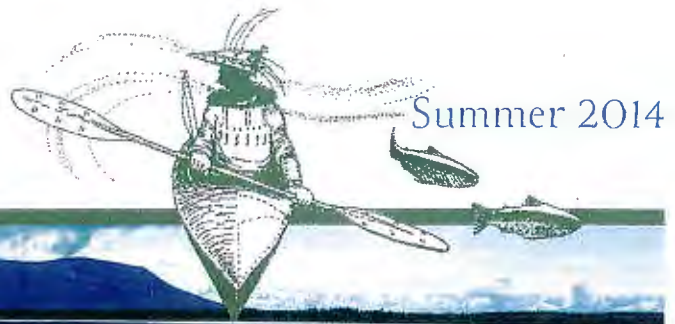


The Pratt

Newsletter of the Pratt Museum

Summer 2014



Nancy Delkittie and Jessica Hay process salmon at a fish camp near Nondalton, Alaska, in 2008. Photo courtesy of Anchorage Museum.

Dena'inaq' Huch'ulyeshi: The Dena'ina Way of Living

Through September 1

As a major crossroads near the mouth of Cook Inlet, Kachemak Bay has hosted numerous prehistoric cultures, as well as Dena'ina and Alutiiq peoples, both past and present. While the latter are represented in the villages of Nanwalek and Port Graham, the Dena'ina heritage remains most strongly in Seldovia and nearby Ninilchik.

Archaeological excavations on Yukon Island have increased our knowledge, with some artifacts eventually deposited at the Pratt Museum. Museum staff was pleased to lend several such artifacts for *Dena'inaq' Huch'ulyeshi: The Dena'ina Way of Living*, a major exhibition produced by the Anchorage Museum, which ran September 15, 2013, through January 12, 2014.

After considerable planning and extensive rearranging of the lower floor exhibits, the Pratt is currently hosting the traveling version of this major exhibit. Aaron Leggett, one of the co-curators of *Dena'inaq' Huch'ulyeshi*, explains:

"The Anchorage Museum is excited that this exhibition has traveled to Homer for the summer where even more visitors and residents will be able to visit the exhibition. *Dena'inaq' Huch'ulyeshi* is the first major exhibition ever presented on the Dena'ina Athabascan people. During the last seven years in developing the exhibition the Pratt Museum has been an important partner, and so it is fitting that the first location that exhibition traveled to is Homer.

After leaving Homer, the exhibition is scheduled to travel to Kenai and Fairbanks."

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Pratt Museum will continue to present an ambitious program of special events and presentations, with noted scholars and tradition-bearers Alan Boraas, James Kari, Priscilla Russell, Sasha Lindgren, Janet Klein, Joel Isaak, and Karen Evanof.

We are grateful to the Anchorage Museum for producing and making this exhibit available, and to the Rasmuson Foundation for providing assistance to travel the exhibit. This local installation has also been generously supported by Apache Alaska Corporation, The CIRI Foundation, Ninilchik Traditional Council, Seldovia Village Tribe, Alaska State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, and the City of Homer.

Already a highlight for many Museum visitors, there is often standing-room-only attendance for special presentations. In addition to Kachemak Bay archaeological artifacts, on view are traditional and contemporary garments, and visitors may learn about hunting, fishing, plant lore, and much more. A number of films and media components bring the exhibit to life, tempting visitors to stay or return for subsequent visits — a convenient benefit of Pratt membership!

Dena'inaq' Huch'ulyeshi will be on view at the Pratt throughout the summer, through September 1, 2014. You are invited to explore this thriving culture in our midst!

Dear Museum Friends,



The Pratt Museum is able to do what it does because of people — generous supporters, an amazing staff, our many dedicated volunteers and partner organizations. Audience research and planning efforts of the past few years have given us a great foundation for some restructuring and other changes so we may better respond to trends that are

impacting many nonprofit organizations. We appreciate everyone who has taken the time to participate in this work. It is an exciting time to be involved in the Museum, as its story continues to unfold, along with the stories of this region.

