



**Native American/Native Hawaiian
Museum Services
Sample Application MN-00-13-0019-13**

Koniag, Inc.

Amount awarded by IMLS:	\$49,673
Amount of cost share:	\$9,199

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Abstract
- Narrative
- Schedule of Completion

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Abstract

The Karluk River snakes through the brushy, low-lying mountains of Alaska's southern Kodiak Island. Just 22 miles long, the river appears small from the air; a narrow channel of fresh water draining a mitten-shaped lake. Closer consideration reveals that the Karluk is one of Alaska's most prolific salmon streams. All five species of Pacific salmon spawn here, returning annually in spectacular quantities. Drawn to this bounty, Kodiak's Alutiiq inhabitants have inhabited the region for 7,000 years. The remains of over 100 settlements document their activities and the evolution of fishing and food storage. The Karluk holds profoundly important natural resources and some of Kodiak's richest cultural deposits.

In the 1980s, archaeological research along the Karluk generated significant ancestral collections from Koniag, Inc. lands. These large assemblages are now cornerstones of our tribal repository, the Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository. They include the Old Karluk collection; an assemblage of 10,000 artifacts.

Koniag, Inc. proposes to provide IMLS funding to the Alutiiq Museum, to enhance the care and interpretation of the Old Karluk collection. This collection records Alutiiq lifeways over a 6,000-year period. Twelve discrete site layers document occupations from each of the region's major cultural eras, one with 1,000 year old wood preservation. Unfortunately, however, the Old Karluk collection lacks a full and accurate inventory, is poorly stored and organized, and has few summary documents to assist in its interpretation. Excavators' field notes have never been turned into maps of site features, and the site's contents are largely unpublished. Although carefully excavated and filled with information, the collection is presently unusable.

The *Cuumi Kal'uni – Before, From Karluk* project will improve the care of the Old Karluk collection and promote its use. It will generate an accurate, complete inventory, rehouse collections, expand an Alutiiq artifact nomenclature to encompass Old Karluk objects, create resources to aid in site interpretation, and promote public awareness of the collection. To accomplish these tasks, museum Registrar Marnie Leist will lead a two-year project. It will begin with data entry and translation of the existing catalog from Fortran to English. Then, uncataloged materials will be cataloged, and all remaining items checked to insure correct identifications and consistent use of terminology. As this work progresses, the collection will be rehoused and reorganized. Staff will also draft site maps from field notes, work with Alutiiq speakers to document Alutiiq terms for the site's objects, and write a journal article summarizing the site and its importance. Newsletter and website articles, Facebook posts, and a public lecture will share the project to generate public awareness of its availability and place in Alutiiq history.

To complete this work, Koniag, Inc. requests support for staff salaries, a collections assistant, storage materials, Elder honoraria, IMLS mandated travel, and a portion of project overhead. The Alutiiq Museum will provide additional staff time, project promotion, and a portion of project overhead.

Cuumi Kal'uni is a labor-intensive project that depends on the careful use of staff time. The museum will monitor progress by setting monthly work goals and tracking progress on time sheets and at curatorial meetings. Additionally, before and after photos of collections storage will document physical changes in housing, and the completed inventory and updated nomenclature will provide comparisons to original documents. Peer reviews of the draft journal article will ensure a readable, accessible site summary.

The results of this project will be many. First, a virtually unusable assemblage will be brought into the Alutiiq Museum's inventory and taxonomic systems. This will assist the museum in sharing Old Karluk with a broad public audience through exhibits, outreach programs, and presentations for years to come. It will also make the assemblage accessible to the many artists, educators, and students who visit our collections for inspiration and information, and promote its use in research. Additionally, the project will support the preservation and documentation of the Alutiiq language. It will aid in documenting Alutiiq cultural categories for ancient objects with help from the last generations of first language Alutiiq speakers. Ultimately, all of these accomplishments will advance community understanding of Alutiiq heritage, the museum's core mission.

