



Photograph courtesy of Chilkat Valley News.

The Beat Goes On

Words: Nancy Nash, Tune: Sonny Bono

The Sheldon Museum Annual Report

The beat goes on, our museum song.
Join us and our voices will be strong.
 La da da da di,
 La da da da da.

1. Mu-se-ums were once a place of rest.
 Old displays in cases seemed the best.
But puppets came to teach a thing or two;
 Turns out Haines is full of them – who knew?

CHORUS

2. Then Science Camp brought kids, who made some noise.
 They came to learn and added to our joys.
Our indoor fish camp saw a lot of play;
 Tourists couldn't pull their little ones away.

CHORUS

3. Talked about some funds we'd like to earn.
 Totem poles rise up at ev'ry turn.
We marked a path to each and told their tale;
 A sunny day saw many on the trail.

The beat goes on, but we'll soon be done.
Join us and our voices will be strong,
 La da da da di,
 La da da da da. [fade out]

Performed by Sheldon Museum staff at the Museums Alaska Meeting in Seward, October 2014.

Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center

A Big Part of a Small Town

2014 Annual Report

Our Mission

The Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center, an educational institution of the Haines Borough, is committed to collecting, preserving and interpreting the history, art and unique blending of diverse cultures within the Chilkat Valley region.

The Sheldon Museum's presentation of artifacts, clan trust property, art and memorabilia enhances quality of life for area residents and visitors; informs researchers and historians; inspires artists and creative writers; and encourages community pride through permanent, temporary, and traveling exhibits, and through a variety of outreach programs for schools and the public.

Supporting our Community

We are committed to being part of and improving the quality of life for Haines residents. Our presence improves our town with a depth and breadth of activities and opportunities for all residents, no matter their age or focus. Of our 12,000 annual visitors, 7,000 of them were from Haines.

Supporting Elders and Disabled Residents: We provided meaningful volunteer work and social opportunities to elders and disabled residents, who help staff the museum and guide out-of-town visitors. 102 volunteers gave over 3,100 hours of time to the museum in the past year.

Supporting Working Families: 13 museum camps for school-age children occurred during school breaks. At a spring museology camp, Tracy Wirak's ten summer science camps, and two winter holiday camps children learned collections classification, built solar lanterns, made 3-D relief maps of our peninsula, created artwork from collected plant materials, and made rock mosaics. Day-long camps allow parents to work without worrying about the safety and activities of their children while simultaneously knowing they are engaged in meaningful programming.

"I enjoy the social interaction. The variety of people we get here is just awesome. I've talked to people from Australia, China, Japan ... all over the world "

- Art Woodard



Children create art during summer camp at the museum. *Photograph courtesy of Tracy Wirak.*

Family Days at the museum offer activities for all ages, helping build family bonds and shared memories. Saturday Family Days included Puppet Day, Apple Day, The Doll Fair and the Christmas Open House.

Supporting Young Families: A new preschool and early elementary educational area's interactive exhibits changed every 2-3 months. A *Fish Camp* made way for *Preparing for Winter*, and a *Tlingit Winter Clan House*. Preschool children used displays imagined and created by Julie Folta, Diane Sly and the Children's Reading Foundation Board. Play incorporated a smokehouse with cardboard salmon, a bonfire with fabric hotdogs and marshmallows, berries and apples to pick and make into small pies in a play oven, and a small clan house filled with child-sized regalia, rattles and drums. We knew the area was a success when the first child to play in it refused to leave when his parents were ready to go.



Clams, seaweed, and fish ready to gather in Fish Camp.

Supporting Community Health: Our popular Friday morning Walk and Talks, 15 held from January to May, attracted 235 participants, who walked to Pyramid Island, Mount Ripinsky, Lily Lake, Chilkoot River Estuary and Rutzebeck Lake. On July 5th we hosted the Mount Ripinsky hike/run, a popular annual outdoor activity. In August we held the first Totem Trot, a 5k run/walk fundraiser for the museum. This will, hopefully, grow over the years and become an attraction to runners outside Haines, helping the local economy. We are planning ski tours of downtown for the winter months. All of these activities are enjoyed by a wide spectrum of ages and abilities.



Photograph courtesy of Chikat Valley News.