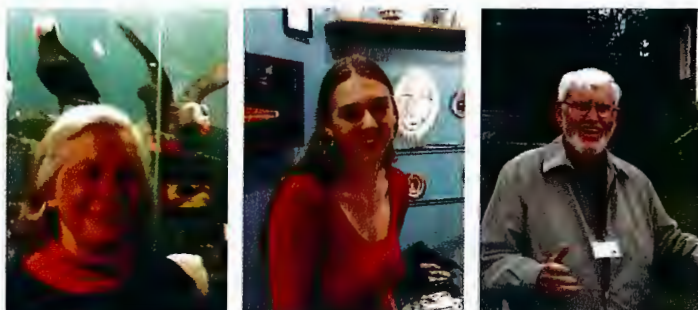
One of our goals is to continue to improve access to Museum resources. Recent or ongoing projects include a new website currently underway; small, temporary on-site or off-site exhibits of rarely seen collections objects such as those featured at Homer's 50th birthday celebration; organizing the education collection to improve access; working to document certain portions of the Pratt's collection in catalogue form; and, of course, design of the new building which includes research and education space.

Please join me in welcoming new Visitor Services Manager Kari McKahan. Thanks to the Homer Foundation, The CIRI Foundation, and individual donors, the high school intern program was funded again this year, and Moira and Samantha are working in the Education Department. Thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, we also have college interns Andrea and Emily working on organizing, documenting, and rehousing the education collection.

Thanks to everyone for your support. We couldn't do it without you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Diane Converse".

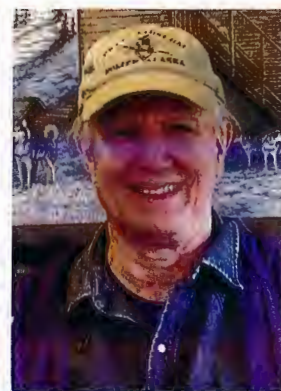
Museum Director/CEO



Special thanks to the many volunteers who help at the Museum throughout the year. Shown here are just a few of these wonderful individuals: Lucy Cutting, Genevieve Tymrak, and Tom Kane.



Pratt staff from left to right, front row: Diane Converse, Savanna Bradley, Heidi Stage, Ryjil Christianson. Back row: Trish Herrmann, Scott Bartlett, Michele Miller, Kari McKahan, Tim Quinn. Right, from top: Art Koeninger, Shawn Jackinsky. Not pictured: Jeannine Williamson, Bill Richards.



Education

The Pratt Museum has been working on an Education Collection Plan that outlines basic guidelines for collection, documentation, storage, and care. The overall goal of this project is to enhance usability and the longevity of the Pratt Museum's education collection. Objects within this collection provide the public with the opportunity to interact with a real object in a hands-on way and are a vital part of the Museum's collection.

This summer at the Pratt, college interns Emily Volkmann (below, left) and Andrea Oskolkoff (right) are conducting a detailed education collection inventory. It is a comprehensive project but both interns have been tackling the job with enthusiasm.

"As a museum studies student, I've spent the past year learning about theory and best practice, but working at the Pratt has given me the opportunity to gain practical experiences that I could never gain from reading a book. As an added bonus, I feel like I'm getting an insider's perspective on Homer and Kachemak Bay!"

-Emily Volkmann



"The Museum embraces and exemplifies the meaning of community. This internship has given us the tremendous opportunity to abet the Pratt in its endeavors to bring art, science, and culture to everyone here in Kachemak Bay, and we feel very lucky to be able to do so."

-Andrea Oskolkoff

Collections Update

The last six months have been an exciting time for the Collections Department of the Pratt Museum!

Funded through a grant from Museums Alaska, the Pratt has been working on its Lower Kenai Peninsula Sugpiaq Material Culture and Heritage Project. This project is a large-scale effort to develop an inclusive catalogue of artifacts and materials from the Pratt collections that relate to the history of the Sugpiaq regions of Alaska. This process has provided opportunities for collaboration and community outreach.

During the past six months, visiting researcher Dr. Medeia Csoba DeHass has reviewed the Pratt's catalogues, documentation, and physical artifacts relative to Sugpiaq history and Sugpiaq regions of Alaska. The resulting list contains a collection of diverse items: historical photographs, video and audio recordings, modern art pieces, historical reproductions, and archaeological artifacts.

