

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The Pratt Museum explores and preserves the culture, science, and art of the Kachemak Bay Region.

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Privilege to Serve



What a year it has been! Last year, while visiting my son in Arizona, I attended the Annual Meeting via Zoom and was delighted to learn that I had been elected to the board of directors. While I hadn't initially considered becoming President, I decided to step up when no one else did. Thank you all for your support and for being here this evening.

The year 2024 has been busy, and our Executive Director, Patricia Relay, has done an excellent job managing the museum, hiring new staff, reopening the store, and increasing tourist visits. While we are making progress financially, we continue to rely on the generous donation from Nancy Levinson to keep operations running. The Board has been cautious with our savings, and I aim to maintain that approach. In recognition of Nancy's support, we will formally acknowledge both her and Dan Levinson with a commemorative stone monument during a dedication ceremony on August 8, 2025, from 2 to 4 p.m. I'm also reviewing Nancy's poetry collection to share at the event. I hope you all will plan to attend. I'm excited to share some wonderful updates about how our amazing board has supported the Museum this year, working alongside our fantastic staff! In collaboration with the Bylaws Committee, the Board Development Committee updated the corporate bylaws. The Collections Committee met quarterly to advise and support our new Curator. The Finance Committee convened monthly to monitor our financial status. The Fundraising Committee took on the challenging task of reintroducing the Ritz, as well as raising funds through raffles and appeals. The Strategic Planning Committee, which includes both board members and staff, developed a five-year plan. On the next page, you will find more details about how each committee supported the Museum. Thank you to everyone involved for your hard work and dedication!

Looking forward, 2025 should be equally exciting. This summer we will once again host guest from around the world. I so enjoy meeting visitors and particularly visitors from Germany. I close with this memory from last summer. A ship from Japan made a last-minute stop in Homer, after being unable to make their planned stop in Dutch Harbor. I will never forget the first couple to come to the Harrington Cabin where I was volunteering as a docent, announced they were from Hamburg, Germany. I proceeded to answer them, in German, and I shared with them that Hamburg was my mother's hometown. The gentleman responded in German, "We had to come to Homer, Alaska to find someone who speaks German!" Homer is a wonderful place and I am so thrilled that the Pratt Museum can provide an excellent visitor experience for our local community as well as guests from around the world.

As a community-based museum, we invite all to our doors are open to all. Please join me in celebrating our fine museum.

Milli Marteri

Committees

Bylaws Committee The committee convened to update the existing bylaws, with the goal of clearly defining the code of conduct, grievance procedures, conflict of interest policies, and the overall committee structure.

Board Development Committee The role of the Board Development Committee is to give attention to the Composition of the Board and the effective and appropriate involvement of all Directors to ensure continuing vitality and effective governance.

Collections Committee This committee met quarterly throughout the year to provide recommendations on potential donations and offsite exhibits.

Finance Committee In addition to creating an annual operating budget, this committee held monthly meetings and convened more frequently as needed to closely monitor financial performance and advise on bookkeeping practices.



ABOVE Heirloom quilt, donated by community member Lou Detwiler. Accession to the Education Collection was approved by the Collections Committee in November.

Fundraising Committee The Committee actively engaged in raising contributions through raffles, appeals, and events, like the Pratt Museum's signature benefit event, the *Ritz*.

BELOW Excitement during the live auction portion of the 2024 benefit event, *Kodachrome Ritz.*



Strategic Planning Committee This committee was established to create a new Strategic Plan. This effort involved participation from both the Board and the staff. Consequently, the Museum now has a new Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2030 to guide our future direction.

BELOW Museum staff and board members work together during the Strategic Planning Retreat in spring 2024.



Looking Back, Looking Forward

Reflecting on the past year reinforces my confidence and sets the stage for an even more successful future. The Museum team has firmly established a proactive and determined approach, making substantial progress across multiple areas. Working hand-in-hand with *The Homer Society of Natural History, Inc.* Board of Directors, the Pratt Museum Staff has taken decisive steps to solidify our foundation by updating our corporate Bylaws and crafting a robust strategic plan for 2025-2030.

