

## 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



# 2022 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.



2022 accessions to the collection, L-R:

*Ch'áak' Lákt*, Eagle Bentwood Box, created by Yéil Yádi, Nathan Jackson (Tlingit). Donation of Grete Dixon. KM 2022.2.15.1 A&B

*Crumb* quilt made by Jean Howard, donated to Ketchikan Museums by the Jean Howard Estate. KM 2022.2.14

# COLLECTIONS

- Accepted 80 donation offers and purchases of over 2,985 individual items for the collection. Some highlights include: the James and Lillian Leask Memorial totem pole, a bentwood box by Nathan Jackson, Janice Jackson's beaded hide collar, Jean Howard's crumb quilt, a pride flag, infrared photographs of historic bentwood boxes, Uncharted Distillery's first run bottles, COVID-19 materials, Jan Ross slides and mining equipment, Rainy Day Quilt Guild archival collection, and a wood Grumman Goose model plane made by Les Hiatt. Thank you to everyone who generously donated artifacts and stories to the Museums!
- Provided public access to collections and archives, including the addition of telephone books available at [www.KetchikanMuseums.org](http://www.KetchikanMuseums.org)
- Responded to 211 requests for research or historical photograph reproductions for a variety of personal, scholarly, and municipal projects
- Worked with 73 lenders for 529 loaned objects shared with the community through exhibits
- Awarded an intern for 10 weeks, Penske McCormack, for totem pole research in conjunction with their Master's Thesis

Photo: The James and Lillian Leask Memorial totem pole was created by Haida Master-carver Warren Peele of Hydaburg. It was purchased by Don Newman as a gift for his wife, Millie Leask Newman in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. The totem pole stood for over two decades at the Leask family home on Inman Street, a home that was built by James and Lillian in 1917. Don and Millie bequeathed the totem pole to the City of Ketchikan to ensure its preservation and for the enjoyment of generations to come. It was moved to the Totem Heritage Center in 2022.



## PROGRAMS & OUTREACH

- Hosted 67,313 visitors at the Tongass Historical Museum and the Totem Heritage Center. This includes locals, school groups, adult students, researchers, and independent travelers. Our hybrid world included 4,721 online visitors to Virtual Exhibits, 1,994 to Past Perfect Online; 2,901 Instagram likes or comments; 11,399 views of YouTube channel videos and 62,738 Google map interactions!

### Museum Middy

- Offered monthly in-person and/or virtual presentations September through May: *Ketchikan: Filmed on Location* with Anika Kan Grevstad, Sasha Faust, and Emilio Miguel Torres; *First City Players' The Fish Pirate's Daughter* with Elizabeth Nelson and Amanda Glanzer; *Storytelling: Connecting Community* with Jack Finnegan; *Deer Mountain Hatchery* with the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association; *Historic Preservation: People Saving Places* with guests from Historic Ketchikan Inc. and Welsh Whiteley Architects; *Sama Sama Tayo sa Kalusugan – Healthier Together* with Alma Manabat Parker; *American Legion Post #3* with Daniel Jones and Hunter Davis; *Working Boats: An Inside Look at Ten Amazing Watercraft* with Tom Crestodina.



# EXHIBITS

- Produced a new featured exhibit, *Sustaining Community: How We Gather and Why It Matters* (March 2022 - January 2023)
- Produced pop-up exhibits featuring a Nathan Jackson bentwood box donation and a celebration of Ketchikan's 100th anniversary of commercial aviation
- Featured traveling Herring Protectors exhibit (January)
- Produced *Ketchikan at the Fair* (August 13 - September 4), featuring local art and crafts from the Southeast Alaska Fair
- Produced virtual exhibits of current and previous exhibitions available at [KetchikanMuseums.org](http://KetchikanMuseums.org), including digitized yearbooks from 1950-2020 (in partnership with the Ketchikan Public Library) and *History Afloat* (thank you, partner Brooke Ratzat!)
- Produced Totem Heritage Center Instructor & Student case
- Producing *Taking Flight* virtual exhibit in partnership

## Check out Virtual Exhibits at [KetchikanMuseums.org](http://KetchikanMuseums.org)

Exhibit photos from the top: *Sustaining Community* opening reception on March 4, 2022; annual NASP Instructor and Student case exhibiting artwork by Katie Carlson, Janice Jackson, Lorraine Kahle, Dave Ketah, Kathryn Rousso, and Stacey Williams.



