

The Alaska Room at Loussac Library

Our goal: bring Alaska and Anchorage history to life, make it relevant to community members of all ages and backgrounds, and use collaborative learning and exploration to develop solutions to today's issues.

WHY

PROBLEM

The old Alaska Wing was hard to find and felt "off limits" to most people



A collection dominated by a white, mostly male pioneer perspective



SOLUTION

Create an easy-to-find, inviting location on 3rd floor of Loussac Library



Expand resources to reflect today's multi-cultural, Indigenous community



IMPACT

Relate Alaska history to today's issues & make it relevant for everyone

The Alaska Room reflects ALL our histories – and is a bridge to our future

WHAT

BUILD

a new glassed-in Alaska Room on 3rd floor. Refresh Ann Stevens Room & Galleria

EXPAND

resources to reflect our Indigenous and multi-cultural heritage

WELCOME

people to learn about Anchorage history and engage in civic dialogue & action

THE STORY

Originating in 1950 with the donation of pioneer banker Warren Cuddy's personal collection to display in the brand new Z.J. Loussac Library, the Alaska Collection tells the story of our history and provides insight into the people and events that shape Anchorage, Alaska, and the Arctic. Its treasures include:

- Every newspaper ever published in the state of Alaska
- Books and reports about major events in the state, including the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and events leading up to Statehood in 1959
- Dictionaries and materials written in languages spoken by the communities indigenous to Alaska
- Projects like Looking for America, which explored immigration, Indigenous cultures and American identity in Alaska through public art, storytelling, and dialogue
- Mind-opening events like Tundra Vision, ANCSA discussion series, and Tradition Tuesdays

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of libraries sharing information and creating connections during uncertain times. This project can be a path forward in our community's recovery, creating a space for our community to come together in dialog and build bridges for the future.

LIBRARY CORE VALUES:

COMMUNITY

ACCESS & EQUITY

LEARNING

Our vision: People of all backgrounds see themselves reflected in the Alaska Room, to know that Alaska’s history is not someone else’s past, but their own, as well as a place to reflect on the present, and shape the future.



PLANS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$1.56M

Kim Hays, President	Deborah Mole	1	\$500,000
Chris Vaughan, Vice President	Matt Moser	1	\$375,000
Sigrid Brudie, Secretary	Mary Rasmussen	1	\$200,000
Amanda Keates, Treasurer	Chelsea Ray Riekkola	2	\$75,000
Carrie Irwin Brown	Clare Ross	3	\$50,000
Susanne Fleek Green	Roe Sturgulewski	4	\$20,000
Jocasta Gee Olp	Ex-Officio:	4	\$10,000
Tabitha Karpow	Mary Jo Torgeson,	5	\$5,000
Kenrick Mock	Library Director	Many	<\$5,000

HOW

The campaign to build a new Alaska Room is led by the Anchorage Library Foundation, established in 1982 by Wilda Marston and library supporters Eric Wohlforth, Wilda Hudson, Arne Espy and Arliss Sturgulewski.

The Anchorage Library Foundation believes that free public libraries are essential to our community. The Foundation works to promote, fund and support the long-term vitality of the Anchorage Public Library.

Successful projects include:

- \$17M renovation of Loussac Library entrance
- \$200,000 creation of Teen Underground at Loussac Library
- New libraries in Girdwood, Chugiak-Eagle River and Mountain View
- Social Worker in the Library pilot project

ABOUT US

Contact

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