in that way. Fourteen groups and individual performers answered our call for objects and photographs to be donated for this exhibition and of those 98 objects, each group has something on display. A fan favorite of which is an oversized prop pencil and fire hydrant from JDHS Theatre that were made and used for the "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" production in 2011. It was also an opportunity for the collections to fully establish our digital collecting procedure as a significant amount of these donations are born-digital photographs and videos.

- 2024.19 – Halau Hula of Manoa, 18 Objects
- 2024.21 – Elsa Demeksa, 2 Objects
- 2024.22 – Juneau Community Bands, 6 Objects
- 2024.26 – Juneau Jazz and Classics, 5 Objects
- 2024.27 – Juneau Douglas High School Theatre, 11 Objects
- 2024.28 – Juneau Alaska Music Matters, 7 Objects
- 2024.29 – Mudrooms, 5 Objects
- 2024.30- Theater Alaska, 5 Objects
- 2024.31 – Juneau Ghost Light Theatre, 7 Objects
- 2024.32 – Gold Town Theater, 7 Objects
- 2025.01- Perseverance Theatre, 20 Objects
- 2025.02 – Tonia Takei-Kramp, 1 Object
- 2025.03 – Madi Grimes, 2 Objects
- 2025.04 – Anne Fuller, 2 Objects

Thank you to all of these groups and individuals whose contributions to the collection helped make *Wild Joys* the dynamic exhibition it is!



Fire Hydrant Prop
JDCM 2024.27.002



Shell Necklace
JDCM 2024.19.005



Ipu Heke (instrument)
JDCM 2024.21.001



Pau Skirt
JDCM 2024.19.001



Large Pencil Prop
JDCM 2024.27.001

Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum | Support the City Museum

Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum



The Gondoliers - event poster, archival. JDCM 2024.04.116.
Donated by Nancy Barr.

Family

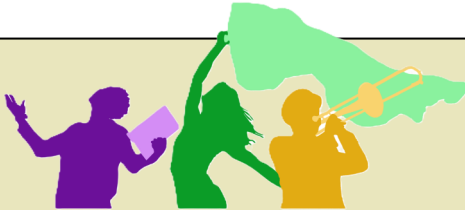
Become a Member Today!

With six membership levels to choose from you can join, renew, or gift a membership. Membership levels come with benefits such as free admission to the City Museum and a 20% discount on select items in the museum store. Memberships are good for one year from date of purchase. Visit fojdc.com to purchase or renew your membership.

You are Invited! Live Performances at the City Museum

Summer Performance Schedule

Friday 4:30	June 6
Thursday Noon	June 19
Thursday Noon	July 10
Thursday Noon	July 24
Friday 4:30	August 1
Thursday Noon	August 14
Thursday Noon	August 28
Friday 4:30	September 5
Thursday Noon	September 18
Friday 4:30	October 3



This summer the Juneau-Douglas City Museum is hosting a series of bi-weekly open mic hours as part of our summer exhibition *Wild Joys, Creating Community Through the Performing Arts*. Local performing artists of all types have been invited to sign up for a ten to thirty minute open mic spot on Thursdays at noon and on first Fridays at 4:30 p.m. through October, 2025. All performances take place in the Leslie Murray Gallery and are designed to be an integral part of the summer exhibition. As such, there will be no seating in the gallery. We hope you will drop by the City Museum during one of our scheduled performances to experience the “wild joys” of our community.

Are you a performing artist?



SIGN UP TO PERFORM

Scan the QR code to sign up to perform at the City Museum during scheduled open mic hours.

Consider performing at the City Museum this summer.

Scan the QR code above or visit juneau.org/museum



2023.32.018

Save the Date! Gold Town Nickelodeon Theater October 16th, 2025
Join us for a viewing of the Stonehouse family home movies

In 2023, the Juneau-Douglas City Museum received a donation of thirty-six 8mm home movies from Rebecca Pickett, granddaughter of Harry and Lucille Stonehouse. The Stonehouse family lived in Juneau from the 1920s–1950s and this collection of home movies reveals visits to the Mendenhall Glacier, fishing, wildlife viewing, downhill skiing, and prominent events like the 4th of July as well as other scenes from the past. On October 16th, 2025 you will have a chance to view the Stonehouse home movie collection accompanied by local musicians at the Gold Town Nickelodeon Theater.