- **46th-47th Annual Native Arts Studies Program** adapted with virtual and in-person classes: *Tool Making for Carvers: Adzes* with Jake Beimler and Joron Whitton; *Tool Making for Carvers: Knives* with Jake Beimler and Joron Whitton; *Tool Sharpening* with Woody Anderson; *Mixed-Level Regalia: Beaded Hide Collars* with Janice Jackson; *Chilkat Material Prep: Thigh Spinning & Dyes* with Dorica Jackson; *History of Northwest Coast Art Speakers Series* with David R. Boxley, Steve Brown, Kathryn Bunn-Marcuse, Delores Churchill, Janice Jackson, Stephen Jackson, Emily Moore, Priscilla Schulte, Israel Shotridge, Megan Smetzer, Evelyn Vanderhoop, and Carrie Anne Vanderhoop; *Intermediate/Advanced Cedar Bark Prep* with Holly Churchill; *Beginning/Intermediate Cedar Bark Weaving* with Holly Churchill; and *Beginning Chilkat Weaving* with Dorica Jackson.

- **History Aloud Oral History Program** is a partnership with KRBD to highlight selections of recorded oral histories. Contact Erika Jayne at 907-228-2792 or [erikac@ktn-ak.us](mailto:erikac@ktn-ak.us) for volunteer opportunities!

- **New Outreach Tools** include a monthly email newsletter and a new look for the website, [KetchikanMuseums.org](http://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 & more!**

Programs photos, left: *Working Boats: An Inside Look at Ten Amazing Watercraft Museum Midday* with Tom Crestodina; student Christina Weber in *Beginning/Intermediate Cedar Bark Weaving* with Holly Churchill  
Above: History Aloud logo



“Killerwhale Spirit” Button Robe Collar by Janice Jackson



Ray Troll and Nathan Jackson display their art, soon to be on Salmon Walk directional posts.  
Photo: Dorica Jackson

# GRANTS

- Museums Alaska provided Alaska Art funds to purchase Janice Jackson’s “Killerwhale Spirit” Button Robe Collar. Janice was gifted the Killerwhale design from her brother-in-law, master carver Norman Jackson. The Killer Whale is significant to Janice because it reflects her family’s clan history, being of the Killer Whale Clan (Dakl’aweidí) from Klukwan. Janice credits a recent class she taught and her family for inspiration behind creating the collar, “While teaching Beaded Hide Collars at the Totem Heritage Center this past spring, my students inspired me with their creativity so much that I made this collar.”
- Museums Alaska’s Collections Management Fund granted \$8,302 for our final LED light upgrade at the Totem Heritage Center. The LEDs are energy-efficient and a huge time saver - so many fewer trips up a ladder!

# OTHER COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- **Ketchikan Salmon Walk**  
Corvus Design is in the final stages of developing Salmon Walk interpretative panels that will highlight the science, history and culture inspired by salmon. The walk will start at the Tongass Historical Museum, head upstream to the Totem Heritage Center, out to the ocean at Thomas Basin and return home through Creek Street. Thanks to the generosity of the Royal Caribbean Group, the Salmon Walk will be open this summer!
- **Ketchikan Historic Commission**  
Thank you to the many community members who offered feedback on Ketchikan’s historic preservation needs! True North Sustainable Development Solutions rolled your thoughts into a comprehensive document that offers concrete steps towards a historic preservation plan. Check it out at [www.KetchikanMuseums.org](http://www.KetchikanMuseums.org). Look for the “About” tab and click on Historic Commission. Interested in learning more? The Commission meets monthly!

## 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*  
Christine Mander, *Program Assistant*  
Teresa DeWitt, *Museum Attendant*

### Exhibits:

Ryan McHale, *Curator of Exhibits*

## 2022 Museum Advisory Board:

Gloria Burns, *Totem Heritage Center*  
Christian Dalton  
Janalee Gage, *City Council*  
Teri Hoyt  
Chet Hugo, *Vice Chair*  
Alex Kramarczuk  
Laurie Pool, *Secretary*  
Jeanne Sande  
Carrie Starkey-Landis  
Austin Otos, *Borough Assembly*  
Michele Zerbetz Scott, *Board Chair*

## 2022 Totem Heritage Center Advisory Committee:

Gloria Burns  
Kevin Clevenger  
Ken Decker  
Tim Flanery  
Nathan Jackson  
Richard Jackson