

Annual Report FY2025

REPORTING PERIOD: JULY 1, 2024—JUNE 30, 2025



Director's Report



Reflecting back on the last year, my thoughts first turn to the enormous efforts of our museum team: they are the backbone of this institution. When visitors experience the museum, it is this dedicated cohort of individuals who make it all possible, mostly outside of

the public eye. Here are the people who make us tick:

Let me start with our **Visitor Services** team, who cheerfully greet visitors, operate the Museum Store, and coordinate many events. In FY25 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025), they welcomed 95,000 visitors to the museum—our greatest attendance number in decades. Our visitors come to see and experience our public galleries, made possible by our **Exhibits, Design, and Digital Media** staff. To name but a few of their accomplishments, they installed newly acquired artwork to the Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery, upgraded several other museum exhibits, and in partnership with the Alaska Satellite Facility designed, built, and installed *Observing Our Dynamic Planet* in the Special Exhibits gallery. We also share the museum's collections, research, and galleries with thousands of school children and families through the hard work of our **Education and Public Programs** staff. They run our successful traveling education kits program, provide multiple family events every month, and oversee the teacher and docent-guided field trips. And of course, my thanks to those **volunteer docents** for their steadfast work and enthusiasm.

UAMN is first and foremost a research unit based around our world-class collections of natural and cultural history holdings, currently numbering greater than 2.5 million objects. The greatest number of employees in the building work in **Research and Collections** departments (think curators, collection managers, and lab technicians) to ensure that these irreplaceable archives of our shared history remain well curated and available for research, education, and exhibition. The museum is also a training facility for the next generation of museum professionals, particularly UAF **undergraduate and graduate students**. I tip my hat to these students who collect, process, study, and serve a multitude of roles in our 10 different collections departments.

I also work closely with a team of **Administration** professionals who perform essential daily tasks in areas such as finance, operations, development, and HR, without whom the museum could not function. Finally, I want to recognize our **UAMN Friends** organization and the **Museum Advisory Council** who volunteer their valuable time to support the paid staff and further our mission.

Our staff are the legs on which the museum stands and to them all I personally extend my heartfelt thanks.

Patrick Druckenmiller, Ph.D.
UAMN Director

Photo Above: *Observing Our Dynamic Planet* in the Special Exhibits Gallery. PHOTO BY ROGER TOPP. **Front Cover:** Space Camp participants, including outreach specialist Emily Koehler-Platten (back left), pose outside the museum in June 2025. PHOTO BY NAN WERDIN-PFISTERER.

Mission, Vision, and Values

UAMN Mission

UAMN illuminates the natural history and cultural heritage of Alaska and the North through collections, research, education, and partnerships, and by creating a singular museum experience that honors diverse knowledge and respect for the land and its peoples.

UAMN Vision

UAMN is an essential contributor to the well-being of the local and global community, an engaging gathering space, and a recognized resource and leader among circumpolar museums.

UAMN Core Values

Preserving our shared cultural and natural history

We are committed to preserving collections in perpetuity to address present and future needs.

Partnership

Collaboration with Indigenous, academic, agency, and other communities is central to our efforts.

Integrity

We foster public trust through openness and ethical approaches to our research, education, and partnerships.

Respect and inclusivity

We are stronger when we honor diversity and are committed to making the museum economically, physically, culturally, and intellectually accessible to everyone.

Engagement

We encourage curiosity, creativity, and lifelong learning through teaching, exhibitions, and programming.

Photo Top Right: Guests draw a marmot under the guidance of artist and UAF instructor Jamie Smith (right). PHOTO BY EMILY KOEHLER-PLATTEN. **Photo 2:** UAMN research archaeologist Haley McCaig conducts a survey near Tukuto Lake. UAMN PHOTO. **Photo 3:** Children at one of two Space Camp sessions held in 2025. PHOTO BY ELISABETH PADILLA. **Photo 4:** UAMN Mammalogists at Moose Family Day in March 2025. PHOTO BY EMILY KOEHLER-PLATTEN.



Research and Collections



UAMN archaeology excavation at the Hollembaek site near Delta Junction, Alaska.
PHOTO BY HALEY MCCAIG.