Recognizing the imperative need for skilled professionals to fulfill the Museum's mission, we have turned our attention to the community, actively fostering engagement and outreach. With a fully staffed team, we are not just operating the Museum; we are doing so as a thriving enterprise while remaining steadfast in our commitment to explore and preserve the rich culture, science, and art of the Kachemak Bay Region.

Our recent accomplishments have made a significant impact on our community in three essential areas: our expanded program offerings, increased visitor engagement and collaboration, and enhanced income generation. Our dedicated team has successfully amplified our programs, leading to a remarkable rise in school group participation, public programs, and school visits, all while improving access to the Museum's diverse collections and expanding our temporary exhibits.

These strategic enhancements have directly resulted in heightened visitor engagement and collaboration, effectively broadening our audience base. Tour operators are now eager to feature our Museum as a premier destination for their clients.

The outcomes of our initiatives are clear: we have achieved a 25% increase in grants and an astonishing 98% rise in earned revenues.



Our deliberate focus on optimizing museum operations, combined with a resolute businessoriented strategy, has paid off handsomely for the Pratt Museum. With a leadership change in 2023, we entered 2024 with a renewed sense of optimism and vigor. Our dedicated team, along with community groups, has united to tackle complex challenges head-on, resulting in diversified income streams and a community that is not merely engaged but truly enthusiastic about our programs.

Please take a moment to dive into the inspiring reports within this Annual Report. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call, email, or better yet, swing by the Pratt Museum for a visit. My door is always open.

Patricia Delaz

Collections

In August our team expanded to include **Liv Wisnewski**, our new *Curator of Collections & Exhibitions*. Liv hails from Virginia and holds a BA and MA in Material Culture and Public Humanities from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She has experience in collections management and registration, as well as public education through roles as a historic sites interpreter and museum guide.

In September we welcomed staff from the Alutiiq Museum to photograph materials from the Pratt Museum collection for the Amutat Database. The Amutat Database, (Amutat is Alutiiq for "things to pull") is a digital repository of Alutiiq / Sugpiaq ethnographic items housed in collections across the globe. We were also honored to receive an Alaska State Museum Grant-in-Aid, allowing us to upgrade our collections database software to an online platform and host a graduate intern to help with the migration process.



ABOVE Alutiiq Museum Curator of Collections, Amanda Lancaster, and Pam Foreman, photographer from Island Byways Photography, photograph items from our collections for the Amutat Database.

The Collections Committee made many difficult decisions regarding donation offers that could not be accepted to the Museum at this time. Thank you to all the individuals who made generous donation offers in 2024.

BELOW Facilities, Grounds & Exhibits Manager, Chase Warren, Collections Committee member Lee Post, and Curator of Collections & Exhibitions Liv Wisnewski install the Narwhal Tusk in the Marine Gallery.



Exhibits

The Pratt Museum welcomed a range of temporary exhibitions in 2024, from Valdez artist Faith Revell's *Light in Bloom*, to Alaska Photographic Center's *Rarefied Light 2023*. The highlight of the summer was American painter Marjorie Scholl's special exhibition, *Inner Stellar*, a series of painted portraits honoring the experience of reacquainting with one's 'inner child'. We also hosted an exhibit curated by the City of Homer celebrating the 40th anniversary as a Sister City with Teshio, Japan, showcasing art generously gifted to the City's Municipal Art Collection by the residents of Teshio.

The permanent galleries also experienced an update, as we accessioned and displayed Narwhal Tusk in the Marine gallery. Be on the lookout for further changes, thanks to generous support from the Roy A. Hunt Foundation, and Museums Alaska's Collections Management Fund. The Pratt Museum received funding from both institutions, allowing us to make major upgrades to the Gull Island exhibit in the Marine Gallery.



Detail from *Woods is Her Maiden Name*, a self-portrait included in Marjorie Scholl's exhibition, *Inner Stellar*, which was on display from May - September.