Once Dr. Csoba DeHass had developed a substantial list of artifacts and materials within collections, the Pratt hosted several associated events correlated to the project. The three main events included:

- a day-long Collections Care and Management training session,

- a workshop specifically focused on reviewing the collection, and
- a weekend of photographing artifacts in the collection.

These activities took place at the end of May this year.

In addition to researching and studying the Sugpiaq collections on a deeper level, this project has presented a great opportunity to review the Pratt's cultural collections in general. Staff has explored how the Pratt's collections fit into the diverse and complex story of Kachemak Bay, both past and present. Thank you to all who were able to participate!

The catalogue created from this project will be completed and available for viewing in August.



Workshop participants (from left to right) Ephim and Alma Moonin, Herman Moonin, Vladimir Moonin, and Kathy Evans discuss historic photos of Nanwalek and Port Graham from Pratt collections.

Special Exhibits Gallery

Reliquary, through September 21

Nearly 30 years ago, artist Jo Going knelt beside a caribou skeleton on the tundra of the Alaskan Interior. She realized that "bones carry the spirits of the animals, a lasting essence of presence, that they are relics, holy and venerable." She continued to collect bones from the taiga and incorporate them into her own work. Paleolithic and Neolithic art, as well as Italian church reliquaries venerating the bones of saints, inspired *Reliquary*, an exhibit nearly three decades in the making.

Ritz Art Exhibit, September 26-October 28

Featuring the pieces to be auctioned off at the 2014 Ritz: *La Fiesta Mexicana en El Dia Los Muertos*. The Ritz is November 1; the gallery opening reception is Friday, September 26, 5-7pm.

Women Who Run with the Tides: Reflections on Kachemak Bay, November 7-December 30

This show features 25 artists who coalesced as a group in Kachemak Bay 25 years ago. Their new work will explore the impact that Kachemak Bay and this community has had on their subsequent artistic careers.

In the Lower Galleries . . .

Dena'inaq' Huch'ulyeshi: The Dena'ina Way of Living, through September 1

Invisible in their own homeland. About half of Alaska's residents live in traditional Dena'ina territory, but there is little awareness of the indigenous people who have called Southcentral Alaska home for more than 1,000 years. Meet the Dena'ina through life-size re-creations, film, images, hands-on learning stations, audio and original artifacts, and a rich series of special events.

The Pratt Museum is proud to be the first site to host this traveling exhibition, and the only venue outside of Anchorage to feature original artifacts.

Communities, Disaster, and Change September 19-October 17

Curated by the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive, this invitational art exhibit commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Good Friday Earthquake that occurred on March 22, 1964, and features work by 28 artists from throughout Alaska.

Art Exhibition Curated by a Special Guest October 24-December 30

Education Program This Summer!



- Live video broadcast of nesting birds from Gull Island in partnership with Seldovia Native Association
- Historic Harbor Walking Tours, Fridays and Saturdays
- Guided Forest Ecology Trail Tours, Thursdays
- Homestead Cabin, Botanical Garden, and Fish Feedings every Tuesday and Friday
- Comprehensive Dena'ina Exhibit Public Programs



High School student interns Samantha Inman (L) and Moira Pyhala (R) present research on selected Pratt artifacts in "The Object At Hand."

The Board of Directors



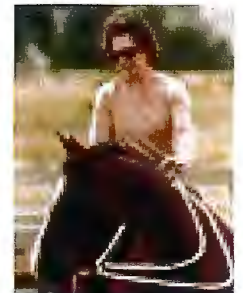
Milli Martin
President and Capital
Campaign Co-chair

Thank you for your continued support of the comprehensive programming, exhibitions and events at the Pratt Museum. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, the Pratt relies on contributed and membership support for award-winning experiences.

Milli Martin



Sara Jackinsky
Vice President



Meg Cicciarella
Treasurer



A Message from the Development Director

Thank you to sponsors, funders, contributors, members, volunteers and leadership donors for investing in the award-winning Pratt Museum.

While working to establish a consistent contributed revenue stream for operations, the Development team — consisting of staff, community members and Board members — is simultaneously working to secure leadership gifts for the new building.

