

## ***HERITAGE***

Monthly news update from the Office of History and Archaeology  
State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources  
March 2026

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### **Office of History and Archaeology News**

**Staff Updates:** The State of Alaska currently has a hiring freeze in place and as of December 31, 2025, OHA has five vacancies. Until hiring waivers are approved and positions are backfilled, current OHA staff are in acting status: Sarah Meitl, Acting Chief, and Amy Hellmich, Acting Review and Compliance Coordinator.

**Save the Date! OHA Workshop:** OHA will be holding our annual workshop on **Friday, April 24, 2026**. You can register for the workshop [here](#). We have both a virtual attendance option and an in-person attendance option. The Workshop Agenda and a Flyer will also be attached as PDFs to this newsletter for your information. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

**Contact Information:** OHA encourages sending inquiries and requests to the email addresses listed below.

To send by email:

Section 106: [oha.revcomp@alaska.gov](mailto:oha.revcomp@alaska.gov)

State Permits: [oha.permits@alaska.gov](mailto:oha.permits@alaska.gov)

AHRS: [oha.ibs@alaska.gov](mailto:oha.ibs@alaska.gov)

Grants: [ohagrants@alaska.gov](mailto:ohagrants@alaska.gov)

Surveys and Research: [adam.brinkman@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.brinkman@alaska.gov)

General Inquiries: [dnr.oha@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.oha@alaska.gov)

To send by USPS or other courier:

Alaska State Historic Preservation Office  
c/o Office of History and Archaeology  
550 W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**America250 Program:** The America250-Alaska planning team has accomplished the following tasks to encourage broad, statewide participation:

- Launched Website: <https://america250.alaska.gov/>, from which all Alaskans can submit organization activities to the [online calendar](#);
- Spotlight state and national activities via Facebook: [America250Alaska](#); Instagram: [alaskaamerica250](#); and YouTube: (coming soon);
- Set up Email: [america250@alaska.gov](mailto:america250@alaska.gov)

**America250 Traveling Exhibit:** The Alaska Office of History and Archaeology has created a traveling exhibit, *Alaska's Fields of Dreams: America's Pastime in the 49<sup>th</sup> State*, for the America250 Alaska project. The exhibit consists of nine free-standing, 80" x 33.5" banners. The banners tell the history of Alaska Baseball, from the Indigenous version of the game to the Alaska Baseball League. Reserving the exhibit is free, except for shipping. To learn more, contact OHA's exhibit coordinator, Katie Ringsmuth, at [katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov](mailto:katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov).

### Events

- March 19 – Palmer Library, Time TBD
- March 26 – Cook Inlet Historical Society, Anchorage Museum, 7 pm

New Publications! Alaska's Field of Dreamers: America's Pastime in the Far North. To inquire about copies or learn more about America250-Alaska, please contact Katie Ringsmuth at [katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov](mailto:katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov).

## Alaska Legislation

### State funding for OHA

Two bills are making their way through the State legislative process related to the funding match for the Office of History and Archaeology (they are awaiting complete votes and signing into law):

- **SB 231, Supplemental Budget FY26: OHA \$1,325,5200 allocated**
- **HB 263, Operating Budget FY27: OHA \$6,545,800 allocated**

## Federal Legislation

### White House Ballroom Project Update

On Thursday, March 5, the National Capital Planning Commission heard a presentation on preliminary and final site and building plans for the "East Wing Modernization Project" submitted by the Executive Residence at the White House. Following the presentation, Commissioners asked questions and heard testimony from members of the public. The Commission plans to vote on the project at their April 2 meeting. There will not be public testimony at the April 2 meeting on this item. More information can be found here: [Media](#)

[Release: NCPC Will Take Action on the East Wing Modernization Project at Its April 2, 2026 Meeting](#)

## **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**

### **Nominations Being Accepted for Joint National Trust/ACHP Award for Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation**

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 National Trust/Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Award for Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation. This annual award honors outstanding partnerships that advance the preservation of important historic resources and have an impact on the community. It celebrates a project or program in which a federal agency and one or more non-federal partners have achieved an exemplary preservation outcome. The deadline to apply is March 20. More information can be found here: [Award for Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation | National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)

### **eLearning**

ACHP announces that three of their eLearning courses are now back online! These include “What is Section 106?”; “What Now? Protecting Historic Properties During Disaster Response”; and “Section 304 and Confidentiality”. Visit the eLearning course webpage ([e-Learning Courses | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#)) to check out these updated courses.