Light in Bloom, a series of oil paintings by Faith Revell, was inspired by changing light and ensuing form. This exhibit was on display from February - May.



Rarefied Light is Alaska's largest annual fine art photography exhibition and the 2023 show was on display in our Main Gallery from October to the end of the year. Pictured above is detail from *Kivalina Road 1* by Kevin Smith.

Education



ABOVE Third grade students visiting the Museum on a field trip from West Homer Elementary School enjoy a guided tour of the Museum led by Curator Monnig.

This fall we welcomed **Maghan Monnig** to the Pratt team in the role of Curator of Education & Public Programs. Maghan has a master's degree in Museum Cultures with recent experience with public outreach, facilitating tours, and Museum education programs.

Since arriving, Curator Monnig has **elevated** the educational opportunities available to our community, offering group tours of our galleries and grounds, themed field trip options, and classroom visits. **Education Kits** have been updated and are once again available to provide resources and interactive learning opportunities to local schools and homeschool families.

In October, our Education staff developed and hosted an **Educator Evening**, which offered a chance to network with educators in our community and provide information about resources and opportunities the Pratt can provide. We continue to host **Storytime at the PRATT**, a free, weekly program available to families with children ages 3-10 which includes a simple craft and time to explore the Museum. Storytime has been updated by Curator Monnig to feature monthly themes, from *Native American Heritage Month* to *Marine Mammals* to *Our Planet*. Our team ensures that children's books written by Indigenous authors or inspired by traditional Alaska Native stories are included each month.

In November, Curators Liv Wisnewski and Maghan Monnig were **honored** to be a part of a Homer High School Alaska History Class research project, presenting information to the class on how to handle exhibits, museum donations, and repatriation efforts. We look forward to seeing the students' continued work validating their research and making connections with Alaska Native Culture Bearers across the state.

BELOW Students work together to complete an educational scavenger hunt in our permanant gallery, *Kachemak Bay: An Exploration of People & Place.*



Botanical Garden

2024 was a flourishing year for the Pratt Museum gardens. We offered guided tours of the Botanical Garden, Homestead Garden, and Forest Trails to over 150 visitors, held a variety of workshops, and deepened our working relationships with several outside institutions. Many long-time Homer residents commented on how lush and beautiful the Botanical Garden was this season, with the renovation efforts of 2021 now well in the past and the plants merging together to form their own ecosystem on our grounds. We highlighted some of our **weirdly wonderful** plants by offering workshops on native orchids and carnivorous plants, and some local participants took tiny sundew plants home with them.

Our collaborations afield have also borne fruit, with new grant opportunities arising to help fund our work in getting plant related programming into local schools. We have been collaborating with **Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve** and the **Smithsonian Environmental Research Center** to bring orchid/fungal relationship experiments into several local middle school classrooms.

BELOW Our gardens were a highlight of many guests visits to the Museum this summer.



In May we held our **Annual Plant Sale**, our largest and most successful in recent years, generating income for the Museum while building relationships around gardening for community members. We often hear stories from local gardeners about plants they purchased in years past, which are still a source of delight in their home gardens.



ABOVE Cup'ig Knowledge Keeper and expert weaver, Emily Johnston, shows Pratt Museum Head Gardener and Ninilchik Tribal member, Shawn Jackinsky, how to identify grass ideal for weaving and how to harvest it correctly.

Throughout 2024 we also were community partners in an ethnobotanical project, *Woven Together: Taperrnat Research and Art.* Organized by Dawn Biddison, **Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center in Alaska**, in partnership with the **Bristol Bay Foundation** and Alaska Native community members, the project included collecting data on local populations of beach rye grass, and hosting Indigenous Knowledge Keepers in workshops on harvesting, processing, and weaving the grass in traditional ways.

We are looking forward to continuing to make the gardens more accessible and informational for visitors and residents alike. Stay tuned in 2025 for exciting new offerings and some long anticipated programs based on our ongoing experiments and propagation projects!