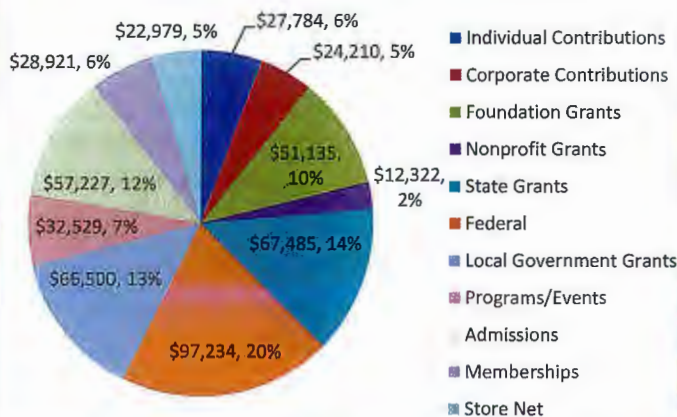
The Museum strives to help our community and visitors address the most pressing questions facing us today, so that we can understand and respond to cultural, environmental, and economic changes. We are committed to preservation of the past, so that it can guide us into the future. As the community looks

ahead to the bright future of our community Museum, we continue to rely on each of you for your generous support.

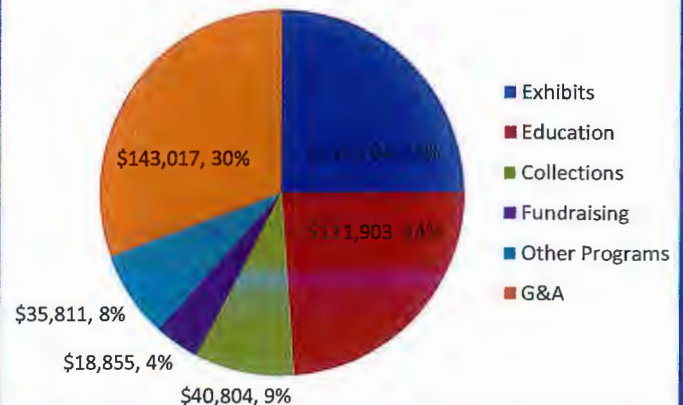
In thanks for last year's financial support, we have recognized financial members and donors at the \$250 level and higher on page 7. Underneath that roster, a contribution form may be found. Please consider making a donation or increasing your financial support of the Pratt Museum today. For your continued commitment to your nationally-recognized Museum, we thank you.

Below are two pie charts that outline contributed/earned operations revenue for 2013, totaling \$488,326, and cash expenditures totaling \$466,594, taken from the Museum's audited financial statements.

Revenue



Expense



Linda Rowell
Secretary



Ed Hutchinson
Capital Campaign
Co-Chair



Ina Jones
Director



Karen King
Director



David Thomas
Director

Capital Project Update

Exhibit Planning Workshops

The consulting exhibit planner and exhibit designer were at the Pratt Museum in April, sharing the preliminary exhibit plans for the new building and gathering feedback and suggestions. This community input will be factored into the next phase of exhibit planning and design.

Creek Project Update and Feedback Gathering

Part of the long-term vision for the Pratt grounds includes daylighting the section of Woodard Creek that currently runs through a culvert under the parking area behind the Museum building. This project is in the planning stages now so that it meshes with the site work plans for the capital project to build a new Museum building.

Opening up this 150-foot section of creek will have a dramatic impact on each visitor's experience, providing stream-based education opportunities as well as benches and outdoor gathering spaces near the creek. Design considerations begin with handling both low and high water flows.

Interested constituents were invited to watch a video, accessible on the web site and on the Pratt Museum's Facebook page, to learn more about the project and the various configurations that the stream design may take.

Feedback on the design concept included the placement and type of drop structures (there is an 11' elevation change over the length of the culvert), and the stream bed profile, as well as consideration of vegetation options. The video shows several possible structures and gives a sense of what they might look and sound like. The Pratt gathered feedback on the concept through April 25 of 2014, which will be factored into the long-term vision for daylighting the Pratt Museum's section of Woodard Creek.



Capital Campaign Leadership Donors

The Pratt Museum deeply appreciates each of these generous commitments to preserve the region's art, science and history for future generations by supporting construction of the new Pratt Museum.