2023.32.023



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Funding for digitization by Alaska State Museum Grant in Aid

Summer 2025 Walking Tours



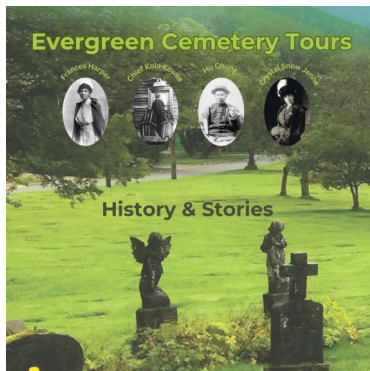
Historic Downtown Juneau Tour | May 20th through September 26th | \$31.50 Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 1:45– 3pm

This walking tour covers about 10 city blocks of the downtown business district and bordering neighborhood. Participants will learn about Juneau’s first inhabitants, view totem poles, hear tales of prominent personalities from the early days, and see how the thirst for gold changed the landscape of downtown Juneau.



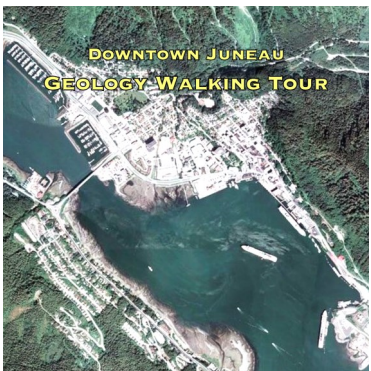
Alaska State Capitol Tour | June 2nd through September 26th | FREE Weekdays at 1:30– 2:30 pm and 3:00– 4:00pm. No weekend tours

The Alaska State Capitol Building in Juneau has served as the symbol and seat of government for more than ninety years and continues to be a working Capitol today. The building hosts the Alaska Legislature, the offices of the Governor of Alaska and Lieutenant Governor of Alaska, and houses an impressive collection of historical and contemporary Alaskan art. Tour the interior of the Capitol and learn about the building’s architecture, the art collection, the Alaska Legislature, and some of the people who helped to shape Alaska’s political history.



Evergreen Cemetery Tour | June 28th, July 26th, August 16th 1– 3 pm | \$31.50

Evergreen Cemetery was established in 1891 in what was then a location outside of the residential and commercial areas of downtown Juneau. In 1892 volunteers constructed “Cemetery Road” (currently known as Calhoun Avenue) to connect downtown Juneau to the cemetery. Now surrounded by neighborhoods, Evergreen Cemetery is the final resting place for over 8,000 Juneau residents including many people who played an influential role in Juneau’s history. Participants will walk from the City Museum down the old “Cemetery Road” to the cemetery to learn history and hear stories of some of the notable people buried there.

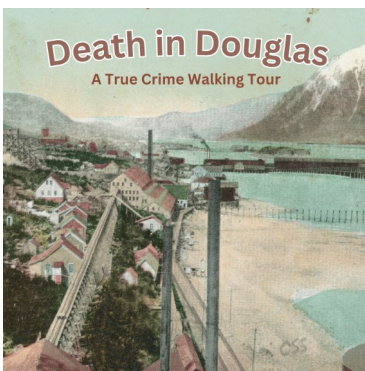


Downtown Geology Tour | June 7th, July 12th, August 23rd 1– 3 pm | \$31.50

This tour highlights the general geology of downtown Juneau and how local geology has influenced Juneau’s downtown development and history. The walk is about 1.5 miles in length and will begin at the City Museum. Led by local tour guides, Dr. Cathy Connor, retired Professor of Geology University of Alaska Southeast, and Juneau Naturalist Richard Carstensen.

True Crime Tours | 1– 3 pm | \$31.50

Led by former Juneau criminal reporters Ed Schoenfeld and Betsy Longenbaugh.



***Capital Killers* (May 16th, July 11th, September 12th)** is about 1.5 miles and focuses on historic cases in Juneau from the first half of the twentieth century. Tour starts and ends at the City Museum.

***Death-in-Douglas* (June 14th, August 2nd)** is about 2 miles and focuses on seven murder cases in Douglas and Treadwell from the first half of the twentieth century. This tour starts and ends in Douglas.

Juneau Douglas
CITY MUSEUM
155 Heritage Way
Juneau, AK 99801

JOIN US 

**IN SHAPING THE FUTURE
OF THE CITY MUSEUM**



 **Take part by completing a survey after
three free visits to the City Museum**

PRIZES & REWARDS UPON COMPLETION

 American
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 INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

Take Part in our Museum Social Impact Survey

The City Museum is seeking individuals to participate in a museum social impact survey. Participating in the survey is simple. Interested individuals can scan the QR code below or visit juneau.org/museum to register online. If selected to participate, individuals will visit the City Museum free of charge three times before October 31st, 2025. Participants may also bring a friend or family member free of charge each visit.

After visiting the museum three times, participants will be asked to complete an online 30-minute survey to share how experiences at the museum impacted various outcomes. Upon completion of the survey participants will earn rewards, like a complimentary one-year membership to the Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum or a free walking tour. Participants who complete the survey will also have the option of entering a drawing for a chance to win tickets to Juneau art events.

**SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER**

