



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects
Quarterly Project Reporting Form

**Detailed instructions for each section below are given in Section II. Quarterly Project Reports in the Reporting Policy on the website, <https://evostc.state.ak.us/policies-procedures/reporting-procedures/>*

Project Number: 25220505

Project Title: Chugach Heritage Museum and Archaeological Repository

Principal Investigator(s): Monica Garcia-Itchoak, Executive Director

Reporting Periods and Due Dates:

<i>Reporting Period</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
February, March, April	June 1
May, June, July	September 1
August, September, October	December 1
November, December, January	March 1

Submission Date: **June 1**, September 1, December 1, or March 1

Project Website: <https://www.chugachmuseum.org/>

Please check all the boxes that apply to the current reporting period.



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☒ **Project progress is on schedule.**

The project is progressing as planned in all aspects of development. Since starting in January, we have continued to refine processes and are transferring all necessary procedures to the Museum team and internal support services. Several operational systems are being implemented, which have made for a somewhat clunky transition, but it's helping us establish the organization for long-term stability. We have been working closely with KPB and Avanti Developers to identify key design elements in the museum, including the collection repository and the hands-on classroom workshop space for cultural programs and events, as well as defining the actual exhibition square footage. KPB will present initial design options to the team for review within a few weeks. Storyline Exhibitions is now moving forward with exploring the Chugach region and its people through research. A site visit is scheduled for mid-July to gather more information and begin shaping the narrative, with input from the exhibition committee.

In addition, we continue to network and navigate the current fundraising challenges at the national level regarding the "pause" in IMLS, NEH, and potentially NEA grantmaking. Our capital campaign strategy has shifted to private philanthropic opportunities, innovative partnerships, regional relationships, and local giving and sponsorships.

☐ **Project progress is delayed**

☐ **Budget reallocation request for this reporting period.**

☒ **Personnel changes.**

We have confirmed two full-time positions. We are incredibly excited to announce the appointment of Molly Conley as our new Collection Manager, effective May 19, 2025, and Maura Wharton as our new Deputy Director, starting June 2, 2025. This will complete the team for now, until we transition into 2026 and begin to prepare for the museum's opening in summer 2027 or early 2028.

1. Summary of Work Performed:

February: This month was still steeped in learning and onboarding tasks, with CHF leading many of the trainings and tutorials. Internal trainings with CAC support services included HR, Finance, Legal, IT, and Communications. Introductions to internal departments and collaborative external partners such as Avanti Developers, KPB Architects, and the EVOS team. Overview of the grant, reporting, and identifying gaps in resources, people, and funding.



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March: Executive Director 90-day review and progress report. A shift in transition to more responsibility and leadership from the Director and less on CHF. This provides CHF the capacity to focus on its mission. Their support was instrumental in creating a solid foundation and has set the museum up for success. The first Q1 board meeting was held on March 12, 2025, and EVOS reporting and DCCED invoicing were submitted. The ED attended two shareholder events: the Chugach Regional Summit and the Chugach Regional Resources Commission's 23rd Annual Subsistence Memorial Gathering, where I was able to share information about the project and distribute our community engagement survey, along with a QR code for feedback. In addition, the team spent time developing the strategic plan and goals that will be incorporated into the annual plan, as well as preparing for the 2026 budgeting process in the fall. Lastly, most of March was spent developing job descriptions and profiles for the Collection Manager and Deputy Director positions.

April: The project aligned with the outlined deliverables, and the ED led the creation of a constellation of strategic partners, conducted dot-connecting, and interviewed several qualified candidates for both the Deputy Director and Collection Manager positions. Once interviews concluded, offers were made and both accepted, rounding out the team for 2025 growth and upcoming project aspects. New contractual partners have begun, including Jim Pepper Henry & Associates as our Business Development Officer, and Storyline Studios, a curatorial exhibition developer. Both bring a wealth of museum professional knowledge to the team. Lastly, the ED attended the Seattle Shareholder meeting, where I was able to distribute the community engagement survey and speak with individuals one-on-one about the museum project.