### **Preserve the Past, Build for the Future Webinar Series**

The ACHP is offering four free webinars this year as part of their “Preserve the Past, Build for the Future 2026” Webinar Series. More information and registration links can be found here: [Preserve the Past, Build For the Future Webinar Series | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#)

## **Public Project Alerts**

Section 106 large project consultation in progress:

- Graphite One Mine near Nome, USACE
- Safer Seward Highway, MP 98.5-118, DOT&PF
- Seward to Glenn Connection PEL, DOT&PF
- Chilkoot National Historic Trail Comprehensive Trail Plan, NPS
- Iditarod National Historic Trail Comprehensive Trail Plan Revision, BLM
- Cook Inlet LNG, FERC
- AK LNG, FERC
- Ambler Mining District Access Road, AIDEA
- West Susitna Access Road, USACE
- Nikolai Nickel, USACE
- Cold Bay – King Cove Road, USACE

Review and compliance agreement development for large projects in progress:

- West Susitna Access Road, DOT&PF
  - Programmatic Agreement
- USFS Heritage Program
  - Programmatic Agreement Amendment

- USFS Sustainable Cabins
  - Programmatic Agreement
- NPS Dyea and the Chilkoot Trail
  - Programmatic Agreement

For information on how to participate in the process, or on how to review and comment on the above projects, contact Amy Hellmich, [amy.hellmich@alaska.gov](mailto:amy.hellmich@alaska.gov).

## Heritage subscription information

*Heritage* is produced by the Office of History and Archaeology, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Please send your comments, suggestions, and information by e-mail to [dnr.oha.@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.oha.@alaska.gov), mail to 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565, or telephone 907.269.8700.

All issues are posted to our web site at [dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/](http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/) and distributed to subscribers by e-mail. A paper copy can be sent to individuals and organizations that specifically request it. To be added to the subscription list, please send an e-mail to [dnr.oha@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.oha@alaska.gov) with “Heritage, subscribe” in the subject line.

If you do not wish to continue to subscribe to *Heritage*, please send an e-mail to [dnr.oha@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.oha@alaska.gov) with “Heritage, unsubscribe” in the subject line.

Much like the OHA office, the Heritage Newsletter is entering a stage of transition. We are working on updating our mailing list and delivery system. We will have more information on the future of the newsletter and its delivery soon.

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## Preservation calendar

### 2026

**March 24** – ACHP Webinar: Preserving America’s Historic Main Streets at 2pm EST: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

**March 25-28** – Joint Conference: Alaska Anthropological Association and Northwest Anthropological Conference, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington.

**April 24** – OHA’s Annual Workshop, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Online and In-Person at BP Energy Center, Anchorage, AK: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

**April 28** – ACHP Webinar: Preserving America’s Revolutionary-Era Sites at 2pm EST: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

**May 27** – ACHP Webinar: Preserving America for the Next Generation: Involving Younger People in Preservation at 2pm EST: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

**June 27 – July 4** – Alaska’s Week of Dreams. For a complete schedule of events and other America250-Alaska programs, visit: [Home - America250-Alaska](#).

**September TBD** – Alaska Historical Society Conference

**October 7-10** – Museums Alaska Annual Conference

**2027**

**March 3- 7** – Sharing Our Knowledge conference, Ketchikan. For more information and volunteer opportunities, contact Joaqlin Estus at [jmestus50@gmail.com](mailto:jmestus50@gmail.com)