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Narrative

1. Project Justification

Need: In 1995, the newly established Alutiiq Museum accepted the extensive collections of the Kodiak Area Native Association. Over 150,000 archaeological, ethnographic, natural history, and photographic items were transferred to our tribal repository for long-term care. The majority of these collections arrived unregistered, unorganized, and poorly documented. For the past 17 years, staff members have worked diligently to create a professional collections program and improve the care of inherited collections. They developed a collections policy and procedures, registered the collections, created an electronic database, organized objects in secure, climate-controlled storage, and in the process, earned national accreditation. Now, staff members are working to improve the care of individual collections.

To advance this effort, Koniag, Inc. proposes *Cuum'i Kal'uni*, a two-year collections care partnership with the Alutiiq Museum (Supportingdoc1). The project will improve the documentation, storage, and accessibility of the Old Karluk collection to support its use in interpretation and research. Owned by Koniag, Inc. and excavated in the 1980s, Old Karluk is one of the region's largest and most diverse artifact assemblages. Its 10,000 pieces include materials from each major era of Alutiiq history, from 6,000 years ago to the historic period. Stone, bone, antler, ivory, coal, ceramic, and wooden objects are all present (Supportingdoc4), found among houses, storage pits, hearths, and activity areas. Together these, materials provide a rich illustration of Alutiiq lifeways, particularly the evolution of fishing and food storage practices. Importantly, the site's middle layers included wood preservation, providing a 1,000 year old view of Alutiiq technologies.

Unfortunately, this collection lacks a full and accurate inventory. About 1,000 items remains to be cataloged. Another 3,000 are cataloged but not entered in the electronic database. Additionally, the catalog uses Fortran codes to represent object types and raw materials rather than descriptive terms (Supportingdoc5). Moreover, undergraduate students with little training created the current catalog. Their use of terms is inconsistent and does not match the museum's carefully developed artifact nomenclature. As such, the museum needs to complete a total inventory of Old Karluk to document its contents fully and accurately.

Compounding the cataloging problems are storage and documentation issues. Old Karluk objects are squeezed into overflowing drawers and tubs, often with poor storage materials. Some items need supports. Others require archival quality tags and boxes (Supportingdoc 4). Site documentation is equally problematic. The Old Karluk field notes are detailed and well organized, but the information they contain has never been compiled into summary maps of structures and features. This makes it difficult to understand the context of the artifacts, or to study objects as groups reflecting past activities. As such, this large, valuable collection is poorly known and largely unpublished. There is no comprehensive, published summary of Old Karluk.

Activities: *Cuum'i Kal'uni* will address Old Karluk's needs by (1) creating a full and accurate inventory of the collection; (2) rehousing artifacts in appropriate storage; (3) developing documentation—site maps, an Alutiiq language taxonomy, a summary article; and (4) sharing the results with the public.

These activities reflect careful curatorial planning. A 2001 MAP II collections management survey recommended the museum apply for grants to improve the care of specific collections and noted that the registration and documentation of poorly documented inherited collections—like Old Karluk—was a concern. With major registration projects complete, staff members are now working on such collections. Old Karluk is the logical next focus. From 2010-2012 the museum completed a thorough inventory of Karluk One, another site collection from Karluk Lagoon. This project's results provide a foundation for *Cuumi Kal'uni*. The artifact categories and Alutiiq nomenclature developed for Karluk One (Supportingdoc6) will be used in the inventory of the Old Karluk Collection and as a starting point for expanding terminology to include older objects not found at Karluk One. Moreover, the museum recently cataloged its Old Karluk photograph files, making images available for *Cuumi Kal'uni* resources. It also has a new storage room that will provide space to rehouse the collection, and staff members with extensive experience in Karluk archaeology and the excavation of Old Karluk. In short *Cuumi Kal'uni* leverages existing resources and relationships to insure a successful project. Finally, the project has strong ties to the museum's interpretive and long range plans (Supportingdoc

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2 & 3). It supports the desire for publications on local archaeological research, as well as four goals of its core directions, heritage accessibility, site documentation, language renewal, and storage improvement.

Results & Beneficiaries: Project activities will create multiple positive outcomes for the museum and its patrons. First, *Cuumi Kal'uni* builds interpretive capacity for the Alutiiq Museum. It transforms a large, information rich collection into a well-organized, documented resource for exhibits, public programs, publications, and research. It will help the museum meet its collections stewardship responsibilities, while promoting use of the collection far into the future.