Collections

The collections are organized into 10 disciplines (archaeology, birds, documentary film, earth sciences, ethnology & history, fine arts, fishes/marine invertebrates, insects, mammals, and plants) and serve as a valuable resource for research on climate change, genetics, contaminants, and other issues facing Alaska and the circumpolar North. The museum is also the premier repository for artifacts and specimens collected on public lands in Alaska and a leader in northern natural and cultural history research.



Holdings

2.56
MILLION*

Total specimens and
objects in collection

1.76
MILLION

Total cataloged/
databased entries

* estimated; backlog
cataloging of older
holdings is ongoing



Growth

19,382

New catalog/database entries



Pacific Herring from the Bering Sea.
PHOTO BY SYDNEY ALMGREN.



Collections Use

272

Visitors to collections
(professional and student)

1,269

Public contacts

38

Publications and
technical reports

166

Loans



Digital Data Use MILLIONS

of data records accessed
(downloads and queries) through
our online database, Arctos.
<https://arctos.database.museum/>

Education & Public Programs

Education & Public Programs offers a wide array of activities and resources for teachers, students, families, community members, and visitors of all ages and backgrounds. We offer opportunities to learn from and be inspired by diverse museum collections and related research. Through collaboration with UAF departments and community members, we are proud to connect the public with Alaska's science, arts, history, and cultures.



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

8,842 +
Attendees

- 16** Family Programs
- 17** Offsite Events
- 5** Family Days
- 5** Annual Events
 - 907 Day • Educators' Night
 - Museum Halloween
 - Homeschool Day • Open House
- 3** Teen Workshops
- 2** Space Camp Sessions
- 1** Spring Break Science Week
- 3** Exhibit Receptions
- 2** Film Screenings
- 3** Visiting Writer Events



EDUCATION KITS

6,103
Students served

- 151** Classroom Kit Loans
to 13 Alaska communities
- 29** Homeschool Kit Loans
to 6 Alaska communities

Aurora themed activity boxes were created and distributed to **40 afterschool sites** throughout Alaska in partnership with Alaska Afterschool Network. Supported by NASA HEAT.



FIELD TRIPS

3,912
Students

- 108** Directed Discovery
Docent-guided field trips
- 49** Exhibit Exploration
Teacher-guided field trips

Photo Left: A space camp attendee makes a collage of the Sun. PHOTO BY ELISABETH PADILLA. **Above:** Outreach Specialist Nan Werdin-Pfisterer with kids at Space Camp in June 2025. PHOTO BY EMILY KOEHLER-PLATTEN.



VOLUNTEER HOURS

1,989
Volunteer hours



Volunteers

DOCENTS

Charley Basham	Mary Meier
Lynn Basham	Arlie Nethken
Janet Brower	Dori Olsen
Bekah Chatterley	Will Schendel
Jody Demientieff	Richard Stolzberg
Tim Doran	Betsy Sturm
Florence Doyle	Leslie Swenson
Mary Ann Fathauer	Janet Taylor
Judy Ferri	Andrea Trinchet
Carolyn Foelsch	Stephanie Uzzell
Carolyn Hanneman	Avalon Wappet
Sandy Lachman	Nicole Webster
Helyn Lefgren	Addie Willsrud
Laurie Leonard	

DOCENT LONGEVITY AWARDS

Judy Ferri, *Spruce Award*, 10 years
Helyn Lefgren, *Spruce Award*, 10 years
Tim Doran, *Birch Award*, 8 years
Mary Ann Fathauer, *Birch Award*, 8 years
Richard Stolzberg, *Willow Award*, 5 years
Bekah Chatterley, *Fireweed Award*, 3 years

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Kelsey Aho	Marissa Kahlow
Charley Basham	Vicki Koehler
Mary Ann Fathauer	Helyn Lefgren
Judy Ferri	Arlie Nethken
Carolyn Hanneman	Betsy Sturm
Kaiden Hopkins	Addie Willsrud

Exhibits, Design & Digital Media

July 2024

The museum's Curtiss JN-4D "Jenny" at the Fairbanks Airport received a new interpretive panel highlighting the plane's history of flight and restoration.