Public Programs

Here at Museum, we fulfill our mission by facilitating engagement between community members and strengthening understandings of our shared place through relevant educational programming. Building on previous seasons of high-quality art, culture, and science based educational programming, we were excited to include exciting new curricula in 2024, led by experienced and highly-qualified instructors.

Our programming was targeted to a diverse audience, ranging from children to lifelong learners, community members and visitors alike. Through each workshop, lecture, or program, we strove to inspire an enduring process of discovery to reflect the artist, historian, and citizen scientist within each of our participants.

We also continued to collaborate with key community organizations, such as the Homer Public Library, Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District public schools, Connections Homeschool, and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center to provide a variety of activities and workshops. We are working to build connections with our Alaska Native stakeholders in the region to see how we can best create meaningful relationships and collaborations for current and future programs, exhibits, and projects.

BELOW *Pop Up Art with Faith Revell* offered a series of classes, including a walk on our Forest Trails followed by making Inky Tree paintings in our downstairs classroom.





ABOVE Over 45 community members came out for *Bones, Tusks & More: A Lecture by 'Bone Man' Lee Post.*



ABOVE During our *Nettle Fiber Workshop*, participants learned ways of working with nettle as a fiber plant with local multi-media artist and fiber explorer Carla Klinker.

2024 Financial Report

The financial statements provided in the accompanying handout, dated December 31, 2024, serve as a preliminary overview of the Pratt Museum's financial position. A comprehensive set of statements will be generated through an upcoming financial audit, to be conducted by Foster and Company, LLC. This report presents an initial insight into our budget performance and financial standing.



2024 REVENUES + EXPENDITURES At year-end, we've exceeded revenue assumptions by 7% while keeping expenditures under 100%. Grants are at 99% of the budget, with state grants exceeding expectations by \$6,729.30 and foundation grants at \$15,000. Earned revenues are at 109%, driven by strong admissions and membership sales, though retail sales have declined. Fund Development reached 116%, mainly due to robust corporate donations and raffle revenues. Overall, we are operating within acceptable parameters at 100%. With the exception of Administrative Expenses tracking at 117%, Operational and Program of Work is tracking within range at 96% and 81% respectively.

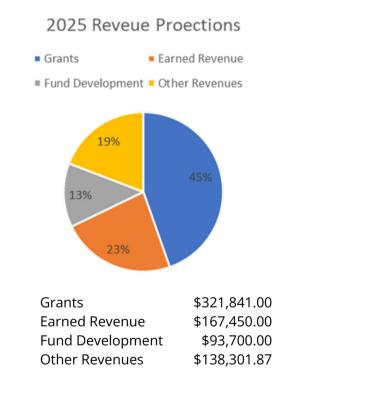


2024 ASSETS + LIABILITIES Although our assets and liabilities decreased by 3%, the good news is that we have money in the bank to keep the doors open. While Bank Accounts and Accounts Receivable decreased by 34% and 22% respectively, Short-Term and Long-Term Investments grew by 1.23% and 10% respectively. The overall decrease is directly attributed to the Levinson legacy gift, whereby difference in net revenue and the need to transfer reserves from savings have impacted the change.

2025 Projected Budget

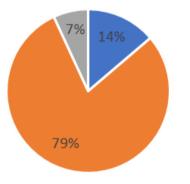
The 2025 Budget aims to maintain the same principles established in 2024 by adopting a businessoriented approach. Like the previous year, the 2025 budget focuses on diversifying income streams while responsibly streamlining costs to ensure sustainability and maximize our mission's impact. Although grants remain a crucial part of our income, diversifying both earned and contributed revenue presents a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships. This diversification also helps protect us from budget shortfalls when grants become unreliable.

While we have made positive strides in diversification, the reality is that the Museum cannot continue to grow without utilizing reserves generously donated by Nancy Levinson. Without these funds, the Museum faces a deficit budget, which we acknowledge is not sustainable. Therefore, we are implementing strategic efforts across the board to address this challenge.



