



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 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
August, September, October	December 1
November, December, January	March 1

Submission Date: June 1, September 1, December 1, or **March 1 (UPDATED 4.20.26)**

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 slightly behind schedule as marked above. The museum continues to work collaboratively with Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC), the fiscal sponsor, and other nonprofit organizations to align with and adhere to our original approved budgets and ever-evolving timelines. The goal is to still break ground on site preparation, dirt work, utilities, gas, and electrical in May, now that it is thawing, and continue until it freezes. With this critical foundational work anticipated to be completed by the end of 2026, the following year will allow building construction on the museum in early 2027.

1. Summary of Work Performed: (Nov/Dec 2025 and Jan 2026)

The end of the year is always busy, trying to wrap up while thinking ahead. The team also took much-needed time off for wellness and rejuvenation over the holiday. In my first full year, our accomplishments grew rapidly, which I think has created significant momentum for the full Village in the City Phase I project, of which the museum is a part. To date, we are fully staffed to meet the project's needs, supported by national industry professionals who ensure it stays on time and on budget – a key partner is The Foraker Group on fund development. KPB has completed the “semi-final” architectural plans for the total square footage. It has shifted from the original proposed 6,000–7,000 sf repository to the current 12,822 sf to accommodate the 16,000+ CAC collection, growth in other regional and international collections, a permanent exhibition, administrative offices, volunteer space, storage, and a classroom/workshop. The repository is essential for stewarding the region's rich artifacts and archives, but without an exhibition narrative or permanent gallery, it puts the EVOS disaster and other important Chugach stories out of context. It didn't make sense not to be a world-class visitor destination in Anchorage. The collections will augment the permanent exhibitions and provide a place of healing and cultural reflection for those who have had this lived experience. The Exhibition Committee approved four key exhibition themes; the collection advisory committee charter is now in place; and two Letters of Inquiry were submitted, with a projected fundraising goal of \$2M+ by the end of the year. The museum team continues to manage the day-to-day logistics of a nonprofit business, including building planning, travel to meet community members, exhibition design, collection and archival inventory, and working with The Foraker Group on capital campaign planning. In addition, the year-end reflection was spent on lessons learned, forward-facing strategic planning for 2026, budgeting, developing annual goals, and presenting key accomplishments to the Board of Directors in Q4 December.

2. Abstract:

The museum is a **12,822-sf** facility (in past reports, this number has fluctuated between 12,000 and 13,000-sf based on estimates and conversations with KPB during the design process). The Museum will be a tangible cornerstone of CAC's Village in the City (VIC), a 4.4-acre



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development in Midtown, located off 36th and Old Seward Highway. The museum will serve as a “home away from home,” with a **5,249-sf permanent exhibition** and a **4,418-sf state-of-the-art climate-controlled collection space**, wet/dry lab, shipping/crating dock, administrative/researchers' offices, and an archival regional repository, located on the first floor. The second story, at **3,155-sf**, comprises **administrative offices, a staff/volunteer lounge with a kitchenette, a large classroom/workshop, and storage**. *The image below is an AI-generated rendering by KPB Architects of the Resource Hub and the Chugach Museum facing 36th. Avenue.*



3. Coordination and Collaboration:

Collaborations across the region and within the CAC affiliate organizations continue to strengthen. As a small but mighty team, we continue to partner with key contractual experts in the field to meet our goals and track timelines. The permanent exhibition will have the largest community inclusion and impact. The collection and archival storage are now categorized and ready for inventory in the new software, Rediscovery. And we are ready to begin identifying objects in the current collection to augment the seven communities, plus Anchorage and Whittier, that we intend to highlight in the permanent exhibition.

In addition, the Museum continues to present the project through a variety of opportunities, including during the CAC Mission Alignment, the Chugach Regional Summit, and the Chugach Region Young Adult Workshop for shareholders. The entire team participated in a two-day team-building activity with Chugach Tribal Services and the Chugach Heritage Foundation, learning how to sew traditional kuspuks. One key conversation deemed invaluable was with Maia Draper-Reich, PWSRCAC's Outreach Coordinator. Maia will be incredibly important when we dive deeper into EVOS: Then & Now traveling and permanent exhibition development. We plan to host a table during the CRRC Annual Subsistence Gathering in March.