UAMN PHOTO.

August 2024

A timelapse video of Bus 142's conservation was uploaded to YouTube and has quickly become one of the more popular UAMN clips on the site.



PHOTO BY ROGER TOPP.

Several newly acquired artworks were installed in the Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery as part of a series of new collections acquisitions and community-developed art shows.



PHOTO BY DELLA HALL.

September 2024

The 2nd season of *The More You Look* podcast and KUAC FM show began



episodes featuring our paleontologists, docents, entomologists, and front desk attendants.



PHOTO BY PAT DRUCKENMILLER.

Changing Alaska, Changing Collections' 3rd exhibit of a newly acquired Kathleen Carlo Mask was opened in the Gallery of Alaska.

Nathan Jackson's totem pole, *Everyone's Grandfather* was brought inside for future exhibition within the building.



PHOTO BY MAYA SALGANEK.

November 2024

The Northwoods Book Arts Guild *The Set Book Project* opened in the Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery.



PHOTO BY ROGER TOPP.

May 2025

In partnership with the Alaska Satellite Facility, *Observing Our Dynamic Planet* opened in the Special Exhibits Gallery.



PHOTO BY ROGER TOPP.

June 2025

Changing Alaska, Changing Collections' 4th exhibit, *Mercury Dynamics* (an archaeological study in the Aleutian Islands) was opened in the Gallery of Alaska.



PHOTO BY TAMARA MARTZ.

Threshold 32° Fahrenheit, a collaborative art and science exhibit between Klara Maisch, Debbie Moderow, and Rebecca Hewitt opened in the Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery.



PHOTO BY ERIC ENGMAN.

Visitor Services | Donors

VISITOR SERVICES



Museum Visitation

95,116

Total visitors



Memberships

184

Returning and first-time members

Member Visits

926



UA Affiliated Visits

(Free admission)

2,065 Students

400 Staff/Faculty

560 Students on
UAF class visits

137 UA Alumni



Military Affiliated Visits

3,930 Military

1,407 Military Fairbanks
City Tour



Tour Groups

15,610

Tour group visitors

72

Tour companies



Special Events

11

DONORS

With deep gratitude, we acknowledge our most generous donors during the 2025 fiscal year.

\$10,000+

Alaska Miners Association	Trust
DeLois and Roger Burggraf	Sarah and Cary Keller
Carol and Terence Choy	Kinross Alaska
Davis Constructors & Engineers, Inc	Northern Star
Nancy L. Eliason	Resources – Pogo Mine
Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation	Tom Poliquin
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Imagine Exhibitions	George and Stephanie Suddock Foundation
Harold F. John Revocable Living	TOTE
	Michael R. Werner
	Dorli McWayne and Kesler Woodward

\$2,500 - \$9,999

Advance Printing	City of Fairbanks
Alaska 529	Discretionary Fund
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\$1000 – \$2499

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Tomas Dundzila
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MUSEUM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Sabrina Binkley
Tania Clucas
Mike Cook
Richard Glenn

Ron Inouye
Sarah Keller
Mike Powers
Kesler Woodward

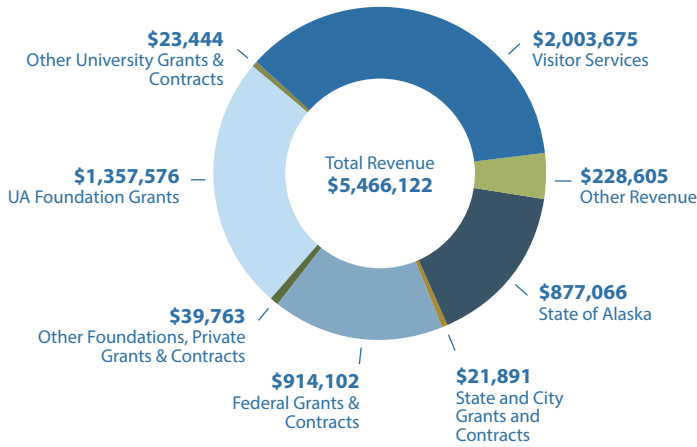
FRIENDS OF UA MUSEUM

Janet and Charles Brower
Mary Binkley
DeLois and Roger Burggraf
Tim Doran
Mary Ann Fathauer
Richard Glenn

