

MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History and Archaeology

TO: Chair and Members
Alaska Historical Commission

DATE: 12/5/2023

FILE NO: 3030

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FROM: Katie Ringsmuth
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SUBJECT: Actions from Spring 23

Certified Local Government Grants Priority, Ranking, and Recommendations

The AHC voted 6-0, with the SHPO abstaining and one member absent, to approve two grant proposals and recommend one reapply.

1. City of Seward, Brown & Hawkins Fire Suppression System, Funding Recommendation, \$50,000
2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough, interpretive Sign Design and Install, Funding Recommendation, 15,000
3. Fairbanks NSB Downtown Interpretive Display, Funding Recommendation, reapply

Maritime Preservation Grants Priority and Ranking

\$100,00 Available Funds; \$212,424 Funding Requests

The AHC voted 6-0, with the SHPO abstaining and one member absent, to accept the list in order until funds are exhausted.

1. Eldred Rock Lighthouse Preservation Association, Gutter Cornice Repair Project, \$15,650

The 501c3 nonprofit will use grant funds to hire a licensed construction crew meeting SOI qualifications and travel to the historic Eldred Rock Lighthouse, the oldest original lighthouse in Alaska, to repair the gutters and cornice boxes. The public component includes readying the lighthouse for public use. The project will commence in early 2024 and close in the fall of 2024.

2. Sitka Maritime Heritage Society, Restoration & Sprinkler System, \$20,000

The 501c3 nonprofit will use grant funds to hire a SOI qualified contractor and purchase supplies to complete the rehabilitation of the historic Japonski Island Boathouse and install phase one of the sprinkler/fire suppression system to meet building codes and ready the building for public visitation as a Maritime Heritage Center. The public component highlights the participation of volunteers in rehabilitating the maritime building, who, through their involvement, acquire valuable skills and appreciation for historic preservation. The project will begin in early 2024 and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2024.

3. Gastineau Channel Historical Society, Sentinel Island Light Station Support Building Rehabilitation, \$16,700

The 501c3 proposes to use grant funds to rehabilitate the historic Blacksmith Shop and the Hoit House--two contributing buildings at the Sentinel Island Light Station Historic District. Grants funds will cover materials and supplies, while matching funds will come from transportation and personal services, including grant administration, project management, SOI qualified

architectural expertise, carpentry, volunteer labor, and photography. The public component of the project includes making the hard-to-reach historic property publicly accessible and sharing its story through the Society's newsletter. The project will commence in April 2024 and will be completed in June 2025.

4. City and Borough of Wrangell, Following the Star: Documenting the Legacy of the Shipwreck of the Star of Bengal, \$25,870

The City and Borough of Wrangell proposes to partner with a team of historians, maritime researchers, divers, and activists to document historical and archaeological data and oral lore about the Alaska Packers Association's Star of Bengal, which wrecked off Coronation Islands in 1908. Project goals include fostering community engagement in local maritime heritage preservation, writing a National Register nomination, and commemorating the victims. Funds will cover personal services for SOI qualified professionals, travel expenses, and conference fees. The public component includes making project results available via the city website, a local podcast, and professional conferences. Project proposes to begin in Feb 2024 and end in June 2025.

5. Snug Harbor Past Tymes Snug Harbor Past Tymes, Fisherman's Bunkhouse Rooms Renovation, \$25,000

The 501c3 nonprofit proposes to use the grant funds to restore the fisherman's bunkhouse, a contributing resource to the Snug Harbor Cannery Historic District. The project intends to benefit local community by hiring local laborers. Project proposes to begin in March 2024 and end in December 2024. January to March 2025 will be spent "educating the public on the project."

6. Cape Saint Elias Lightkeepers Saving the Cape St. Elias Light Station Boathouse, \$9,204

The 501c3 nonprofit requests grant funds to purchase pre-treated replacement cedar shingles for the siding of the Boathouse at the Cape St. Elias Light Station, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Grant funds will cover the cost of supplies. Work will begin in April 2024 and end in September 2024. The pre-treated shingles will extend the life of the Boathouse, which currently serves as the bunkhouse for public lodging and is an important asset for visitors. This speaks to the public component, which, with restoration, allows for increased and broad visitation to a place extremely difficult to reach. Public engagement also speaks to a relationship with the Cordova History Museum.

7. Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry Boat Restoration projects, \$50,000

Project proposes to restore several boats in its collection while training local youth in a trade. Project includes gathering information from local fishermen and writing a national register nomination. Grant funds will support contractual services, supplies, and equipment. Project proposes to begin in March 2024 and be completed in June 2025.

8. Chugach Heritage Museum and Archaeological Repository Boat building space, \$50,000

This funding is being requested to assist with the construction of a facility for the Chugach Heritage Museum & Archaeological Repository. The museum will make historical facts, exhibits, and stories of local subsistence users about the heritage and culture of the Chugach people, the historic maritime resource the project proposes to preserve, available. Grant funds will cover the cost of a building contractor.

National Register Nomination

The Wolf Creek Boathouse Historic District

The AHC voted 6-0, one abstaining and one absent, that the Wolf Creek Boat House Historic District, with a period of significance from 1938 to 1951, meets criteria A and D and is significant on a local level for its association with industry, maritime history, commerce, and historic archeology.

The Sitka Woman's Club Cottage

The AHC voted 6-0, one abstaining and one absent, that the Sitka Woman's Club Cottage, with a

period of significance from 1951-1975, meets criterion A, and is significant on a local level for social history and woman's history.

Geographic Names Proposals

Frank Creek

AHC voted 0-7, rejecting the nomination to change Dago Frank Creek to Frank Creek.

Mount Elliott

AHC tabled the proposal due to a clerical error and will vote on the proposal at its Winter 2024 Meeting.

Nanvarpak

AHC voted 7-0 to approve Nanvarpak, meaning Large Lake in Yupik, to name an unnamed lake northeast of the communities of Togiak and Twin Hills in southwestern Alaska.