

John Boyle
Commissioner

dnr.alaska.gov



Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: February 5, 2024

Alaska Maritime Heritage Program Awards First-Ever Grants

(Anchorage, AK) — The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Alaska State Museum recently issued a first round of grants for maritime preservation and education projects, with \$296,000 awarded through 15 grants to preserve artifacts and educate the public.

The SHPO, housed under the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, is partnering with the Alaska State Museum to manage the [Alaska Maritime Heritage Grant Program](#). The inaugural awards are:

- 5 grants totaling \$86,274 awarded for preservation
- 10 grants totaling \$209,697 focus on education

“These maritime projects are the first of hopefully many that will help increase awareness of Alaska’s significance to the maritime heritage of the United States,” **said Katie Ringsmuth, State Historian with the Office of History & Archaeology**. “So much of Alaska history is maritime history. The Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Program is thrilled to help 14 geographically diverse communities, from Kaasan to Unalaska — and even inland to Fairbanks — preserve their unique historic and culturally significant maritime resources that together tell a fascinating story of Alaskans’ longstanding yet often overlooked bond with the sea.”

The funded projects will preserve Alaska's maritime resources through education and historic preservation activities. Examples include museum exhibits, historic sailboat sailings, lighthouse restoration, community archaeology, shipwreck documentation, and indigenous watercraft construction and design.

Funds for this subgrant program come from a National Maritime Heritage Grant awarded to the SHPO via the National Park Service. The SHPO is partnering with the Alaska State Libraries, Archives, and Museum to assist with evaluating education-focused projects.

More details on the announcement, plus the list of awardees by location and their projects: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/maritime/amhpp.htm>

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.

Media Contact: Katie Ringsmuth, 907-269-8714, katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov

###

STAY CONNECTED:

DNR Newsroom: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/dnr_newsroom.htm

DNR on Social Media: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/social_media.htm

DNR Public Information Center: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/>