



“No idea why anyone would want a painting of me sweeping but it won’t last long, people are weird, and I love it.”

-Bo Anderson

From Free to Fame and Fortune

When the City Museum launched its Free Little Art Gallery (FLAG) in June of 2021 with the idea of increasing the public’s access to art, we also hoped it would elevate artists’ public exposure which would, of course, lead to fame and fortune. And by fame and fortune, what we really mean is an artist’s practice that leads to community recognition and patronage, and artist Bo Anderson’s story is a great example of this kind of FLAG success.

As a refresher, a FLAG is similar in concept to the registered Little Free Library (LFL) book sharing boxes, where there is 24/7 access to free books that are placed there by community members and stewarded by members of the neighborhood. The City Museum’s FLAG is tucked under the portico of the historic Veteran’s Memorial Building on the Calhoun Street side of the museum. Sometimes we find it empty and sometimes we find it overflowing with art. But one thing we have definitely noticed is a persistent practice by Bo to showcase and promote his art inside the FLAG.

On March 7th, 2024, Bo Anderson posted on his Instagram account, @teampowerawesometeam, that he’s placed 555 pieces of artwork into the FLAG since September 9th, 2021. Bo’s art mostly consists of small nature inspired scrap wood and cardboard sculptures and paintings but he also has a good sense of humor so you can find pieces that reflect his day, his other job as high school auditorium manager, everyday objects, or some fantastical scenario that has caught his imagination. The first piece of art he placed there was a little parody of Munch’s *The Scream*.

Director's Letter



Greetings Friends,

One of the most endearing aspects of working at the City Museum are the interactions we have with community members. Whether they stop in to enjoy

the exhibitions, ask a reference question, or offer something for donation into the collection, we usually end up learning something new about the history of our community through their stories.

Thinking about this got me curious about the number of people or organizations that have donated to the City Museum's permanent collection. Donations fall into the categories of objects, photos, archival records, and reference material. Our Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, Dara, pulled some information from our database and after analyzing this data we came up with 1073 unique donors. While this doesn't strike me as a particularly large number of donors, the data on how many items have been donated does. Donations include 10,431 objects, 25,674 photos, 5,992 archival records, and 2,409 reference materials. While many of these items came from the City and Borough of Juneau and the State of Alaska, there is still a large amount that comes straight from our community or from descendants of community members. We also bring items into the permanent collection by purchasing them with the help of the Rasmuson Foundation and our Museum Acquisition Fund, which people can contribute to through monetary donations or by purchasing donated merchandise in our store.

One of our current exhibitions, *Switch and Exchange: A Brief History of Telephones in 20th Century Juneau*, brought in a variety of community members who wanted to talk about old telephones, the history of Telephone Hill, and how telephone service was established in Juneau and Douglas.

Juneau-Douglas City Museum Staff

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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.

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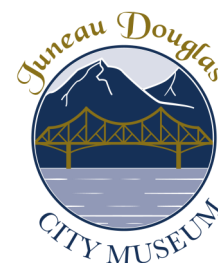
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[Juneau Douglas City Museum](https://www.youtube.com/JuneauDouglasCityMuseum)

Summer 2024 Exhibitions



Photo by Brian Wallace

Yéil Koowú Átx'i Khaa Sháade Nákhx'i Yán Sákw Jeeyís: Ravenstail Regalia for Future Leaders | Opens May 3rd

Ravenstail weaving known in Tlingit language as Yéil Koowú originates on the Northwest Coast of Alaska & Canada. The oldest known robe dates back to the 1700's. Historic pieces have been preserved in museums across the world. This artform fell out of practice for 100 years until researcher Cheryl Samuel “woke” it up. It has largely been carried by Cheryl and one of her students, Kay Parker, who have both taught with historical pattern integrity intact. Lily Hope has been mentoring 20 weavers in person and via Zoom since 2020. In that time, students have woven multiple Ravenstail projects including headdresses, leggings, bags, and child-size robes. The culmination of their work will be on display in this exhibition, showcasing the history of Yéil Koowú, its current knowledge bearers, and the bright future ahead.