Second, the project will enhance community access to objects of Alutiiq heritage. The Alutiiq Museum has a reputation for connecting people to collections. For the past decade, staff members have developed numerous educational opportunities featuring ancestral objects, particularly Alutiiq ethnographic collections from European museums. Yet, the museum has not fully shared its own holdings due to documentation problems. *Cuumi Kal'uni* helps to address this situation. This project's resources are a foundation for sharing Old Karluk objects with the many artists, students, and educators who visit the museum annually.

Third, the project will assist academic studies of Alutiiq history by making the collection research ready both for Kodiak residents and scholars elsewhere. The University of Washington's Burke Museum recently accessioned an enormous collection of animal remains from Kodiak sites, including those from Old Karluk. Copies of project documentation archived at the Burke (Supportingdoc13) will provide provenance for these samples, enhancing their research value and ability to shed light on Alutiiq history in perpetuity.

Fourth, this project promotes the preservation of the Alutiiq language. *Cuumi Kal'uni* will expand the museum's artifact taxonomy to include Alutiiq terms for the most ancient Alutiiq artifacts. These materials are yet to be named. By uniting Alutiiq names and objects, the project will generate valuable linguistic documentation. It will assist the last generation of first language Alutiiq speakers in recording technological concepts. This will advance the process of returning Alutiiq voices to the care of collections, and demonstrate the importance of ancestral objects to the contemporary Native life.

Finally, this project will expand the community dialog on Alutiiq heritage. By publically sharing an important assemblage and steps in its professional care, the museum will demonstrate the importance of cultural preservation, encourage heritage study, and continue building community respect for Alutiiq traditions. To date, such efforts have created a more inclusive view of local history. *Cuumi Kal'uni* will continue this process. It will promote knowledge of the Alutiiq past and pride in Alutiiq ancestry.

2. Project Work Plan

Goals: *Cuumi Kal'uni* will transform the care and accessibility of the Old Karluk collections. Its goals are:

- (1) to complete a comprehensive documentation of the Old Karluk collection;
- (2) to promote the long-term preservation of the Old Karluk collection;
- (3) to create resources for understanding the context of the collection and assist in its interpretation; and
- (4) to enhance public awareness of the Old Karluk collection and its ties to Alutiiq history.

Activities & Schedule: To accomplish these objectives, Koniag, Inc. will provide the Alutiiq Museum with IMLS funding for a two-year project. Founded in 1995, the museum preserves the cultural tradition of the Alutiiq people with a collection of over 250,000 objects and images. Exhibits, programs, and publications tell the Alutiiq story, promote cultural pride, and invite all people to explore Native heritage. Activities center around a modern, 5,000 sq. ft. facility in downtown Kodiak staffed by 10. The museum serves about 8,000 visitors annually. Thousands more benefit from programs that reach far beyond museum walls into schools and communities. The museum has an excellent record of financial management and project completion. In 16 years of operation, staff members have handled numerous multi-year grants from private, state, and federal organizations. These projects have been completed on time and budget, with exceptional benefit to museum audiences. The museum's 2011 accreditation further illustrates its dedication to professionalism.

Cuumi Kal'uni will begin in October of 2013. Museum Manager Katie St. John will order supplies and work with project director / registrar Marnie Leist to hire a part time collections assistant. To address Goal 1—comprehensive collection documentation—Leist will complete unfinished cataloging work and complete a total

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collections inventory, spending 25% of her time on the project. In the first two months, she will enter ca. 3,000 items into the database. These are items for which only handwritten records exist. Next, she will translate the catalog from its present number based coding system into one that features descriptive terms (cf. Supportingdoc5) using Microsoft Excel. Importantly, the museum has a key to the Fortran codes to support this translation. While Leist develops the electronic catalog, a collections assistant will catalog the ca. 1,000 unnumbered specimens. The assistant will use an electronic spreadsheet so that the file can be pasted into the larger catalog. During cataloging, Curator Patrick Saltonstall and Leist will review object attributions for consistency.