CORPORATIONS

First National Bank Alaska
Petro Marine Services
Totem Ocean Trailer Express

FOUNDATIONS

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation
Rasmuson Foundation

GOVERNMENT

National Endowment for the Humanities
State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources
State of Alaska, Legislature
US Department of Agriculture

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Patrons of the Pratt Society

INDIVIDUALS, \$250 to \$200,000

Ken Castner and Nancy Lord
Roger and Denise Clyne
Diane Converse
Aron Crowell and Dee Hunt
Anonymous
Conrad and Carmen Field
A. Haas and T. Spigelmyer
Shawn Hansen
Anonymous
Jana Hayenga
James Hornaday
Anonymous

Ken Jones and Sara Jackinsky
Michael and Karen King
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Nancy Levinson
Milli Martin
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Christopher and Angie Newby
Ken and Linda Rowell
Susan Ruddy
Bob Shavelson and Miranda Weiss
David Thomas and Kristin Mitchell
James Torgerson and Morgan Christen
Clem Tillion
John and Dawn Walsh

Thank you to Donors, Sponsors and Members

Who have given \$250 or more as of July 2014!

This is a listing of gifts donated to the Pratt Museum in support of its annual operations.

Businesses/Corporations

Alderfer Group
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Anchorage Museum
Apache Alaska Corporation
Bay Excursions
Beachy Construction
BP
ConocoPhillips Alaska
First National Bank Alaska
Grog Shop
Holland America Line
Jay-Brant General Contractors
Homer Veterinary Clinic
Petro Marine Services
Quiet Place Lodge
Ravn Alaska
Spenard Builders Supply
Tim Stage Carpet and Linoleum
Totem Ocean Trailer Express
Ulmer's Drug and Hardware
Wells Fargo

Government

Alaska State Council on the Arts
City of Homer
Institute of Museum and Library Services
National Endowment for the Arts
National Endowment for the Humanities
State of Alaska

Foundations

Alaska Community Foundation
Carl E. Wynn Foundation

Homer Foundation
The CIRI Foundation
The Communities Foundation
Rasmuson Foundation

Nonprofit Corporations

Ageya Wilderness Education
Alaska Great Lakes Project
Alaska State Museum
Alaska Humanities Forum
Kachemak Bay Quilters
Museums Alaska
Patrons of the Pratt Society
Ninilchik Traditional Council
Seldovia Village Tribe

Individuals

John and Ann Anderson
Ed Bailey and Nina Faust
Amy Batchelor and Bradley Feld
Anne Beesley and Yngvil Vatn Guttu
Marvin and Annette Bellamy
Daisy Lee Bitter
William Carter and June Allen Carter
Roger and Denice Clyne
Tom Collopy and Mary Frische
Michael and Peggy Craig
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Karl Stoltzfus and Julia Clymer
Mel Strydom and Nadya Klingel
Clem Tillion
David Thomas and Kristin Mitchell
Arni Thomson
Ed and Janice Todd
Neil and Kyra Wagner
Walt Wrede and Mary McBurney
Clark Yerrington

- ☐ Yes, I wish to make a donation to the Pratt Museum!
- ☐ I want to renew my membership or become a new member.

Name: _____ Amount: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

MC / MX / VISA / DISCOVER or Check Enclosed (circle)

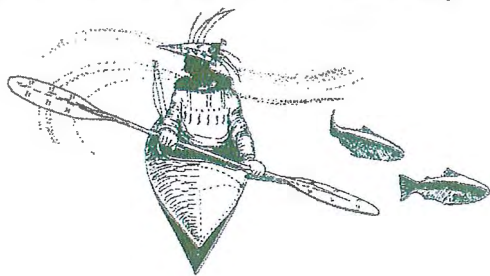
CARD# _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Thank you for your support! Mail your donation to 3779 Bartlett Street, Homer, AK 99603

Pratt Museum

Homer Society of Natural History, Inc.
3779 Bartlett Street, Homer, Alaska 99603
(907) 235-8635 • www.prattmuseum.org



The Pratt Museum preserves the stories of the Kachemak Bay region and provides a gathering place for people to learn and to be inspired by this region and its place in the world.

