



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

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*\*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 dba Chugach Museum

**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       |
| <b>August, September, October</b> | <b>December 1</b> |
| November, December, January       | March 1           |

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

**Project Website:** <https://www.chugachmuseum.com/>

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

- Project progress is on schedule.**
- Project progress is delayed (see below)**
- Budget reallocation request for this reporting period.**
- Personnel changes.**



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Regarding **project progress**, it is delayed as marked above. There are a few realities to share regarding timelines, planning, and the Alaska construction season, including the other two nonprofits, Chugach Tribal Services and the Chugach Heritage Center, which will also occupy their own space in Phase I of the Village in the City campus. Each organization has slight variations in timelines, but all still align on a spring 2026 groundbreaking. However, the reality of the Alaska construction season is unforgiving. It's short, it's expensive, and it will be a challenge to complete our project by January 31, 2027. A more realistic and successful timeline allows for another year of construction, collection storage, fabrication, and contingencies. Therefore, a request for a no-cost extension from February 2027 through February 2028 would provide sufficient time to open successfully in April 2028, just in time for the summer tourist season.

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**1. Summary of Work Performed:**

This past quarter, the team explored the possibility of bringing on an intern or a residency in 2026 to help support Molly Conley, Collection Manager, in collections and archives with Chugach Tribal Services (CTS). Molly has identified that we are 100% backlogged and there is a lot of work ahead. As the Director, I continue to reflect on what the organization's needs and priorities are – budgeting, annual planning, and infrastructure are still at the forefront of ensuring we are doing the pre-open work, as this next year will ramp up. The board of directors' annual planning and budget workshop was insightful and gave us confidence that we are on the right track. There are still several nuances in our partnership with the Corporation as a fiscal sponsor and developing our own stability and authority as an independent 501(c)3. The team continues to develop policies and procedures for human resources, finance, collections, and the capital campaign. We are still navigating the balance of managing a large-scale construction project vs operating a museum that isn't open yet.

Storyline Studios is steeped in the next phase of exhibition development. The exhibition committee will meet again at the end of January. To honor our funding agreement, we are expediting a small \$25,000 Rasmuson Foundation Tier 1 award to work with AK Exhibits, out of Juneau, which will lead the development of the EVOS: Then & Now traveling pop-up exhibition, with a small subset of the larger Exhibition Committee alongside Anna Hoover, our exhibition chair, to launch next summer throughout our region – to schools, shareholder informational meetings, and annual regional events. In addition, with these developments, KPB architects have finalized the museum floor plan at approximately 13,000-sf. Our collaboration with Village in the City has strengthened since David Hoffman, an independent contractor, was identified as the lead for Phase I (museum, welcome center/temporary exhibition space, CTS resource hub, and



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CHF boat-building warehouse). A considerable amount of time was spent this past month restructuring.

### **Year-in-Review**

It has been a year of exploration, wins, and deep relationship building with so many. This project consists of two major phases: the first, an internal \$6M construction project with an aggressive timeline to open by April 2028; the second, opening a 13,000-sf exceptional museum in the heart of Midtown, ready to turn outward to provide programming and engagement that leave the community wanting more. Once opened, the team will continue to collaborate with VIC's other phases, the wellness center, and housing to ensure the museum narrative and imagery carry through in appropriate ways that educate and celebrate the Chugach people and the region.

YEAR-IN-REVIEW link

[Please click here or scan the QR code below to access our Year-in-Review Newsletter.](#)



### **2. Abstract:**

The museum, a 13,000-square-foot facility, will be a tangible cornerstone of Chugach Alaska Corporation's (CAC) Village in the City (VIC), a 4.4-acre development in Midtown, located off 36<sup>th</sup> and Old Seward Highway. It will serve as a "home away from home," with participatory exhibitions, stories, and objects showcasing Chugach's rich, generational history and traditions that continue to thrive today.

### **3. Coordination and Collaboration:**

This past quarter, the team participated in a variety of collaborative conversations. A site visit to Afognak Corporation, then Cordova, for the Native Village of Eyak's 30th Annual Sobriety, where Molly Conley and Monica Garcia-Itchoak met with Teal S'ooow Hansen and Mike Webber, the Cordova Historical Museum team, toured Prince William Sound Science Center, and gave a presentation during the elders' luncheon. We participated in several sessions and attended the closing ceremony.



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The entire team participated in professional development activities. Maura Wharton, Deputy Director, attended AAM's Virtual Summit and has been accepted into Museum Alaska's new Leadership Cohort. Molly, Jim Pepper Henry, and I participated in the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) conference in Cherokee, North Carolina, where we met many other Alaskans, connected with potential funders, and made new national partners we can call on as our project grows. In addition, the museum team presented at Chugach Alaska Corporation's Ingenious People's Day, where Monica gave a project update, Maura introduced our new community exhibition survey, and Molly taught a hands-on workshop on the complexities of cataloging.

More recently, the team has been discussing the opportunity to care for federally owned archaeology collections through funding agreements between government agencies and the Chugach Alaska Corporation. If such an agreement moves forward, federal collections would be managed alongside the extensive CAC-owned collection repository, which the museum also manages. Molly has previous experience managing federal archaeology collections and has been instrumental in guiding these conversations and developing potential plans and procedures.

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

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#### **5. Budget:**

Several operational training tasks were successfully completed to perform the assigned duties.



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| Budget Category:   | Proposed<br>FY 22  | Proposed<br>FY 23  | Proposed<br>FY 24  | Proposed<br>FY 25 | Proposed<br>FY 26 | 5- YR TOTAL<br>PROPOSED | QUARTERLY<br>EXPENSES | ACTUAL<br>CUMULATIVE |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Personnel  | \$132,000          | \$132,000          | \$385,560          | \$403,200         | \$112,800         | \$1,165,560             | \$116,445.94          | \$451,013.84         |
| Travel   | \$14,475           | \$14,475           | \$12,975           | \$11,475          | \$5,475           | \$58,875                | \$7,584.47            | \$8,870.45           |
| Contractual  | \$562,500          | \$1,620,000        | \$1,575,000        | \$15,000          | \$7,500           | \$3,780,000             | \$67,708.75           | \$317,340.49         |
| Commodities  | \$300,000          | \$700,000          | \$0                | \$0               | \$0               | \$1,000,000             | \$6,174.95            | \$9,622.04           |
| Equipment  | \$36,000           | \$10,000           | \$30,000           | \$0               | \$0               | \$76,000                |                       | \$0.00               |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>  | <b>\$1,044,975</b> | <b>\$2,476,475</b> | <b>\$2,003,535</b> | <b>\$429,675</b>  | <b>\$125,775</b>  | <b>\$6,080,435</b>      | <b>\$197,914.11</b>   | <b>\$786,846.82</b>  |
| General Administration (9% of subtotal)                      | \$94,048           | \$222,883          | \$180,318          | \$38,671          | \$11,320          | \$547,239               | \$6,778               | N/A                  |
| <b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$1,139,023</b> | <b>\$2,699,358</b> | <b>\$2,183,853</b> | <b>\$468,346</b>  | <b>\$137,095</b>  | <b>\$6,627,674</b>      | <b>\$204,692</b>      | <b>\$786,847</b>     |
| In-Kind Contributions (Land, Office Space,<br>Labor, Design) | \$2,200,000        | \$300,000          | \$300,000          | \$250,000         | \$250,000         | \$3,300,000             |                       |                      |