In project month three, Leist and the assistant will begin the process of inventorying the entire collection. The Old Karluk materials are currently sorted by level. Each level represents a different site occupation. Staff will maintain this organizing system, working with objects from the lowest, least known levels first, and moving up through each level over a 16-month period. Each object will be compared to the catalog to check its type and material, and record its storage location. Data will be entered directly into the electronic database as work progresses. The final step will be to review the entire catalog to standardize terminology and formatting. From this file, Leist will update the museum's PastPerfect record for Old Karluk with current summary information.

As levels are inventoried, objects will be rehoused in archival quality storage materials and reorganized into additional shelving. This work will support Goal 2—the preservation of the collection through improved storage. A portion of the collection will be moved into two cabinets in a new storage room for stone objects. The museum will provide a large double cabinet. Project funds will purchase a second single-sized cabinet matching others owned by the museum. Rehousing will start in project month 4 and continue for 16 months.

To create resources for understanding the site and its contents (Goal 3), Steffian will draft site maps. Working with photocopies of field notes, she will use oversized graph paper to hand transfer data into a site map, a map showing the layout of the excavation, a site profile, and 10 individual level maps. The level maps will illustrate structures, features, and activity areas recorded in the sites layer. This work will take place between January and June of 2014. When complete, Steffian will give the maps to exhibits coordinator Jill Lipka, who will use an existing computer tablet to trace the drawing and upload them into Adobe Illustrator. Lipka will color and label each map to create a professional appearance and develop files that can be easily published and shared (see Supportingdoc8 for an example from another site). The drafting will be done over three months, in the summer of 2014.

In the spring of 2015, Steffian and Saltonstall will co-author a journal article on the site (Supportingdoc9). This article will be ca. 40 pages, with maps, illustrations, and tables summarizing the collection. It will discuss the history of occupation and place Old Karluk collections in their cultural context. The article will consider the site's contributions to knowledge of Alutiiq history, specifically the evolution of fishing and food storage practices. Draft copies will be sent to two volunteer reviewers; one an archaeologist, another an Alutiiq educator. The reviewers will provide comments and insure that the style is accessible to a public audience. After addressing comments, Steffian will submit the article to a journal to initiate the publication process. This work will be completed by August of 2015, at the end of the project.

As the artifact inventory process nears completion, Leist will contact Kodiak College Assistant Professor April Counciller to set up a meeting of the New Words Council. The council will meet twice over a four-month period to consider appropriate Alutiiq words for artifact types that need naming. Counciller will organize and lead meetings, and Leist will attend with example artifacts from the collection. This will allow Elders to see the objects and consider their functions. The NWC will propose words at the first meeting, then meet a second time to discuss and finalize their selections. Counciller will complete spellings of the terms and add them to the electronic taxonomy currently used by the museum. This work will be completed by March 2015.

Throughout the project, staff will address Goal 4 – enhancing public awareness of the collection and its ties to Alutiiq history. Deputy Director Amy Steffian will write three newsletter articles on *Cuumi Kal'uni*, for publication in December 2013, September 2014, and July 2015. These articles will discuss the project, the site

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and the collection. They will be broadly distributed to museum members and Kodiak Alutiiq shareholders via email (circulation ca. 3,000) and posted on the latest news section of the museum's website (www.alutiiqmuseum.org). Additionally, Steffian will make at least 12 project posts on the museum's Facebook page featuring an image from the collection and a brief note about work underway. Finally, Leist will share the project in a free public lecture in September 2014, during the museum annual fall lecture series. She will share a PowerPoint presentation featuring a discussion of the site, its contents, and the project underway. IMLS will be advertised as the lecture sponsor in email broadcasts, flyers, website postings, and a non-profit display ad in the Kodiak paper.

In the final month of the project, Leist will forward electronic copies of project documents (catalog, maps, articles, PowerPoint presentation) to the Burke Museum for archiving (Supportingdoc13) and work with St. John to complete final grant reporting.

