

Lingít Aaní: The Land of the Tlingit

The Ketchikan Museums are on the ancestral lands of the Tlingit, who have been living here since time immemorial. Kichxáan (Ketchikan) was a Tlingit summer fish camp around the mouth of Kichxáan Héeni (Ketchikan Creek). Ketchikan remains the home of the Taant'a Kwáan (Sea Lion Tribe) of the Tongass Tlingit.

Our Mission:

The mission of the Ketchikan Museums is to collect, preserve, interpret and creatively share the history and culture of our region to serve, educate, engage and enrich our community.

Totem Heritage Center:

In addition, the Totem Heritage Center preserves and perpetuates the living artistic traditions of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian peoples that gave rise to the original totem poles on display and provides the opportunity to discover, learn and practice Native arts to inspire cultural understanding.



Ketchikan
MUSEUMS
TONGASS HISTORICAL MUSEUM
TOTEM HERITAGE CENTER



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Values:

Discovery: Ketchikan Museums will offer relevant experiences to explore, educate, and enlighten.

Community Identity: Ketchikan Museums will safeguard and reflect Ketchikan's vibrant cultural landscape.

Integrity: Ketchikan Museums will be credible stewards of the community's public trust, investment and its most treasured asset, its heritage.

Communication: Ketchikan Museums will serve as a leader to innovatively inspire and encourage meaningful community-wide interaction, participation, and collaboration.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Ketchikan Museums commits to championing policies and practices that value diversity, foster equity, and provide an accessible and inclusive environment.

Decolonization: Ketchikan Museums reflects and realizes the values of decolonization in all of its policies and practices, and works with our Indigenous community to document the past, share in the present, and provide a platform to frame the future.



Right: Local metal artist, Rhonda Green, created a new front entrance gate and railings for the Museum that depicts Ketchikan history.

Left: Totem Heritage Center with new exterior signage.



COLLECTIONS

Accepted 117 donation offers and purchases of over 1,411 individual items for the collection. Forty five oral histories including stories collected from History Afloat, exhibit and Covid-related interviews, interviews with Hyder residents, plus stories from Pioneer Home residents. Donations are as diverse as our community: Tinikling dancing videos, Hall Anderson's camera bag, Waterfall Cannery fish buckets, xtraTufs from a dock hand, Nathan Jackson's sketches for the Totem Heritage Center's door carvings, a Loud & Queer zine, a sailmaking bench from Louie Bartos and Sm'algyax language resources from John Reese. Thank you to everyone who generously donated artifacts and stories to the Museums!

Provided public access to collections and archives

Responded to 244 requests for research or historical photograph reproductions for a variety of personal, scholarly, and municipal projects

Worked with the Ketchikan Daily News to publish "Artifact of the Month"

Participated in a "Preparing Alaska's Cultural Organizations for Emergencies" program to develop disaster plan, a key resource to responsibly care for the collection

History Afloat: Wooden Boat Documentation Project

Worked with local photographer Brooke Ratzat to document 12 historic wooden boats for this pilot program. These boats, and the people who care for them, will be featured in an upcoming virtual exhibit.



Brooke Ratzat captured John Vlaun aboard the "West".



PROGRAMS & OUTREACH

Hosted 14,264 visitors at the Tongass Historical Museum and the Totem Heritage Center. This includes locals, school groups, adult students, researchers, and independent travelers. (Pre-Covid attendance was 65,000 visitors per year.) With the addition of online programming, the museum now tracks virtual engagements: 3,363 users visited Virtual Exhibits and Past Perfect Online; 21,823 Facebook engagements (like, comment, or share); 3,192 Instagram likes or comments; 675 views of program videos.

Museum MIDDAY

Offered monthly virtual presentations September through May: *Mapping the Landscape* with Ryan McHale and Brandon Castle; *the History and Future of Ketchikan's Wearable Art Show* with past Wearable artists; *Captured in Time* with Ketchikan Daily News photojournalists Hall Anderson, Taylor Balkom and Dustin Safranek; *Slowing Life Down, Frame by Frame* with photographer Brooke Ratzat; *This Place Matters* with local historical preservation advocates; *Painful Beauty: Tlingit Women, Beadwork, and the Art of Resilience* with author Megan A. Smetzer; *When My Spirit Raised Its Hands* with Diane Benson; *Creating Sm'algyax Speakers* with the Haayk Foundation; *Old Groaner and Bruce Johnstone* with Chip Porter, Ross Dorendorf and Rich Stage.

EXHIBITS

Featured exhibit *Into the Wind: Aviation as Southeast Alaska's Lifeline* was extended through January 2022 due to COVID-19 related closures and community requests. Over 100 community member loans were included in the exhibit.