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Pratt Museum Garners State Award

At the Museums Alaska annual conference in Haines in October 2013, the Pratt Museum was honored as the recipient of the association's Excellence in the Museum Profession Award for the Gray Whale Project. This is the only exhibit or project award given by the association, and recognizes the Pratt once again as a leader among the state's 80-plus museum institutions.

"More than just an exemplary exhibit, the Pratt Museum's *Encounters: Whales in Our Waters* surpassed the level of public involvement and investment normally considered possible in a community museum exhibition," said Museums Alaska President Angela Linn.

The gray whale was collected in 1999, articulated by volunteers under the direction of Lee Post, and formed the centerpiece of *Encounters: Whales in Our Waters*, which was on exhibit February through July of 2013. The gray whale's role in community building is not complete. When the Museum throws open the doors of a new building, the whale will be waiting, in a new permanent installation, to greet its many supporters.

Passages . . .

The Pratt Museum's Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers mourn the passing of two important individuals who worked for decades to ensure the Museum's continued success.

William Brantley Edens moved to Homer with his parents, brother and sister, when he was seven years old. In 1957, Brantley married Joan Gordon, the niece of Sam Pratt, who founded the Homer Society of Natural History, and for whom the Pratt Museum is named. Joan and Brantley owned Petro Marine Services, and when the business was sold, donated a portion of the proceeds to the Museum. Joan and daughter Shelly Erickson continue to be involved with the Pratt Museum.

Barbara Webb, mother of Davis Webb and mother-in-law of Pratt Museum's longtime Curator of Collections, Betsy Webb. Barbara was active in many Colorado charitable organizations while also being a generous supporter of the Pratt Museum.

For their commitments to the Pratt Museum and service to this community, they will always be remembered.

Pratt Museum Capital Project at a Glance

BACKGROUND

The Pratt Museum preserves the stories of the Kachemak Bay region and provides a gathering place for people to learn and be inspired by this region and its place in the world.

Since opening in 1968, the Pratt has become one of Alaska's most important cultural institutions and a leader among community museums nationwide. The Museum:

- Serves more than 25,000 visitors and 4,000 education program participants annually;
- Is Alaska's first private museum to receive national accreditation;
- Received the Governor's Award for the Humanities and the National Award for Museum Service, the country's highest honor for museums;
- Has been awarded prestigious grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and other agencies;
- Leverages partnerships with leading arts, science, and humanities institutions including the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and Alaska Humanities Forum; and
- Fuels economic health in the region, generating \$1 million in annual economic activity and helping to make the region a place where people want to live, work, and play.

NEED

Currently, the Pratt Museum is located in a 10,500 square foot building with an aging structure and systems that no longer meet the functional needs of a museum. A new facility will allow us to overcome current challenges such as inadequate collections storage space, lack of ADA compliance, and low-quality exhibit space that must double as education/community gathering space. Put simply, the Museum's galleries, collections storage, public meeting, and education spaces no longer support the Pratt's goals or embrace current opportunities.

PROJECT

The capital project will transform the visitor experience and allow the Pratt to serve its community and visitors long into the future. Goals of the project include:

- Dedicated education and community gathering space;
- Implementation of the final phase of the Pratt's Master Exhibit Plan exhibit development;
- Site redesign to expand outdoor exhibits and fully integrate the Museum into its 9.8-acre urban green space;
- Expanded collections storage space with state-of-the-art environmental controls;
- Creation of "back of house" support space for research, collections conservation, and exhibit preparation;
- Full Americans with Disability Act compliance; and
- Increased building system efficiency for long-term energy efficiency.

TIMELINE

Design Phase complete
Construction complete
Scheduled Opening

2nd quarter 2015
4th quarter 2016
Spring 2017

BUDGET

Total Project Budget:

	<u>\$9.5 million</u>
Funds Secured	\$3.3 million
Funds Needed	\$6.2 million

{ Nat'l Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant: \$.75M
Patrons of the Pratt Society: \$.6M
Individual Donors Lead Gifts: \$.8M
State of Alaska: \$1.3M
USDA/FNBA/PGA/TOTE/Petro Marine: \$.24M