Tracking: Tracking and evaluation are built into the project design. Leist will set inventory goals, which will be tracked on staff time sheets and at curatorial meetings. Additionally, before and after photos of artifact storage, comparisons of the old and new catalog, and the number of additions to the taxonomy will illustrate the work accomplished. Additionally, Dr. Rick Knecht and Cheryl Meunier have agreed to read a draft of the summary article. Knecht is a professional archaeologist and a widely published scholar who participated in the Old Karluk excavations. Meunier is a tribal member, elementary educator, and an avocational archaeologist (Supportingdoc12). Each will receive an electronic copy of the manuscript. Their written comments and suggestions for improvements will help to insure an accurate, accessible presentation.

Resources: *Cuumi Kal'uni* will cost \$58,872.12. Of this the Alutiiq Museum will provide \$9,199.34 of support, 15.6% of expenses. This includes grant administration, promotion in the museum's newsletter, and portions of the staff time and project overhead. Koniag, Inc. requests the remaining \$49,672.78 from IMLS to pay for the costs of staff salaries, storage supplies, a storage cabinet, IMLS mandated travel, Elder honoraria, and a portion of project overhead.

To this project, the museum brings experienced staff. Registrar Marnie Leist, MA, the project director, holds a graduate certificate in museum studies. A member of the museum's staff for eight years, she has completed numerous successful collections projects, including large inventories of archaeological materials. Importantly, Leist helped to develop the current artifact taxonomy and worked successfully with Elders in this process. She will lead inventory and rehousing work with the assistance of a part time collections assistant, coordinate work with the NWC, and give a public lecture on the project.

Patrick Saltonstall, MA (Curator) and Amy Steffian, MA (Deputy Director), registered professional archaeologists with decades of experience in arctic research and collection management, will assist with the project. Saltonstall, a staff member for 15 years, will work with Leist to review artifact types and materials for the collection catalog. He will also participate in writing the journal article. He has extensive knowledge of Alutiiq tools, particularly early prehistoric artifacts - the Old Karluk items in greatest need of identification.

Steffian, an 18-year member of the museum's staff, participated in the Old Karluk excavation as a graduate student. She will transform field notes into maps, write newsletter articles and Facebook posts about *Cuumi Kal'uni*, and lead development of a journal article summarizing the collection. She is an experienced, widely published scholar who is uniquely qualified to create these resources given her ties to the excavation.

Three additional staff members will assist *Cuumi Kal'uni*. Executive Director Sven Haakanson, PhD, will share the project with the museum's board of directors and broadly supervise commitments. Museum Manager Kate St. John will act as the grant administrator, and Exhibits Coordinator Jill Lipka will create electronic drafts of site maps from Steffian's hand drawn masters.

The museum will also share its strong positive collaborations with April Counciller of Kodiak College and the Kodiak Alutiiq New Words Council (NWC). Both Counciller and the NWC assisted with the development of the existing Alutiiq artifact taxonomy, and have pledged their support for enhancing its contents (Supportingdoc6, 10& 11). Counciller, who holds a PhD in Language Planning and Indigenous Knowledge Systems and is one of the first fluent speaker/writer of the Alutiiq language in her generation. She leads the

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NWC, a team of Elder Alutiiq speakers and language learners who meet to develop terms for the Alutiiq language.

3. Project Results

Changes in knowledge: From this project, the museum expects its patrons to learn of the general character and availability of the Old Karluk collection. Promotion of the project through newsletter articles, Facebook posts, and a public lecture will aid this process. Similarly publication of a journal article and archiving documents with the Burke Museum will extend this opportunity to researchers beyond Kodiak.

From a much boarder perspective, *Cuumi Kal'uni* will promote community awareness of the Alutiiq past and its value to the present. The project is part of a larger, on-going effort by the museum to return Alutiiq history to considerations of Kodiak's past and promote cultural dignity. Roughly 13,000 people live in the Kodiak region, including 1,800 Alutiiqs whose ancestors settled here more than 7,500 years ago. In the past 200 years, European and Asian settlers have added to Kodiak's cultural fabric and impacted Alutiiq societies. Under Russian and American rule, the Alutiiq population plummeted. Alutiiq language, arts, and social customs nearly vanished, as Native people fought prejudice and the suppression of their culture by a growing Western society. In recent decades, archaeological research has revealed a rich prehistoric culture, promoted heritage exploration, and led to the development of the Alutiiq Museum. Today there is a more inclusive community history dialog, a reawakening of the Alutiiq language, and a Native arts renaissance, all intimately tied to the services of the Alutiiq Museum. *Cuumi Kal'uni* will aid the museum's effort to continue this process and improve community perceptions of Alutiiq traditions.

