

Past & Present

Juneau-Douglas City Museum: Collecting, preserving and interpreting Juneau-Douglas history and culture

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Juneau History Grant Applications Available

Is there some fascinating topic related to Juneau's history that you've always wondered about? Have you found a gap in the historical record? Why not embark on a historical research project with the help of a Juneau History Grant?

Students, teachers, organizations and individuals of all ages are encouraged to apply for up to \$1,000 to assist them in the completion of a project that will document, preserve or improve access to the history of the Juneau-Douglas area. Projects might include live performances, public presentations, research papers, recordings, videotape, use of computers or other media.

Applications are available March 15, 2005, from the Juneau-Douglas City Museum (586-3572) or the Parks and Recreation office located at 155 South Seward Street (586-5226) or by web at www.juneau.org/parksrec/museum.

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NEW DIRECTIONS AT THE CITY MUSEUM

After nearly a year of advertising and searching for the perfect person to head the City Museum, we've found her – right in our own back yard. Jane Lindsey, formerly the Curator of Education and Public Programming, is now the Museum Director, taking over for Mary Pat Wyatt who retired early in 2004.

In addition to her years of experience coordinating education and public programs for the City Museum, Jane has a strong background in arts administration and public education. She is already familiar with the responsibilities of running the Museum after serving almost nine months as Acting Director during the search process.

Jane says she's "very excited

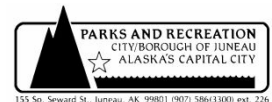
about becoming an even greater part of the City Museum's direction," explaining that museums are among her favorite places to spend time "because they offer insight into the human condition by displaying art, history, culture and just about every other object you can think of."

Even with her strong background and work experience at the City Museum, Jane had to compete against a number of highly qualified applicants for the Director position, prevailing after a rigorous interview process.

Cristi Herren, CBJ Recreation Superintendent, is pleased that Jane accepted the position, commenting

that she brings "a great deal of experience and background with the JDCM and can hit the ground running." Cristi also notes that Jane "has integral ties within the community of Juneau and a clear idea of the direction we would like to see the Museum take in the future."

Everyone at the City Museum is excited about the future of the Museum under new direction, especially Jane Lindsey herself. "The opportunity to work in a setting that I value so highly for myself and my family is very rewarding."



155 So. Seward St. Juneau, AK 99801 (907) 586-1300 ext. 226

Winter/Spring Exhibits

Brighten up the dark days of winter by checking out some of the great offerings at the City Museum.

January – September: Our three-part Juneau Collectors Series starts in January with fun exhibits of Joel Orelove's Mickey Mouse Memorabilia & Elvis Lives in Juneau! – an assortment of Elvis-themed collectibles. From March 4 through April 5, we'll display Michael Hunter's Keen Stuff – unusual items

from his private collection. Finally, the Museum will feature Jeff Brown's Alaska Board Games Collection from May 18 through September 15.

Also through September, come see our Rare and Early Mining Photos exhibit. Selected photos from our recent acquisition of a mining industry album assembled around 1910 are displayed in the map gallery.

February: The popular

Wearable Arts exhibition, co-sponsored by Juneau Arts & Humanities Council, features past years' creations displayed throughout the Museum. Saturday, February 12, kids can attend the Wearable Arts workshop where instructor Judy Rice will teach them to make artistic face masks inspired by international mask making traditions.

Also check out our calendar on page 4 for more classes, exhibits, and events.

Harold Fossum Remembered

In December, the City Museum lost one of its good friends, Harold Oluf Fossum.

If you've been to the Museum during the winter months any time in the past 4 years, you've enjoyed free admission thanks in part to the generous annual donations of Harold Fossum. In fact, it was Fossum who first started the Museum's free winter admission tradition as the sole sponsor for the 2001-2002 season. His original donation was made in memory of his late wife Helen Fossum.

Harold lived in Juneau for more than 60 years, spending much of that time fishing and working around Southeast and collecting an impressive assortment of Alaskana. He generously shared his private collection of historical items with the Museum, donating 53 historical plates, maritime items, and a pair of moccasins, saying that "after living here all my life, it was time to give something back to the community."

Harold will be missed by everyone at the City Museum, not only for his generous gifts to the Museum, but for – his friendly and jovial spirit. "He had a great sense of humor and wit that I have found in other longtime Alaskan fishermen and residents," says Museum Director Jane Lindsey. "Whenever I talked with him, I laughed. I'm going to miss that."

Our hearts go out to Harold's family and many friends who feel his loss.

