

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaska Humanities Forum announces \$50,000 in grants to support projects that connect communities and media-makers in Alaska

The Alaska Humanities Forum is excited to announce its 2022 Community-Engaged Media Grant awards. Five project teams each received grants in the amount of \$10,000 for projects that bring community stakeholders and media-makers together to tell stories that reflect and serve lived experience across Alaska. As a new grantmaking program, the Community-Engaged Media Grants will build on previous Alaska Humanities Forum programming to explore the relationship between community and media in the state.

Alaska Humanities Forum grants are supported by federal funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (neh.gov). This funding allows state and jurisdictional humanities councils across the country to provide project support in order to bring humanities education, lifelong learning, and public humanities programming to communities across the country.

Kameron Perez-Verdia, President & CEO of the Alaska Humanities Forum, said: "Through our grantmaking, the Alaska Humanities Forum is excited to support Alaska organizations whose work strengthens our communities. In 2022, we were thrilled to award funding to five organizations working to build connections between media-makers and community members."

Congratulations to the 2022 Community-Engaged Media grantees:

Áak'w Kwáan Coalition Council

Haa Shagoon At.óowu Teen Anal'eix: Dance With Our Ancestors' Regalia

This project will photograph Indigenous artists in their element, sharing their connection to their ancestors through their various mediums. The project will focus on how each artist dances with their ancestors' regalia, and how they share their histories, stories, and perspectives through art.

Alaska Public Media/Young Kim & Victoria Petersen

Anchorage journalists Victoria Petersen and Young Kim, in partnership with Alaska Public Media, will explore stories of labor, culture, community and more through the lens of food. The multimedia project will focus on the city's food system, particularly in Anchorage's underreported and underrepresented communities.

Alaskan Films/Alaska Children's Trust

Sharing Alaskans' Experiences with Child Abuse and Neglect

In partnership with an advisory group of those with lived experience of child abuse and neglect, this project will work to provide a safe way to break the silence on child abuse and neglect in Alaska. Child abuse and neglect is a taboo subject, and the silence surrounding it can prevent individuals, families, and communities from healing. Storytelling provides a pathway to process past events while simultaneously shining a light on lived experience for others.

See Stories/Sound Artist Kaitlin Armstrong

Unsettling Alaska

Unsettling Alaska is a documentary podcast series about the myths that shape how Alaskans view our history and ourselves. Afro-Indigenous activist Amber Starks says that "behind every settler project is

a settler myth.” This eight-episode sound-rich documentary series will revisit key moments of Alaska’s history—such as the gold rush, Russian colonization, the development of the commercial fishing industry, Alaska’s civil rights movement, and the oil boom—examining how these periods are popularly remembered and misremembered, and upturning the ways in which Alaska’s history is often told in the shape of settler myths. Each episode will feature interviews with experts and everyday Alaskans of diverse backgrounds, exploring the intersections of Alaskan identity and Alaska’s history. See Stories will collaborate with educators to create a curriculum that adapts the podcast and the themes it raises for use in social studies and Alaska Studies classrooms.

SouthWest Alaska Arts Group/Katie Basile Photography

This project will explore how culture and identity are expressed through artistic creation. The project will focus on traditional art forms that have been passed on through intergenerational knowledge, as well as how art practices may (or may not) have transformed with influences from: individual perspective, modern adaptations/tools, or blending of contemporary ideas with ways-of-being from old.

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About the Alaska Humanities Forum: The mission of the Alaska Humanities Forum is to connect Alaskans through stories, ideas, and experiences that positively change lives and empower communities. Our vision is a culturally rich, economically vibrant, and equitable Alaska where people are engaged, informed, and connected. Since 1972, The Forum has been Alaska’s state Humanities Council under the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is one of 56 state and territorial groups supported by the NEH and the Federation of State Humanities Councils.