Photograph, 1955-1965
JDCM 2012.06.575

Switch and Exchange: A Brief History of Telephones in 20th Century Juneau

Telephones, switchboards, and the lines that connected them were once signifiers of a thriving modern community in the 20th Century. Juneau, as the first city in Alaska to have an established telephone system, exemplified a modern community in this way. This mini exhibition explores the history of landline telephones, Juneau's early telephone company, and why Juneau has a community named Telephone Hill through interactives, phones, photographs, and art.

Director's Letter Continued

And along with those stories, a few people offered to donate interesting objects that help tell that story. One donation we received is a battery jar brought in by Kay Field Parker which is highlighted as a new acquisition in this issue of *Past and Present*. Kay is also well known for Ravenstail weaving and in 2006 the City Museum purchased her weaving, *Lighting Dance Apron* (JDCM 2006.36.001), which is on exhibit.

Ravenstail Weaving will be front and center this summer in the exhibition *Yéil Koowú Átx'i Khaa Sháade Nákhx'i Yán Sákw Jeeyís: Ravenstail Regalia for Future Leaders*, curated by Lily Hope and featuring her students' child sized robes as well as weavings by Lily Hope, Kay Field Parker and other master weavers. The exhibition will also explore the historical arc and innovative future of Yéil Koowú (Ravenstail) and opens on May 3rd and runs through October 19th, 2024.

As you can see, there are many ways to engage with your City Museum by visiting, making a donation, or taking one of our many walking tours. But one of our very favorite ways to get involved is to make art and contribute it to our Free Little Art Gallery. It was a joy to highlight Bo Anderson in our feature article and track his journey as an artist.

We hope you are inspired to stop in for a visit this summer whether it be to share a story or show off your City Museum to summer visitors. I'm so proud of the work our staff does, and we surely could not do it without our wonderful community.

Beth Weigel,

City Museum Director

Curator's Corner



Hello Juneau-Douglas City Museum Supporters –

We are coming out of the dark and cold winter months and getting ready for the summer tourist season here at the City Museum. Over the winter season the museum hosted some spectacular First Friday openings for Boni Parker's *Animism Manufactured*, the Juneau Modern Quilt Guild, the annual 12x12 *Stellar!*, and *Switch and Exchange: A Brief History of Telephones in 20th Century Juneau*.

The telephone exhibition provided me with a wonderful opportunity to research a unique part of Juneau-Douglas history. Aside from the new general telephone knowledge I gained, I also learned that Juneau exists how it does today because of the passions of its people. If Mr. Webster and his family did not take on setting up telephone lines and maintaining the switchboards how they did, Juneau would not have been one of the earliest communities with telephone services in the United States, let alone Alaska. The telephones in *Switch and Exchange* represent a precious part of Juneau's story that I am happy we shared with the community this winter and with the cruise ship visitors this coming summer.

A benefit of creating an exhibition with a subject that everyone can relate to, like telephones, is that everyone has a story that they can share on the topic. During the First Friday opening for *Switch and Exchange* many visitors were sharing stories about telephones when they were growing up. This inspired us to have a notepad at the front desk encouraging people to share some of these stories. So far, they have been delightful! Please, keep them coming.

Many think the value of a museum's collection is purely monetary. While this is one way to value a collection, it completely misses the true value of objects in museums. Museum collections are representative of these intangible stories and hold our collective memory as a community. It isn't just a black Conair telephone mounted to our wall. It is a phone that was used by someone in the community in the 1990/2000s and it is similar to the one you talked to your friends on after school. That shared memory by the community is what gives that telephone its value in our collection and this exhibition.

When objects are proposed for our collection, this intangible value to the community is the main detail I consider. That is, after I determine that we have enough space in storage, and it isn't duplicative of other objects already there. I think about what story or stories can this object represent for people looking at it or researching our collection in the future. This is why, when Kay Field Parker was inspired to bring in a glass battery jar that was used at the telephone company that she'd received as a gift from Verna Carrigan, I was excited to incorporate it into the collection. The personal story and the wider community story make this object priceless in the City Museum's collection.