2. Abstract: Additional information regarding the team constellation.

Molly Conley, a seasoned museum professional with over fifteen years of experience, steps into the role of Collection Manager. Most recently serving as Curator for the National Park Service's Alaska Region, Conley has overseen complex collections, developed strategic preservation plans, and led cross-agency initiatives to safeguard Alaska's cultural resources. Her work has spanned both federal and state institutions, and her leadership in professional museum organizations across Alaska underscores her deep-rooted commitment to community-focused museum work.

Maura Wharton joins the museum following a distinguished tenure at the Rasmuson Foundation, where she most recently served as Senior Program Associate. Over the years, she has led major grant programs supporting Alaska's artists and nonprofit leaders, managed large-scale collaborative initiatives, and brought strategic insight to partner engagement and process improvement. Her background also includes key roles at The Foraker Group, where she worked closely with nonprofit and board leadership across the state.



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Jim Pepper Henry & Associates (JPH) is a seasoned museum professional with four decades of experience in leading and building museums. Most recently, JPH led the opening of the First Americans Museum (FAM), a new cultural institution located in Washington, D.C. Additionally, there is an award-winning \$80 million capital campaign project. In addition, he's led at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, OK; Heard Museum of American Indian Art & History in Phoenix, AZ, National Museum of the American Indians, Smithsonian, DC, and was the Director of the Anchorage Museum (2007 – 2013), where he strategically led the second museum expansion in 2010.

Storyline Studios is a small exhibition team located throughout the US and Canada. Storyline believes that everyone has a story to tell, and they feel that the creation of ideas comes together when you design an intimate and emotional connection with your audience. A few projects that resonated with the team were with indigenous groups such as the [Columbia River Maritime Museum](#), the [Ntsayka Ilii Ukuk – This is Our Place](#) exhibition, and the [Suqamish Museum, An Ancient Journey Continues](#).

3. Coordination and Collaboration:

The museum continues to partner and collaborate with our CAC, CHF, and CTS internally at the Corporation. This work is not done in isolation of our existing external partners – KPB, Avanti, Storyline Studios, and JPH Associates. In addition, the Alutiiq Museum serves a mentor and model for our project and a few team members attending the opening celebration in Kodiak on Thursday, May 22, 2025, and then spent the following day with their team going through the exhibition space and collection storage to learn “what not to do!” but look at ways we can mimic or replicate best practices.

We have been invited to submit a \$1.5M Letter of Inquiry to the Rasmuson Foundation Tier 2 (Legacy) funding that will go before the board of directors in December 2025, and Atwood Foundation has asked us to submit a \$50K grant in January 2026. JPH is helping spearhead national funding conversations, and we will launch a capital campaign this fall once we have conceptual designs from KPB and narrative outlines from Storyline Studios.

4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations, and Comments:



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5. Budget:

Budget Category:	Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5- YR TOTAL PROPOSED	QUARTERLY EXPENSES	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel	\$132,000	\$132,000	\$385,560	\$403,200	\$112,800	\$1,165,560	\$37,311.30	\$240,993.54
Travel	\$14,475	\$14,475	\$12,975	\$11,475	\$5,475	\$58,875		\$0.00
Contractual	\$562,500	\$1,620,000	\$1,575,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$3,780,000	\$84,032.44	\$233,477.64
Commodities	\$300,000	\$700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000		\$0.00
Equipment	\$36,000	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$76,000		\$0.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1,044,975	\$2,476,475	\$2,003,535	\$429,675	\$125,775	\$6,080,435	\$121,343.74	\$474,471.18
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	\$94,048	\$222,883	\$180,318	\$38,671	\$11,320	\$547,239	\$6,778	N/A
PROJECT TOTAL	\$1,139,023	\$2,699,358	\$2,183,853	\$468,346	\$137,095	\$6,627,674	\$82,093	\$474,471
In-Kind Contributions (Land, Office Space, Labor, Design)	\$2,200,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$3,300,000		