

Museums Alaska 2010 Session Abstracts

Past Perfect Q&A: Getting Help with Problems

Presenters:

Mary Pat Wyatt

Ingrid Martis, Museum of the Aleutians

Karen Mizner, Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center

Past Perfect is one of the most popular and affordable museum software packages available. With each new release, new features are added to make collections data more manageable. However, this also means keeping yourself up-to-date with those changes. Come to this session to have your questions answered and find out from some of the state's experts how to maximize your use of this museum collections management software.

The Nature of Visioning and Strategic Planning

Presenter:

Bob Banghart, Alaska State Museum

Preservation Ethics and Industrial History Collections

Moderator: Scott Carrlee or Ellen Carrlee, Alaska State Museum

Presenters:

Norm Lagasse, Alaska Aviation Museum

Deric Price, Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum

Building upon the provocative "Consumptive Use of Collections" session at the 2006 Museums Alaska conference in Juneau, this session will focus on the tension between using and preserving large industrial history artifacts such as airplanes and automobiles. Issues such as structural safety, authenticity of original surfaces, and maintaining moving parts in working condition will be discussed from perspectives representing a wide range of collection missions at different institutions.

Leadership Development

Moderator:

LaRue Barnes, Ilanka Cultural Center

Presenters:

TBA

A cultural leader has been tried and found effective, enduring *and* relevant. They have stories of moments of panic and moments of glory and of floating down the endless river of the necessary mundane. This session promises an interesting perspective as our own leaders discuss experiences from their own careers and what they feel the next generation of cultural leaders should know to be effective, endure and be relevant.

Exhibits and Communities: Bringing Community Voices into Exhibits

Moderator / Presenter:

Holly Cusack-McVeigh, Pratt Museum

Presenters:

Karen Evanoff, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Jerrie Clarke, Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center

Over the past several decades museums have witnessed a shift away from their role as keepers of antiquities to places of dialogue. Museums, large and small, are embracing the notion that community involvement is key to designing meaningful exhibitions. This session explores the many ways in which Alaskan Museums have incorporated diverse, community voices into their exhibit planning, design and fabrication. In essence, community members have become co-collaborators and co-designers in developing museum exhibits. This approach has led to new understandings and the ability to reach a broader audience.

Maintaining Public Relevance

Moderator:

Diane Fleeks, Fairbanks Community Museum / Tanana-Yukon Historical Society

Presenters:

LaRue Barnes, Ilanka Cultural Center

Carol Diebel, University of Alaska Museum of the North

Planning Collections Development: Loans and Donations

Presenter:

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Monica Shah, Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center

Planning for the growth of collections must be part of a collections policy. This session will introduce issues involved with developing a scope of collections, accepting donations or loans, and factors to consider when adding objects to the permanent collection, including the mandate to hold collections in trust for future generations.

Alaska Museums and Going Green: Sustainable Alaska Museum Practices

Moderator / Presenter:

Norm Lagasse, Alaska Aviation Museum

Presenter:

Scott Neel, Alaska Native Heritage Center

During these fiscally constrained times Alaska's non-profit museums need to remain creative in reducing operating expenses without adversely affecting the collections care and the visitor experience. This session will provide a detailed overview of the systematic approach used to lower a museum's energy consumption (both natural gas and electric) while incorporating emerging technologies that significantly improve a museum's collections care programs (non-UV lighting).

Paper Conservation

Presenter:

Seth Irwin, Paper Conservator

The state of Alaska has a rich history that time and time again is told through its' vast assortment of paper-based historical material. Until recently the condition and state of the paper collections of Alaska's museum and archives remained largely unexplored and undocumented. Throughout 2010, in conjunction with the Alaska State Museum, the paper collections of 10 Alaska Museums, Archives, and historical societies were examined and assessed. As a paper conservator, I spent a month with each museum assessing the collection for long term preservation, conducting training in several preservation techniques, and treating paper objects deemed 'high priority' by the institutions. This talk summarizes my time and experiences with the institutions involved in this 10-month project.

Introduction to the Standards in Excellence Program (StEPs)

Presenter:

Scott Carrlee, Alaska State Museum

Have you ever wondered whether you are meeting the museum standards for stewardship of collections? Or what your governing authority's role is in financial management, policy development and strategic planning? What are the performance indicators for when you are meeting the standards? The StEPs program answers these questions and many more. This session will provide an introduction to what is one of the most important development tools for the small museum. Several Alaskan museums participated in the pilot project to help develop StEPs. Now it is your turn to see what it is all about.

Q & A on Museum Matters

Presenter / Moderator:

Scott Carrlee, ASM

The Museum Q&A is always a lively discussion of various museum topics. To start off this year's session, Scott Carrlee, Curator of Museum Services at the Alaska State Museums will provide interesting statistics from the 2010 Alaska Museums Survey that over 60 museums participated in. After that there will be ample opportunity for peer to peer discussions. So bring your questions or just sit back and enjoy the conversation.

Making Your Museum Store Profitable

Moderator:

Angela Linn, University of Alaska Museum of the North

Presenters:

Daniel David, University of Alaska Museum of the North

Mary Babic, Ilanka Cultural Center

More than ever before, museum stores are occupying a larger footprint within the institution and providing a substantial proportion of annual income for organizations across the nation. From E-commerce to Brick-and-Mortar visitors, stores can support your mission with sellable merchandise visitors are looking for, all while promoting Alaskan artists and industries. Find out how your organization can develop a brand and appeal to both out of state visitors and locals alike. This informal panel will present products and answer your questions on how and why your museum store should be a major part of your operations.