Supporting Life Long Learning: In the early part of the year, the Chilkat Valley Study and Discussion Group spent Friday evenings discussing three books about the history of our region. Another group of adults met weekly to learn Tlingit from our staff teacher, Elsie Spud. Adult learning opportunities are critical in a small, isolated community. In addition to the longer classes, in 2014 we offered 113 evening and weekend lectures and workshops to the community – a little more than two per week. 2,650 people attended our free evening and weekend programs. These included a lecture by Byrne Power on the history of puppetry in Europe and Haines; Jean Meaux's readings from her book, "In Pursuit of Alaska"; and a sketching class by Alexandra Feit. In early May, The Fortnight of Learning provided two weeks of intensive tours and lectures broadly covering the geography, botany, culture and history of our area.

"I am reveling in the continuing education the Museum provides. Tell me anything about Haines: the history of the area, the wildlife, the lifestyle, anything. I'm a kitten lapping up cream."

-Dena Selby

Supporting our Schools: Museums provide informal learning driven by curiosity, discovery, free exploration and the sharing of experiences with companions. The Sheldon Museum is one of three educational institutions in our community, part of an educational triangle that includes the library and the school. In 2014, 700 students visited the museum independently or as part of a class tour. Each elementary and preschool class came at least twice: once for the spring exhibit on puppets, *Strung Up and Reconfigured*, and once for the fall *Apple Activities*. Our Education Coordinator visited each preschool monthly during the first half of the year. Preparing for winter's exhibits, we sent curricula ideas to the Haines School. Recently high school students from Whitehorse completed a scavenger hunt on Haines history during a day at the museum. A series of elementary level books on Haines History is planned for our future support of the region's school children.

Supporting Community Marketing: The Sheldon Museum creates and manages the community museum pass, which features each of our three museums: The American Bald Eagle Foundation, the Hammer Museum and the Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center. This year we sold 1,399 passes, 425 more than last year, helping increase visitation at all of our museums. 12,000 people visited us in 2014. Jim Heaton and Jeff Klanott continued carving a totem pole outside our museum this summer. The pole has been a big draw for tourists.

Community marketing included ads in the Juneau, Skagway and Whitehorse newspapers for our exhibits and the Totem Trot; brochures at ferry docks in other communities; and a day spent filming a segment for the television show *Mysteries at the Museum*, which will air next fall. Shows such as this, featuring Haines on the Travel Channel, result in increased tourism.

The museum's historic photographs are popular business enhancements. This year photographs were provided to Fort Seward businesses. We are closely involved with the Fort Seward sign projects, one by Annette Smith and the Port Chilkoot Corporation and one by the Arts Confluence. Both projects are using our historic images and our design software to complete their projects.



Haines School's fourth grade visited *Strung Up and Reconfigured: Puppetry in Haines and Beyond* in March.



"I greatly appreciate the many and varied workshops, presentations and other activities the museum sponsors for various age groups in our community. It is indeed a hub of culture for us here in Haines."
-Heidi Robichaud

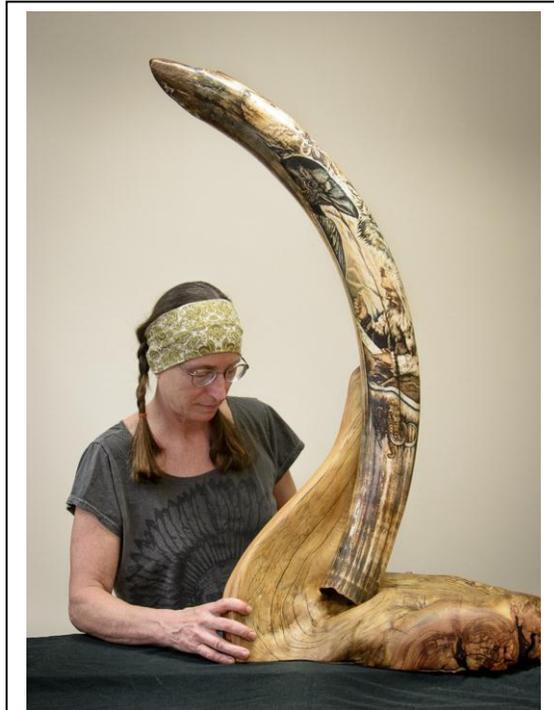
Supporting Chilkat Valley Artists: In 2014 we raised \$35,000 to purchase Haines’ artists’ work for our collection – money that goes back into our local economy. Our gift shop also sells artwork by Haines artists, providing another venue for our community’s artists to earn a living.