Hosted traveling exhibits from the Alaska State Museum: *Alaska's Suffrage Star* (on women's voting rights, August - October) and *Alaska Positive* (juried photography show, October - December)

Produced *Ketchikan at the Fair* (August 13 - September 5), featuring local art and crafts from the Southeast Alaska Fair in Haines

Updated introductory interpretive panels at the Totem Heritage Center. The Totem Heritage Center Advisory Committee consulted on content and the general public offered reviews for readability and clarity.

Check out Virtual Exhibits at KetchikanMuseums.org

Exhibit photos from the top:

Don Dawson's Grumman Goose wing float was one of many community-generated loans for *Into the Wind*.

Selections from submissions to the fair were on exhibit last summer.

Alaska Positive exhibit featured photographs from three Ketchikan artists.



45th-46th Annual Native Arts Studies Program adapted with virtual and in-person classes:

- Northwest Coast Regalia: Vests/Tunics with Janice Jackson
- Intermediate/Advanced Formline Design with David A. Boxley
- Mixed-level Basketry Design with Holly Churchill
- Intermediate/Advanced Weaving: Miniature Potlatch Hats with Holly Churchill
- Introduction to Power Tools with Ken Decker and Woody Anderson
- Painted Leather Dance Aprons with Mike Dangeli

History Aloud Oral History Program is a partnership with KRBD to highlight selections of recorded oral histories. Ketchikan Museums also worked with the Pioneer Home to conduct weekly oral history interviews and with KRBD to share *History Aloud*.

New Outreach Tools include a monthly email newsletter and a new look for the website, KetchikanMuseums.org, thanks to local design company, North Creative. The website allows for better functionality with online platforms like our PastPerfect collections database.

Check out the Ketchikan Museums YouTube Channel to view presentations and more!



Programs photos, left:

Haida weaver Holly Churchill works with Sonya Klippert in a mixed-level basketry design class.

Katie Lamm Carlson in the Painted Leather Dance Apron class

Above: History Aloud logo

GRANTS

Ketchikan Museums were awarded the following grants in 2021:

\$15,000 from the Museum Alaska's Collections Management Fund for digitization of "unstable media" (cassette tapes, vinyl records and Betacam tapes)

\$2,000 from the State Museum's Grant-in-Aid program to retrofit an exhibit case for better monitoring of humidity and temperature

\$18,900 from the Museum Alaska's Art Acquisition Fund with support of the Rasmuson Foundation to commission artist Terry Leberman to create stained glass panels for the Museum's front lobby



Artist Ray Troll created this new logo design for the Salmon Walk.



U.S. Customs House and later the Pioneer Hall, circa 1905.

Photo: Bertha Hunt. THS 80.8.1.1

OTHER COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Ketchikan Salmon Walk

Salmon have drawn people to Kichxáan Héeni (Ketchikan Creek) for generations. The Ketchikan Salmon Walk will showcase the art, history, and salmon of Ketchikan Creek. It provides an easy to follow "trail" for visitors and locals to cultivate a meaningful connection to the creek, to the surrounding temperate rainforest, and to our historic waterfront community.

Thanks to the generosity of the Royal Caribbean Group, the Salmon Walk's next steps are coming together in 2022!

Ketchikan Historic Commission

Awarded two \$24,000 Historic Preservation Fund grants through the State of Alaska's Office of History and Archaeology for the first phase of development of a historic preservation plan and for creation and installation of 10 Colorful Characters and Places signs in partnership with Historic Ketchikan

Produced the Pioneer Hall Structure Report, in partnership with the Pioneers of Alaska and Historic Ketchikan, as the first step in the Pioneers' goal of restoring the Pioneer Hall, the oldest building in City limits

Ketchikan Museums Staff:

Administration:

Anita Maxwell, *Director*

Stacy Brainard, *Administrative Secretary*

Collections:

Hayley Chambers, *Sr. Curator of Collections*

Erika Brown, *Registrar*

Programs:

Marni Rickelmann, *Sr. Curator of Programs*

Erika Jayne Christian, *Program Coordinator*

Teresa DeWitt, *Museum Attendant*

Exhibits:

Ryan McHale, *Curator of Exhibits*

2021 Museum Advisory Board:

Gloria Burns, *Totem Heritage Center*

Christian Dalton

Janalee Gage, *City Council*

Teri Hoyt

Chet Hugo

Alex Kramarczuk

Laurie Pool, *Secretary*

Jeanne Sande

Peter Stanton, *Vice Chair*

Carrie Starkey

Sven Westergard, *Borough Assembly*

Michele Zerbetz Scott, *Board Chair*

2021 Totem Heritage Center Advisory Committee:

Gloria Burns

Kevin Clevenger

Ken Decker

Tim Flanery

Nathan Jackson

Richard Jackson