New Acquisition Spotlight

This battery jar was once used to help power the telephone system on Telephone Hill. It was gifted to Kay Field Parker by Verna Carrigan. Verna Carrigan is one of Mr. Websters grandchildren and ran the telephone company in Juneau until 1968. Glass battery jars, like this, were used to form a lead acid battery. Lead acid batteries were used to power mobile objects or objects located far from an electric grid connection.

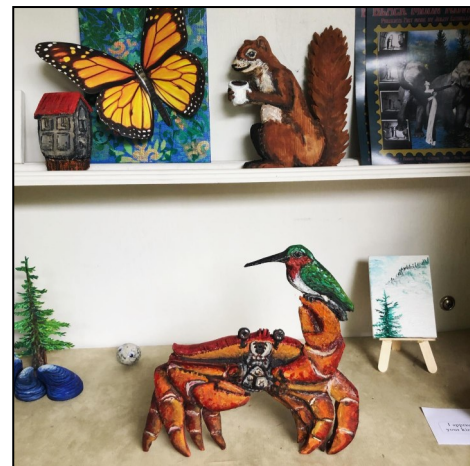


JDCM 2023.36.001

Antique or Vintage? What's the Difference?

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between "vintage" and "antique"? Collectibles such as artwork, jewelry, housewares, carpets, accessories and everyday objects can be described as vintage or antique and sometimes the terms are used interchangeably. However there is a distinct difference between antique and vintage collectibles. Basically, it boils down to how old the item is. By definition, antiques are much older than vintage items. Antiques are often hard to find and they represent a bygone era. To be labeled antique, the collectible would need to be over 100 years old. Vintage items are much younger than antiques, usually 20-100 years old.

Continued from page 1



Bo says during the pandemic, when all the events in the auditorium were cancelled, he suddenly had time to make art for himself. So, he started brainstorming silly ideas and then played around with them until he could make his artistic vision a reality. The FLAG was also a great lunch break destination on his walks, so he decided to start adding his pieces.

Occasionally, Bo even includes himself in his art and muses, “No idea why anyone would want a painting of me sweeping but it won’t last long, people are weird, and I love it.” He also wonders where all these pieces of art go?

Bo’s “fame” around Juneau has risen in part because he almost always includes hashtags including the #FreeLittleArtGallery, which boasts around 19.5K posts. He takes great photos of his work as diorama displays for his Insta too. You have to be pretty quick to acquire a Bo Anderson artwork from the FLAG because more often than not within two minutes after he posts on social media, staff has gone to take a look and some or all of the pieces are gone. Bo also promotes both the FLAG at the JDCM and the motto of making art (for the FLAG) and taking art (from the FLAG). He’s become a great steward of the FLAG replacing hooks and stands which none of us understand why someone would remove.

In addition to his contributions to the FLAG, Bo has also participated in the 12x12 Community Art Shows at the City Museum and in October 2023, he mounted his first solo art show, “Cut it Out,” at the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council’s Gallery. We asked him how he decided he was ready to go from the low stress of adding art to the FLAG to being prepared for a solo art show? He says, “By 2023, I had gotten a lot of feedback and encouragement on my work.” He also remarked that many of the pieces he first imagined and made for the FLAG he repeated and featured in his solo art show where most all of his work sold, ie, he made a small “fortune.”



Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum



Fellow

All Our Ancestors—Chilkat Protector by Lily Hope - Woven mask, merino wool, cedar bark, and tin cones. JDCM 2020.40.02. Project funded in part by a CBJ COVID-19 Juneau ArtWorks Grant.

Become a Friends of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum Member

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 fojdcm.org to purchase or renew your membership.

New in the Museum Store

As we gear up for another wild and wonderful summer season, we'd like to highlight some new and continuing items you can find in our Museum Store.