2025 Expense Projection

- Administration Expenses
- Operating Expenses
- Program of Work



Administration Expenses	\$96,292.00
Operating Expenses	\$554,733.87
Program of Work Expenses	\$48,267.00



Volunteer Recognition

Volunteers play a vital role here at the Museum, and we are incredibly grateful for each and every person who chooses to help in this way. We rely on volunteers to serve on our governing board, to help on committees, and support our missiondriven programming.

In 2024, community members spent over **685 hours** in volunteer service at our Museum! Those hours were spent greeting visitors, giving tours, educating visitors about our exhibits, and helping with the behind-the-scenes tasks necessary for the Museum to function.

We couldn't fulfill our mission without our volunteers, so **thank you** to all those who devoted their time and energy in 2024.

Pratt Museum Volunteers

Marcia Akresh **Jennifer Bartolowits** Savanna Bradley Clark Fair Tim Hatfield Sue Fallon Janet Klein Milli Martin **Bob Neubauer Emily Owens** Lee Post Erik Pullman Lukas Renner Linda Rowell Marilyn Sigman Kathy Smith **Stephen Steiner** Mel Strydom



Lukas Renner was an Intern through our *History* + *Nature Come Alive!* public program series over the summer. After his internship came to a close, he continued to volunteer at the Museum throughout the year. Thank you Lukas!



Linda Rowell has volunteered as the guide for the Pratt Museum's Historic Walking Tour of the Homer Small Boat Harbor for over twenty-five years. Thank you Linda!