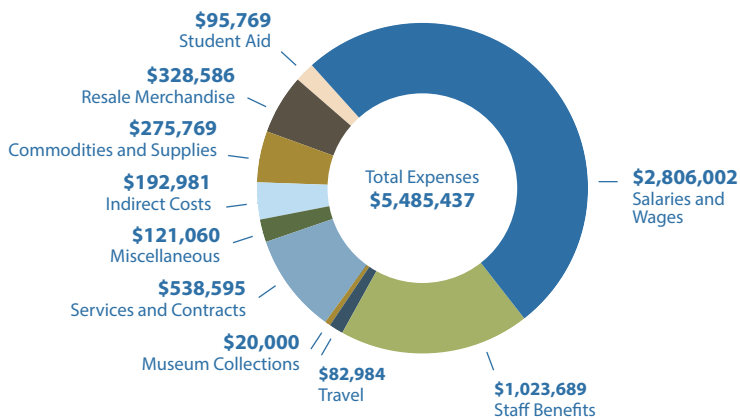
Don Gray
Ronald Inouye
Vera Lincoln
Dave Norton
Dori Olsen
Betsy Sturm
Wendy Ward
Linda Witt

Financials | Museum Staff

REVENUE



EXPENSES



The UA Museum of the North is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

The University of Alaska (<http://www.alaska.edu/alaska>) is an equal opportunity/equal access employer and educational institution. This University is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination (<http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination>) against individuals on the basis of any legally protected status.

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FY25 MUSEUM STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Patrick Druckenmiller
MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Emilie Nelson
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS MANAGER

Barbara Ellanna
FISCAL PROFESSIONAL

Kevin May
HEAD OF OPERATIONS

DEVELOPMENT

Aelin Allegood
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Jennifer Arseneau
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Elisabeth Padilla
OUTREACH SPECIALIST & FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR

Emily Koehler-Platten
OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Nan Werdin-Pfisterer
OUTREACH SPECIALIST

EXHIBITS, DESIGN, & DIGITAL MEDIA

Roger Topp
DIRECTOR OF EXHIBITS, DESIGN, & DIGITAL MEDIA

Tamara Martz
LEAD DESIGNER

Jonah Wright
CHIEF PREPARATOR

VISITOR SERVICES

Christina Parks
DIRECTOR OF VISITOR SERVICES

Marcus Avugiak
VISITOR SERVICES MANAGER

Carson Frank
STORE MANAGER

ALASKA CENTER FOR DOCUMENTARY FILM

Leonard Kamerling
CURATOR EMERITUS

ARCHAEOLOGY

Josh Reuther
CURATOR

Scott Shirar
COLLECTION MANAGER

Audra Darcy
RESEARCH ARCHAEOLOGIST

Haley McCaig
RESEARCH ARCHAEOLOGIST

EARTH SCIENCES

Patrick Druckenmiller
CURATOR

ENTOMOLOGY

Derek Sikes
CURATOR

Jessica Rykken
COLLECTION MANAGER

ETHNOLOGY & HISTORY

Angela Linn
SENIOR COLLECTIONS MANAGER

FINE ARTS

Della Hall
COLLECTION MANAGER

GENOMIC RESOURCES

Mallory Gulbranson
COLLECTION MANAGER

HERBARIUM

Stefanie Ickert-Bond
CURATOR

Cam Webb
BOTANIST AND BIODIVERSITY INFORMATICS

Carolyn Parker
RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL

FISHES AND MARINE INVERTEBRATES

J. Andrés López
CURATOR

MAMMALOLOGY

Link Olson
CURATOR

Aren Gunderson
COLLECTION MANAGER

Marissa Breslin
MUSEUM RESEARCH SPECIALIST

ORNITHOLOGY

Kevin Winker
CURATOR

Jack Withrow
COLLECTION MANAGER

ADDITIONAL 2025 UAMN EMPLOYEES

22 TEMPORARY STAFF MEMBERS

20 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

7 GRADUATE STUDENTS