Our jewelry case features beautiful pieces from local artists, made in many different styles and materials. Thyes Shaub's glittering crystals always make for a special gift with their shine and elegance. Miah Lager's earrings combine upcycled fur and leather in unique color combos to add some fun to every fashionable day. AK Mountaintop Mermaid is our newest addition, featuring locally scavenged blue mussel and urchin shells, as well as local quartz, in electroformed copper settings. To go with our summer exhibition we have Lily Hope earrings in multiple colors, check out the dynamic enamel Chilkat faces, or the hand-woven Ravenstail earrings. We also carry a selection of earrings from Trickster Co. - grab a pair along with a deck of Trickster playing cards for a perfect present.



Above: Swarovski crystal earrings by Thyes Shaub.

Below: Trickster Co. playing cards.



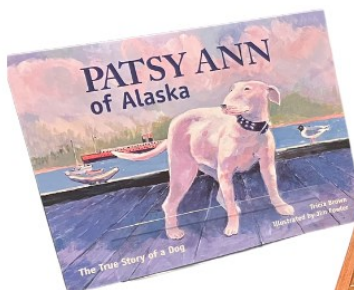
Last year we had the opportunity to work with three local artists to commission some fun new sticker designs for the museum. The stickers feature Patsy Ann (art by Junnie Chup), Romeo the Wolf (art by Claire Scott), and the Harnessing of the Atom kootéeya (art by Chloe Cavanaugh). Build yourself a gift pack by combining stickers with the Patsy Ann picture book (re-published & back in stock!), or the new beautifully illustrated book about Romeo the wolf, written by local author Joel Bennett. We always carry a nice selection of kid books for a wide range of ages; for the youngest, try *10 Sitka Herring* or *Cradle Songs of Southeast Alaska*, or for a little bit older children check out *How Devil's Club Came to Be*, illustrated by Caldecott Medal winner Michaela Goade.

Above: Jewelry by AK Mountaintop Mermaid.



Left: My Little Museum kit.

Right: Patsy Ann and Romeo books and stickers.



Speaking of kids, we have a number of great items to spark curiosity and encourage exploration. Take a waterproof sketchbook on your next outdoor adventure, fill a My Little Museum with interesting rocks and leaves, and discover how to mine for gold with our new Mining Kits. Each Mining Kit contains everything you need to pan for gold, including a map to walk-able spots downtown where you just might strike it rich (or at least bring home a flake or two of real gold). The Juneau-Douglas City Museum Store has something for everyone, so swing by next time you're looking for a gift or a special surprise.

Summer Walking Tours



Historic Downtown Juneau Tour | May 21st through September 26th | \$31.50

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. This tour begins and ends at the City Museum. Includes admission to the City Museum and a 20% discount on select items in the museum store. **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 1:45-3pm**



FREE Alaska State Capitol Tour | June 3rd through September 2nd

The Alaska State Capitol 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 and Lieutenant Governor of Alaska, and houses an impressive collection 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. This tour starts in the Capitol lobby. **Weekdays 2:30-3:30pm & 4-5pm, No tours Saturday or Sunday.**



Evergreen Cemetery Tour | June 1st, July 6th & August 17th | 1-3pm | \$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 about its history and to hear stories of some of the notable people buried there. Includes admission to the City Museum and a 20% discount on select items in the museum store.



Geology Tour | May 18th, June 15th, July 13th & August 10th | 1-3pm | \$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. Includes admission to the City Museum and a 20% discount on select items in the museum store.



Treadwell Historic Trail Tour | June 8th, July 27th & August 24th | 1-3pm | \$31.50

This tour takes you around the Treadwell Mine Historic Trail on Douglas Island where you will learn how Treadwell grew from a single gold claim into four mines, five mills, and a bustling community of workers and their families. This tour is led by Rich Mattson who grew up playing in the Treadwell Mine area and acquired a lifelong interest in the mine complex. This tour begins and ends at Sandy Beach in Douglas. Transportation required. Includes free admission to the City Museum, and a 20% discount coupon on select items in the museum store.

—Juneau Douglas—
CITY MUSEUM
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Juneau, AK 99801



Published by J. F. Eicherly.

DOUGLAS, ALASKA.

"Douglas, Alaska", Postcard, 1885-1920, JDCM 2006.06.034