With Gratitude: Thank You to Our Generous Supporters

OUR MEMBERS -A- Donna + Wayne Aderhold, Kasey Aderhold, Jennifer Adleman, Marcia + Abe Akresh , Paul Allan + Louise Ashmun, Cassidy Allmendinger, Debbie Alpe, Martha E. Altman, Janet L. Ames, Ole Andersson + Jinky Handy, Eleanor Andrews, Tracy Asselin -B- Doug & Landa Baily, Kris Barnett, Jennifer Bartolowits, LaRae Bartolowits, Paul Bartolowits, Bill + Eileen Bechtol, Barbara Beeman + Glenn Arundell, Heather Beggs, Marvin + Annette Bellamy, Janice Blanchard, Donald + Tammy Bradley, Savanna Bradley, Ralph Broshes + Debra Lowney, Pam Brodie, Rosecarrie Brooks, Charles + Elaine Burgess, Marylou Burton -C- Sky + Jodi Cady, Kathryn Carssow, Ken Castner + Nancy Lord, Brittiny Cheatwood, Dotty Cline, Roger + Denice Clyne, Bobbie Coffey, Tom Collopy + Mary Frische, Dan + Jenny Coyle, Kay Curtis -D- Jeff Dean, Greg + Carole Demers, Regina Discenza, Ann Dixon, Kirsten Dixon, James + Brenda Dolma, Ginger Drais -E- Benay Egan, Kathleen Eagle, Tom Early, Dave + Lisa Ellington, Wendy Erd + Peter Kaufmann, Alivia Erickson, Leah Evans + Brad Thornburgh, Shirley Evans -F- Clark Fair, Sue Fallon, Kevin + Kathleen Fay, Rosemarie Fiala, Janet Fink, Hope Finkelstein, Aspen Firth, Stephen Fogarsi, Larry + Carol Ford, Jess Franklin + Allen Johnson, Tanya Freund, Greg + Mary Fries -G- Cynthia Gaguine, Amy Gilson, Robert + Monica Glen, Bernard Griffard, Laura Ground -H- Donna Hall, Steve + Whitney Harness, Dotti Harness-Foster + Rick Foster, Brian Harrison + Suzanne Haines, Erica Ono Hasche + Daniel Hasche, Tim Hatfield, Michael Hawfield, Jana Hayenga, Wes + Angela Head, Roberta Highland, Kirby Hobley, Kristine Holderied + Amy Holman, Edward Hutchinson + Jan Knutson -J- Susan Jackson, Suzanne + Tim Jerew, Margaret Johnson -K- Hassan Kaplan, Janette Keiser, Maureen Kennedy, Mairiis Kilcher, Marion Kinter, Marilyn Kirkham, Tom Kizzia, Janet Klein, Jackie Knutson, Art Koeninger, Kim + Charles Kraushar, Paula + Jon Kulhanek -L- Charlie + David Lahaie, Ken Landfield, Charles Landmesser, Kinna Ledger, Judy Lehman, Barbara +, Martin Leichtung, Richard Leirer, Anna Lewald, Doug + Shana Loshbaugh, Maygen Lotscher, David Lewis + Lyn Maslow -M- Martha Madsen, Megan Malcolm, Carl Markon, Karin Marks, Milli Martin, George Matz + Jeannie Woodring, Julie May, Neil McArthur, Michael McBride, Michael + Catherine McCarthy, Marie McCarty + Steve Baird, Kate McGregor + Lorne Kligerman, Michael + Roberta McKinney, Sharon McNab, Joe + Joan Mello, Peter + Jo Michalski, John Miles, Roberta Miller, Sandy Miller, Catherine Mitchell, Chris Morin + Shannon McBride-Morin, John + Rika Mouw, Margaret Mullen, Karen Murdock + Bill Marhsall, Michael + Martha Murray -N- Cindy Nelson, Robert Neubauer + Nancy J. York, Beverly + Leo Nikora, David + Ruby Nofziger, Jackie Norvell -O- Maddie O'Laire, Malia J. Oliver, Jenny Olson, Mike O'Meara, Debbie Oudiz -P- Laurie Palo, Patricia Partnow, De Pata, Pauala's Place B+B, Daniel Perry, Adele Person, Alice Porter, Erik Pullman -R- Amy Rattenbury, Jane Regan, Patricia Relay, Jill Rife, Francie Roberts, Mark Robinson + Nancy Lander, Michael Rocereta, Rhoda Roedl, Sharon Roufa, Linda Rowell, Priscilla Russsell -S- Kirt Sampson, Jerry Scholand, Seaman Consulting + Tours, Paula + Tina Seaton, Amber Shadley, Chessie + Jon Sharp, Jessica Sharp, Marilyn Sigman, Carol + Wesley Skinner, Bill Smith, Deborah Smith, Jammie Smith, Maynard + Kathy Smith, South Peninsula Hospital Long-term Care, Emilie Springer, Mel Strydom + Nadia Klingle, Laurie Stuart, Carol Swartz, Kim Sweeny -T- Jim Thiele, Emmitt + Mary Trimble, David + Marcia Trudgen -V- Ginger + Steven Van Wagoner, Barbara Veeck, Franco + Caroline Venuti -W- Neil + Kyra Wagner, Dennis Wavrin, Betsy Webb, Susan Welsh-Smith, Patricia Westbrook, Dana Whittaker, Sharon Whytal, Annie Williams, Mark Williams, Judith Winn, Cora Mae Wise, Karen + Bill Wuestenfeld -Y- Aleda Yourdon -Z- Eric + Beat Zinck, Tom + Lori Zitzmann.

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EXHIBITS + PROGRAMS









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TECHNOLOGY

Erik Pullman, Kachemak Bay Technical Services

Overheard from our Visitors

Worth Your Time

Spent a couple of hours here. Very interesting time - be sure to tour the cabin next door and walk the hiking trails. We saw a mamma moose with calves!

Amazing Museum!

They have a lot of information about wildlife and the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The highlight is definitely the homestead! There are so many old foods/medications/tools! If you are in Homer, visit this museum and make sure to talk to the front desk for a tour of the cabin!

Not to Miss

Such a great museum for learning about local and state history! They have a lot of hands-on activities for kids and adults.



Museum Store

The Pratt Museum Store carries artwork and merchandise that aligns with our mission to explore and preserve the culture, science, and art of the Kachemak Bay Region. We work closely with local artists and vendors to curate a shopping experience in which the objects purchased inspire echos of what each visitor observed, learned and felt while touring the Museum's galleries and exploring this incredible place.