Juneau Prospector Finds Photographic "Gold" on eBay

Jim Geraghty is a modern-day prospector, but he doesn't pan for gold in icy streams or break rocks in musty caves. Instead, he mines the Internet looking for old photos and memorabilia from Juneau's past.

An avid historian and hiker, Geraghty has thoroughly explored local mining sites and trails. He has also pored over countless old photos and documents relating to Juneau's early mining industry. So, when he trolls the Internet for pieces of Juneau's mining history, he really knows what he's looking for.

Recently, while scouring the Internet commerce site eBay, Geraghty came across something really special – an old photo album containing an early collection of 47 Winter and Pond pictures of various

Juneau mining operations. The unique thing about this set was that the album was annotated with notes probably made by one of the mine engineers working in Juneau at the time.

Right away, Geraghty knew the album was unique and belonged on display in Juneau. When he contacted the City Museum and learned that there wasn't enough money in the Acquisition Fund to cover the purchase price of \$2,500, he took it on himself to find other mining buffs among the community to donate money towards the purchase. Geraghty was quickly able to raise more than half the cost of the album, and the Museum is still accepting donations.

Once the album was "back home" in Juneau, Geraghty worked with City Museum staff to help prepare the Rare

and Early Mining Photo exhibition on display this Spring at the Museum.

According to Geraghty, these photos, with their detailed annotations, provide much needed dates and place names that fill in gaps in the historical record. The notes identify buildings and locations that have confused historians for decades, says Geraghty. Familiar locations pictured include Gold Creek and Perseverance Basin, as well as the Salmon Creek Dam area and Sheep Creek.

The City Museum would like to thank the generous donors who have contributed to this acquisition: Jim Geraghty, Anchor Electric, Michelle Bonnet, Coeur Alaska, Harold Fossum, Willette Janes, Jerry Schrader, Rich Gordon, Mark J. and Esther Millea, and Greens Creek Mine.

Survey Seeks Ideas

What Makes Juneau a Great Capital City?

By Christine Crooks

"Capitals should have a recognizable identity."

"Symbols are important."

"People come to museums for hands-on experiences that are lacking in books."

--comments from Focus Groups, September 2004

The Juneau Douglas City Museum is planning a 2006 exhibit tentatively called Juneau: Alaska's Capital City. The exhibit will provide visitors with an understanding about Juneau's present and future and help local and visiting students better understand Juneau's historical importance as Alaska's capital.

Museum volunteers and citi-

zens met in small focus groups in September to share their ideas about what makes Juneau a great capital for Alaska. Now it's your turn.

Give us your ideas through a short survey. You can complete the survey in one of three ways:

1. Fill in the paper version enclosed in this newsletter or available at the front desk at the City Museum or at the city Parks & Recreation office.

2. Online: Go to the Juneau-City Museum's web page and follow the directions to submit the survey electronically.
<http://www.juneau.org/parksrec/museum/>



3. Print your own copy: Go to the City Museum's web page and follow the directions to download a PDF copy that you can fill in and fax, mail or hand-carry to the City Museum.

All surveys are due February 1, 2005. Thank you!

For more information contact the City Museum at 586-3572 or Cristine Crooks at ccrooks@gci.net or 364-

Photo: Governor's House. Wickersham State Historic Site. ASL-PCA-277

New Faces

Next time you're in the City Museum, introduce yourself to our new intern, Elizabeth Weinman. Elizabeth comes to us from Lubbock, Texas, where she is working on a master's degree in the museum science program at Texas Tech University. During her six months in Juneau, she will have a chance to experience all aspects of small museum operation, as well as the opportunity to enjoy all the great activities that Juneau has to offer.

Also keep your eyes open early this spring for a new permanent staff member filling the Curator of Public Programs opening. The position, left vacant by Jane Lindsey when she took on the Acting Director duties last spring, was temporarily staffed by Alysia McLain and Noelle Dersé. We hope to find another great City Museum team member soon.

City Museum Wins \$8,280 Art Acquisition Grant

By Ellen Carrlee

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum is the recipient of an \$8,280 art acquisition grant funded by the Rasmuson Foundation and administered by Museums Alaska. The grant program, in its second year, is intended to support living, established Alaskan artists through museum purchases and enhanced exposure as well as encourage museums to develop formal collections policies for contemporary art.

The Rasmuson Foundation is committed to continuing the program in 2005. The application sent by the museum must include a statement of rationale describing how the artwork meets

collection goals, information about the significance of the artist, provenance about the history of the artwork, and a photograph. Commissions are not allowed.

Our priorities include prominent artists not yet included in the collection, artists whose work has been too expensive to acquire in the past, and developing collection areas such as silver carving and beadwork.

