



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 Region 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.

☒ **Project progress is on schedule.**

The project is moving forward as scheduled, albeit at a slower pace than I would prefer, due to the need to factor in multiple moving pieces, including collaborative efforts with the Village in the City team and contractual tasks. This project is very much tied to concurrent planning. The most impressive accomplishment since June has been getting the team fully staffed, as well as securing consultants and contractors. Now that the museum's square footage has been determined, it is just over 10,000 square feet, which includes a welcome gathering area, an admission desk, restrooms, a gift wall, a classroom, a collection storage area, a workshop space, and a 4,800-square-foot permanent exhibition, along with some temporary space for a variety of experiential activations. Geotechnical work on the site, located at 36th and Old Seward Highway, should occur before the end of the month to determine the thickness of the existing peat moss. Once the assessment is completed, the site work can be further developed, with site preparation planned for spring 2026.

☐ **Project progress is delayed.**



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

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

☐ **Personnel changes.**

1. Summary of Work Performed:

May

Molly Conley, our new Collection Manager, began her role on May 19 and has over 15 years of experience in museum collections and stewardship, gained through her work at the National Park Service (NPS). On May 22, the Chugach Museum team, along with Lauren Johnson, President and Executive Director of Chugach Heritage Foundation (CHF), attended the Alutiiq Museum opening celebration and then met with their collection and exhibition teams to learn more about their successes and challenges. It was incredibly helpful to hear firsthand what to consider as we build our facility and plan for programming. We continue to work closely with them as we move forward with our project. Lastly, Bob Lisle with Avanti provides monthly contractual and oversight services for the construction of the museum project development, specifically securing the geotechnical vendor contract to begin site evaluation. He is also the dot-connector with the Chugach Tribal Services, Village in the City team, KPBB, and the museum team.

June

Maura Wharton, Deputy Director, started on June 1 and has over a decade of experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors with The Foraker Group and Rasmuson Foundation. Pepper Henry, Pepper & Associates, LLC. continues to serve as our Business Development Officer and is working closely with the architects and exhibit developers to ensure a cohesive design and narrative. The museum developed and successfully presented a Risk Management Plan and passed a 5-year strategic plan. Our accounting team continues to implement the new financial platform (MIP/Microix) and customize it to support the Chugach Museum's needs. The Executive Director, Monica Garcia-Itchoak, attended the HIP-NAP (Hispanic and Native Americans in Philanthropy) conference in New Mexico from June 16 to 20. Several national funders attended, and we've been successful in building relationships for future funding partnerships. Monica participated in a two-day virtual Smithsonian Institution National Education Summit, under the auspices of the Secretary of Education, and earned a certificate of achievement. The summit was attended by all the museum affiliates under the Smithsonian, as well as other museum professionals and educators in the field. At the heart of any museum is education – the teaching and learning through participatory experiences – “Teach the Mind, Touch the Spirit” – a classroom without walls.



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

July

With three full-time staff members and Jim Pepper Henry (JPH) on board, we are now moving the project more intentionally, utilizing individual skill sets. Maura is overseeing the website as it continues to evolve and deepen with content. Molly has begun purchasing the necessary software, resources, and tools needed to start cataloging the collection. She is hiring for a temporary position to assist with Phase I of the inventory. Avanti is moving forward with the geotechnical work, having secured a signed contract for completion by the end of August. The most exciting accomplishment in July was the launch of the museum's exhibition committee, chaired by board member Anna Hoover, and comprising museum and community members. It was the first time the entire team, including partners such as Avanti, JPH, KPB Architects, and the staff, was led by Storyline Studios (exhibition developers) through a 3-hour discussion based on high-level themes to start shaping the exhibition narrative. The team also participated in a week-long immersive visit to Anchorage. The team toured the collection warehouse, met with the Alaska Native Heritage Center, FabLab, The Anchorage Museum, and the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center. One day, we traveled to Nuuciq Spirit Camp and participated in Visitor's Day. The first of many to come – however, what's crucial is having community voices at the beginning to help shape the integration of the architecture and exhibition design, as well as the opportunity to design this throughout the Village in the City campus, and its wayfinding.

2. Abstract:

The Chugach Museum seeks to build and operate a 10,150-sf cultural heritage center in the heart of Anchorage, representing all seven Chugach regional communities spanning over 5,000 miles along Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska, including Nanwalek, Port Graham, Chenega, Seward, Whitter, Nuchek, Valdez, Tatitlek, and Cordova. The museum will help educate and share the culture of Chugach's people with the world. This will be a place of sharing – of stories, language, traditions, celebrations, and the resilience of one generation to another. Part of the narrative will address the impacts of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill from the perspective of Then & Now, 36 years later. It will be a destination unlike any other museum in Alaska. Now that the Capital Campaign Committee Charter is in place, Violet Yeaton and the team are strategically meeting with local and national funders and continuing to engage with each community for ongoing input on the project's development.



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

3. Coordination and Collaboration:

The museum team is relationship-centric. The coordination of this work is not done in isolation; we welcome diverse voices and diverse perspectives from various backgrounds and experiences. Whenever possible, all are invited to the table for conversation and understanding. Each thought-partner has a specific role in advancing this project, as previously mentioned. Given the aggressive timeline and expensing EVOS funding, we are making every effort to maintain momentum. Our biggest collaborative winners are from receiving two individual donations (our first donors!), a \$25K Rasmuson Foundation Tier 1 for our traveling pop-up exhibition, Exxon Valdez Oil Spill: Then & Now that is currently under development with a traveling summer 2026 throughout the Chugach region, and an invitation to submit a \$2.4M Rasmuson Foundation Legacy grant for building construction.

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

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	\$324,000	\$385,560	\$403,200	\$112,800	\$1,357,560	\$93,574.36	\$334,567.90
Travel	\$14,475	\$19,725	\$12,975	\$11,475	\$5,475	\$64,125	\$1,285.95	\$1,285.95
Contractual	\$562,500	\$1,620,000	\$1,575,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$3,780,000	\$16,154.10	\$249,631.74
Commodities	\$300,000	\$700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$3,447.09	\$3,447.09
Equipment	\$36,000	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$76,000	\$0.00	\$0.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1,044,975	\$2,673,725	\$2,003,535	\$429,675	\$125,775	\$6,277,685	\$114,461.50	\$588,932.68
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	\$94,048	\$240,635	\$180,318	\$38,671	\$11,320	\$564,992	\$6,778	N/A
PROJECT TOTAL	\$1,139,023	\$2,914,360	\$2,183,853	\$468,346	\$137,095	\$6,842,677	\$82,093	\$588,933
In-Kind Contributions (Land, Office Space, Labor, Design)	\$2,200,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$3,300,000		