Through our competitive Six Week Spotlight Program, we provide a venue for artists to display and sell their work. For some, this is the first time they have exhibited in a museum. The professional development resulting from designing an exhibition is invaluable. Having artwork in a museum collection or on exhibit is a resume builder for an artist. Three artists held Six-Week Spotlight shows in the museum this year. In eight years we have spotlighted 35 local artists.

Our totem pole carving project is a final way we support our community’s artists. We encourage a Master/Apprentice approach, so that skills are transferred from one generation of artisans to the next.

Supporting the Clans: The Sheldon Museum stores material for local Tlingit clans, including regalia, feast dishes, and other A’at Oow. 1/24th, or 4%, of our climate-controlled artifact storage area holds precious items for the Sockeye, Wolf, and other clans in the area. Some clan material is on display in our gallery. Based on our annual expenses, the cost of holding this material is about \$1,000 per year. We do not charge rent. Part of our support for the community is in storing this material so that it is not lost to future generations. The extreme importance of this cultural material, much of it irreplaceable, and the risk it may be in when stored in houses without fire suppression or security alarms, make this a worthwhile way we can benefit our community.

Supporting Other Organizations: Grant, educational, and even commercial projects by other organizations rely heavily on Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center resources. From July to September we answered 40 reference requests, many of them requiring many days of work. These included researchers preparing for a local cannery class, Dan Henry’s history workshops on Fort Seward and the Tlingit; a Canadian professor researching the Whale House trial; and a T.V. film crew from Gold Rush Alaska researching the history of the Schnabel family and the town at the time John Schnabel arrived in Haines. They used our historic photograph collections, film archives and historic primary documents. Our collection was also used by the Haines Public Library staff looking for information on Tlingit dance; Alaska Department of Fish and Game



Photograph courtesy of Heidi Robichaud.

“I am happy to have a major work of mine be on permanent display in our local museum. This is a benefit to me in many ways, including having a large piece locally available to show family, friends and potential collectors.”

– Heidi Robichaud

seeking Tlingit names of local sloughs and streams; and the Chilkat Valley News seeking information on historic firefighting equipment. In total, there were 87 reference requests in 2014, including 5 TV shows, averaging 4 hours per request for a total of 348 hours of staff time.

Supporting our Professionalism and Quality: The Sheldon Museum is rising to the challenge of finding more ways to be relevant to the Haines community. To help us, we applied for, and were one of two Alaska museums accepted into *New Pathways-Alaska*, a Rasmuson Foundation program designed to improve staff and board capabilities to address complex challenges. Through our training, we are learning how to identify complex challenges and determine what underlying assumptions we have that might keep us from finding successful solutions. This winter we will begin testing small programs with funding from the Rasmuson Foundation.

Three staff attended Museums Alaska in Seward, meeting with funders, discussing building expansion projects, and learning visitor surveying techniques. The museum’s director attended the American Association for State and Local History annual meeting, where she confirmed Haines as the host for a workshop in May 2015. In November and December, the board and staff participated in an online *Museum Ethics* course.



The museum is one of ten Alaska arts groups participating in the Rasmuson Foundation’s *New Pathways-Alaska* program. Photograph courtesy of Emc Arts.



We Keep the Community’s Stories

This summer Tlingit elder Joe Hotch sat down with Dan Henry for an oral history, using our digital video recorder. Collecting and keeping stories is part of our mission. We try to capture stories before they are lost forever. We also record public gatherings, evening lectures, and other places where stories are exchanged. Everyone loves a good story.

2014 Exhibits

Strung Up and Reconfigured: Puppetry in Haines and Beyond (Feb. 20-March 30, 2014)

Jeff Brown's Masterpieces of Merriment
(Apr. 18-May 24, 2014)

John Hagen - Chilkat Beach in Monochrome: Landscape Studies in Black & White (May 30 - July 12, 2014)

Ma'or Cohen: Breathing Room (July 18 – Aug. 30, 2014)

Children's Exhibit: Fish Camp (July – September, 2014)

Alexandra Feit Paintings (Sept. 5 – Oct. 18, 2014)

Children's Exhibit: Preparing for Winter (Sept.-Nov. 2014)

Inside Out: Dollhouses and Historic Interiors
(October 25, 2014 – January 3, 2015)

A Culture of Eagles (October, 2014 –January, 2015)

Children's Exhibit: Winter Clan House
(Nov. 2014- March 2015)

Chilkat Christmas in the Archives (Dec. 2014-Jan. 2015)



John Hagen introduces his photographs.