Collections Improvements: Collections care improvements are a central result of this project. Every object in the Old Karluk collection (ca. 10,000) will be checked against the catalog, reorganized into conservation friendly storage, and its location recorded. As part of this work, 1,000 uncataloged artifacts will be numbered, identified, and added to the collection catalog. Another 3,000 catalog entries, currently hand written on inventory sheets, will be typed into the electronic cataloged. All documentation will be done electronically, and duplicated for secondary storage at the Burke Museum. In short, this project elevates the care of Old Karluk to that of other Autiiq Museum collections.

Products: *Cuumi Kal'uni* will result in seven tangible products, all of which will be available as electronic documents. These will include (1) a complete computerized catalog of the Old Karluk collection; (2) an updated PastPerfect collections record for Old Karluk; (3) an updated Alutiiq Language artifact taxonomy with ca. 20 new terms; (4) 13 computer drafted maps—a site map, a excavation plan, a site profile, and ten level maps; (5) an article summarizing the site and its contents for submission to a scholarly journal; (6) three newsletter articles documenting the project; and (7) a public lecture with a PowerPoint presentation.

Measuring Success: Much of this project's success will be illustrated by the final products it produces. The collections catalog, shelves neatly organized with collections materials, and the site maps, taxonomy, and journal article, will illustrate the successful completion of project activities. Beyond the project, the number of patron requests for collections access will document levels of collection awareness, as will growing community awareness of Alutiiq heritage. This is a gradual but documented process (e.g., Alutiiq heritage is now celebrated in the local tourist guide, the Kodiak newspaper carries a weekly language lesson, the college has a professor teaching Alutiiq studies, the vandalism of ancestral sites has decreased). By continuing to share Alutiiq heritage and historic preservation projects like *Cuumi Kal'uni*, the museum is gradually returning the Alutiiq traditions to public awareness.

Sustainability: This project will elevate the care of an inherited collection to the standards of incoming collections. The Alutiiq Museum presently cares for newly acquired archaeological materials in a profession manner, as evidenced by its accreditation. As such, the tools to sustain the professional care of Old Karluk are in place. Moreover, distribution of project products will sustain results. Publication of the summary article will insure enduring public access to the information compiled, and the project archive at the Burke Museum will provide a logical, long-term home and second point of access for collections records.

Cuumi Kal'uni - Project Activities Schedule

Activity	Staff	2013			2014												2015									
		O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	
Hire Collections Assistant	MM, R	■																								
Order supplies	MM	■																								
Create new catalog files - translate, type	R, CA	■	■																							
Catalog materials	CA	■	■	■																						
Write & Publish Newsletter Article	DD		■	■																						
Inventory Collection	R, CA, C		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Rehouse Materials	R, CA				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Create level maps from field notes	DD				■	■	■	■	■	■																
Draft level maps in illustrator	EC									■	■	■														
Hold free public lecture on project	R												■													
Write & Publish Newsletter Article	DD												■	■												
Complete interim project reporting	R, MM													■												
Hold New Words Council Meeting	AC,R NWC														■											
Update Nomenclature	AC																■									
Standardize catalog entries	R																	■								
Write site summary article	DD, C																		■	■	■					
Write & Publish Newsletter Article	DD																				■	■				
Review of site summary article	DD, V																					■				
Edit site summary article & submit to journal	DD, C																						■	■		
Forward document copies to Burke	R																								■	
Complete final reporting	ED, MM																									■

Staffing: MM = Museum Manager, R = Registrar, CA = Collections Assistant, DD = Deputy Director, C = Curator, EC = Exhibits Coordinator, AC = April Counciller
 NWC = New Words Council, V = Volunteer