Our successful application this year adds four artworks to the permanent collection. One is a large untitled painting featuring a winged figure and historic Juneau waterfront by David Woodie. This painting is in the All Alaska Juried Art Exhibition

currently on exhibit at the Alaska State Museum. We have also acquired a portrait doll of Dr. Walter Soboleff from Mary Ellen Frank. And finally, a beaded Sea Pigeon Ceremonial Dance Bib and two Kil-ler Whale beaded motifs from artist Florence Marks Sheakley.

Read More!

New gift shop items:

Alaska Souvenir Spoons and the Early Curio Trade by June Hall (we have signed copies!).

In the Miners' Footsteps (new edition) by Willette Janes.

Recent Acquisitions

August - December 2004
Ellen Carrlee

Number	Donation
2004.36	1937 photo of Douglas Gift of Rich Poor
2004.37	Elk's glass and plate Gift of Elk's Lodge #420
2004.38	Fishing licenses, books, archival items Gift of Art Hollender
2004.39	High backed bench, Army uniform Gift of Kenway/Donaldson Family
2004.40	Postcard of the 4-Story Totem Pole Gift of Ellen and Scott Carrlee
2004.41	Historic Glass Bottles Gift of Sam Guthrie
2004.42	Juneau Cold Storage images Gift of Sealaska
2004.43	Photos of Union Oil tank installation Gift of Lee Evans
2004.44	All Class Reunion Panorama, Yearbook Gift of Betty West Miller
2004.45	Historic Lens Test Kit and Sample Eye- glasses Gift of Roy Box



Photo: Silverbow Basin and the Perseverance Mine (now on display in the Rare and Early Mining Photos exhibit)



2004.46	Steamship brochures, menus, maps Gift of Jack Stewart
2004.47	Photo of herring boat/cannery in Auke Bay Gift of James Ederer
2004.48	Token from American Legion Post #4 Gift of Joan Harju
2004.49	Pinback Tlingit-Haida election button Gift of John Schimpf
2004.50	Admiralty-Alaska Mine letters Gift of Lisa Petersen
2004.51	Historic Glass Bottles Gift of Seely Hall
2004.52	Barometer from mine Gift of Gary Clement
2004.53	Panoramic photos and cookbooks Gift of Willette Janes
2004.54	Alaska Steamship items Gift of Jack Stewart

Juneau-Douglas City Museum
155 South Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

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Newsletter of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, located downtown at the corner of Fourth and Main Streets in Alaska's Capital City.

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Visit us on the Web
[www.juneau.org/
parksrec/museum](http://www.juneau.org/parksrec/museum)

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CITY MUSEUM EVENTS CALENDAR

January

- 1 Museum closed in observance of New Year's Day.
- 7 First Friday public reception, Juneau Collectors Series Kick-off with Elvis Lives in Juneau!, and Joel Orelove's Mickey Mouse Collection, 4:30-7:00pm.
- 8, 15, 22 Donald Gregory teaches Halibut Hook making class for kids and adults, 12:00-4:00pm for three Saturdays. Pre-registration required.
- 29 Quilling class for kids—Learn to make art from coiled paper with instructor Anne Castle, 12:00-3:00pm. Pre-registration required.

February

- 4 First Friday public reception, Wearable Arts Exhibit, 4:30-7:00pm. Exhibit open through February.
- 12 Wearable Arts mask making activity for kids with instructor Judy Rice, 1:00-3:30pm. Pre-registration required.
- 19 Balsa Bridge Building workshop w/DOT staff, 1:00-4:00pm, ages 10 and up. Pre-registration required.

March

- 4 First Friday public reception, Juneau Collectors Series, Part II - Michael Hunter's Keen Stuff, 4:30-7:00pm.
- 4 Guest Artist exhibition in Temporary Gallery throughout March.
- 19 Women's History Month storytelling workshop with Anne Fuller, Noon-3:00pm. Pre-registration required.

April

- 1 First Friday public reception, Rob Roys exhibition in Temporary Gallery, 4:30-7:30pm.
- 9 Special Saturday Pre-Folk Festival Jam, 1:00-3:00pm. Free, drop-in event.
- TBA 1st Grade Sea Week
- TBA Tour Guide Trainings with Linda Daniel. Themes include geography, mining, and general Juneau history.

May

- 7 Annual Volunteer Training and Season Preview, 9:00-Noon. Refreshments served. New volunteers welcome!
- 15 Full Steam Ahead! exhibit of Juneau-area shipwrecks and recovered objects. Reception 12:00-5:00pm.
- 15 Juneau Collectors Series, Part III - Jeff Brown's Alaska Board Game Collection. Reception 12:00-5:00pm.