Jeff Brown's Masterpieces of Merriment had visitors giggling and laughing while walking through the gallery.



Building an Outstanding Collection of Local Art and History Items

613 items were accessioned into the collection in 2014. These included new artworks purchased through the Rasmuson Art Acquisitions fund, such as this oil painting portrait of Charlie Jimmie, Sr., "Tlingit Elder Speaks," by Donna Cattoti. Other collection items included a movie clapper from *White Fang* and the blouse of well-known madam, Lou LaMoore.

The Financials

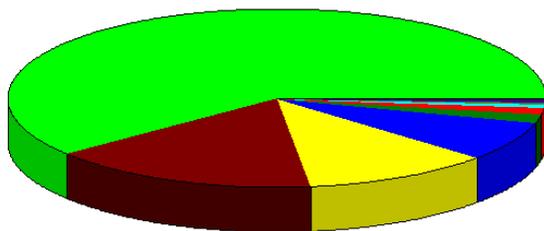
The Haines Borough is an important part of our funding. All of our staffing is paid for by the Borough. This year we are leveraging those funds to bring in more money for programming, exhibitions and art acquisition. It is still nearly impossible to raise money for regular staff salaries and benefits from grant sources. However, we can raise money for special project staff, if overseen by our regular staff. Thus, we continue to be grateful for the Borough's support. By having staff, we are able to write the grants and provide the programs that bring more activities for the community.



The Totem Trot was a fun family activity that raised \$5,000 for the museum.

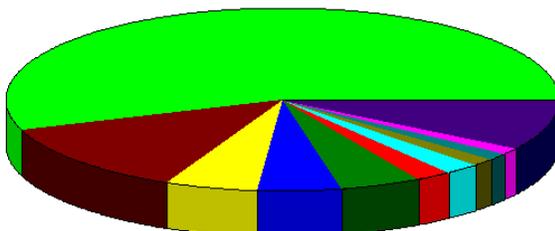
Photograph courtesy of Sara Chapell.

Income Summary
January through December 2014



Haines Borough Appropriation	60.90%
Grants	16.25
Sales, Store	11.34
Admissions	7.26
Fundraising Income	1.61
Donations	1.35
In-Kind Donations Received	0.60
Copies/Reproductions	0.34
Miscellaneous Income	0.31
Special Events	0.02
Interest	0.02
Total	\$317,991.88

Expense Summary
January through December 2014



Personnel Costs	56.36%
Grant Expenses	12.76
Store Purchases	5.57
Insurance	5.06
Utilities	4.84
Maintenance	2.22
Depreciation Expense	2.16
Totem Pole Carving	1.42
Telephone, Fax, email	1.35
Equipment Purchase	\$-4,060.01
Other	8.27
Sub-Total	\$325,894.41

2014 Grants Received

Museums Alaska

Staff Travel to Seward Convention	\$ 941.40
Collections Management Fund	\$ 7,940.24
Art Acquisition Initiative Awards (2)	\$35,000.00
Rasmuson Foundation: New Pathways-Alaska	\$ 2,088.00
Margaret Frans Brady Fund (Chilkat Valley Study & Discussion Group)	\$ 755.88
Alaska State Council on the Arts: Harper Arts Touring Fund Grant	\$ 2,070.00
National Endowment for the Humanities – Preservation Assistance Grant	\$ 6,000.00
Alaska State Museum: Grants-in-Aid (Intern funding summer 2015)	\$ 4,400.00
TOTAL	\$54,795.52

Looking Ahead

We are moving into an exciting year of community programming focused on our exhibits, especially the big summer show, *Key Ingredients*, which is about food and the culture of food. Other activities for this year, include: starting a touring exhibits program (we will be touring *Snowflakes: Nature's Dazzling Design* to the Dorothy G. Page Museum in Wasilla); offering our first professional training program for museum staff around the state by hosting the American Association for State and Local History's *Collections Management Workshop*; developing a community marketing app with students from the Haines Middle School; completing phase 1 of the New Pathways-Alaska Program; and working with architects and engineers to develop a plan for expanding and improving the museum facility, especially its accessibility and, as a result, its ability to offer more to the community.