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Lastly, the Museum will partner with [ExhibitAK](#), a small firm out of Juneau that specializes in pop-up traveling exhibits, and will join us in Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Valdez. The Rasmuson Foundation Tier 1 grant supports their contractual work. We have also identified two key community members focused on language revitalization in our region: Ivana Ash from Nanwalek and Lillian Maassen from the UAF Alaska Native Language Center. Both have expressed interest in helping with exhibit copy and translation to enhance the visitor experience in the permanent exhibition, as well as in place names in the collection inventory.

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

Per your email dated March 27, 2026, CAC is donating the land and ongoing fiscal sponsorship of the museum through Chugach Native Trust with an annual operating budget of \$240,000, not included in the current EVOSTC funding. The Museum will occupy 45% of the entire building, hold “site control,” and enter a long-term lease (generally 20 years, if not longer), and be responsible for the operation and maintenance of any facility, equipment, or other items under the grant, or deemed “Museum” with shared facility costs with the other two nonprofits. Ongoing maintenance obligations and personnel can be supported through a CAC compact 105(l)-funding agreement with the Chugach Museum, which will help offset costs and provide a long-term, sustainable financial model for the museum.

EVOS funding is being used for the original intent: final design and schematics; construction of the state-of-the-art climate-controlled collection and archival storage; supporting wet/dry labs; Delta cabinet systems to house the 16,000+ artifacts; and a loading, crating, and pest-control designated entry. In addition, funding is required for the display and EVOS exhibition, as well as for museum administration and operations. The only shift is the storefront, which is now being designed to be more mobile, like a kiosk that can be rolled out in the welcome center during high-traffic times, outside during summer markets and programming, or into the permanent exhibition space during field trips, etc., to maximize sales, as well as, reduce the cost of staffing a “store” and providing ample security. This allows us to be more responsive to the visitor experience. At this point, there is a reasonable probability that a request for a no-cost extension beyond the current approved funding through January 31, 2027, will be made. I will track closely and continue to include quarterly updates in the EVOSTC report.

A new alignment has shifted since your conversations with CAC regarding reallocation. We don’t think an EVOSTC request in August is required. Since additional conversations have determined that CAC will invest the \$2M financial contribution in 2026 site groundwork, utilities, and building infrastructure, scheduled for completion by the end of the year. The RFP for the GC is currently underway, with groundbreaking this June. Construction will begin as early as possible in 2027 and continue until it is completed. Occupancy is still planned for early 2028.



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While we continue finalizing remaining capital commitments, the project will be financially supported by Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC) and Chugach Native Trust (CNT), both of which have strong investment frameworks that guarantee the project will be on time and on budget. The museum has put in place a few contingency plans to manage the timing of incoming philanthropic funds, including CAC’s access to its own financial reserves, short-term, low-interest native bank financing, and bridge-loan strategies, as needed. Most importantly, CAC, along with the Chugach Museum Board, offers a solid financial partnership, decades of experience with complex capital projects, and a proven commitment to the success of this museum. CAC is ready to cover any temporary funding gaps and provide the financial support needed to keep construction moving, reduce risks, and ensure the museum opens as scheduled. These measures, together, provide a high level of financial certainty and accountability for funders and partners. Additionally, we are in discussions with Native World Alliance (NWA) to lead our national capital campaign and join the project, thereby further enhancing our chances of success.

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	\$107,644.91	\$558,658.75
Travel	\$14,475	\$14,475	\$12,975	\$11,475	\$5,475	\$58,875	\$3,623.79	\$12,494.24
Contractual	\$562,500	\$1,620,000	\$1,575,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$3,780,000	\$59,572.90	\$376,913.39
Commodities	\$300,000	\$700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$2,550.08	\$12,172.12
Equipment	\$36,000	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$76,000	\$2,298.00	\$2,298.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1,044,975	\$2,476,475	\$2,003,535	\$429,675	\$125,775	\$6,080,435	\$175,689.68	\$962,536.50
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	\$204,692	\$962,537
In-Kind Contributions (Land, Office Space, Labor, Design)	\$2,200,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$3,300,000		

Milestone/Task	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26				FY27				FY28			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Final Project Reports																							X	X	C			

Funding justification: The EVOSTC-restricted, reimbursable funding is designated specifically for creating a regional oil spill response repository for the Chugach people. Additional philanthropic awards are being identified through the development of a \$10M capital campaign with The Foraker Group, as well as by leveraging current funding, partnering with Chugach Alaska Corporation Village in the City initiative, Chugach Native Trust, and an EDI grant with Chugach Tribal Services, to successfully open the Museum on time and on budget.