2015 Facility Upgrade Plans with MRV Architects:

Jan. 22-23: Stakeholders meeting and public workshop

Feb. 10: Webinar

Feb. 19-20: Present concepts in Public meeting

March 19-20: Final concepts in Public meeting

Ernie Conrad, environmental engineer: April 2015

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon May 23, 2015

Totem Trot, August 15, 2015

Apple Activities, September 2015

Doll Fair, October 10, 2015

Christmas Open House, December 12, 2015

A Call For Volunteers and Collections

We can always use help! We are looking for two talented people to join our Board of Trustees. There are opportunities for volunteers who would like to help with collections research, collections upgrades, the museum gift shop, exhibits and programming as well as greeting visitors. Please be sure to call us at 766-2366.

We are always interested in photographs, documents and objects that tell the story of Haines. There are gaps in our historical collections that need to be filled. These include objects that tell the logging, fishing, civic and sports stories of the community.

“The Haines Borough has two premier cultural institutions, Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center and Haines Public Library. Together they enrich the lives of residents and visitors with distinctive and complimentary youth and adult programming. As a repository of thousands of local historical artifacts, maps, letters and other documents the Museum is a sought after resource for scholars and descendants of former residents who want to learn about and connect with the past. While we can replace books, Museum treasures are one-of-a-kind and irreplaceable.”

-Carol Tuyenman



2015 Exhibits (dates may change)

Inside Out: Dollhouses and Historic Interiors Ends January 6, 2015

Snowflakes: Nature's Dazzling Design January 23 to March 14, 2015



Key Ingredients: America and Haines by Food
April 3 to October 3, 2015

Six-Week Spotlight Show (Artist to be determined)
March 20 to May 2, 2015

Haines School Student Art Show May 8 to June 13, 2015

Portraits: People in Paint and other Media June 19 to July 25, 2015

Six-Week Spotlight Show (Artist to be determined) July 31 to September 12, 2015

Six-Week Spotlight Show (Artist to be determined) September 18 to October 30, 2015

Tlingit Cultural Patrimony (To be confirmed) November 6 to December 12, 2015

Harry Potter's World:

Renaissance Science, Magic and Medicine
December 18, 2015 to January 30, 2016



Staff and Community Training Sessions

New Pathways Virtual Workshops:

Jan. 6, Jan. 20, 2015

Mar. 3, Mar. 24, Apr. 14, 2015

New Pathways Anchorage Workshops:

February 26, 2015 and May 7, 2015

New Pathways Coaching Sessions in Haines:

January 28, 2015 and May 4, 2015

Fortnight of Learning: April 27-May 9, 2015

AASLH Collections Management Workshop

May 14-15, 2015

Oil-Painting Portrait Demonstration by Studio

Incaminati instructor Lea Wight, June 16, 2015



Thanks

Haines is a special community full of creative individuals. We are proud to be the organization that stores the community's stories and history for future generations. We couldn't do our work without the support of many people and organizations, first and foremost being the Haines Borough.

A Special Thank You to Our Donors:

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Phyllis Allison
Aurora Alten-Huber
Brandt Alten-Huber
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Art Woodard
Sandy Wratten
Michelle Zeiger
Ally Zeiger

"I have been here since the museum was on trestle tables in the rooms above Howser's grocery store. I first started volunteering in 1976. This was the first cultural center, other than the Chilkat Center, that the town had. It is a good base, a good foundation for this town. It provides us with stability. When people want to look back to anything, they have to come to the museum. We are the community's archives."

-Joan Snyder

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Lorrie Dudzick
John Hagen
Jim Heaton
Jan Hill
Ginger Jewell
Michael Marks
Jim Shook
Dave Pahl
Anastasia Wiley

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Stephanie Scott
Dena Selby



Children learn by doing and interacting. This year we incorporated a tactile element to each of our exhibits. These included a shadow puppet screen in *Strung Up and Reconfigured: Puppetry from Haines and Beyond*, a magnetic pun board in *Jeff Brown's Masterpieces of Merriment*, and a doll house at floor level in *Inside Out: Dollhouses and Historic Interiors*. Dress up and pretend play are integral to the lower level children's exhibits, such as this scene from the *Winter Clan House* exhibit.

Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center's Children's Area



SHELDON MUSEUM & *Cultural Center*

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