

Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program

Sample Application MN-00-15-0024-15

Koniag, Inc.

Amount awarded by IMLS:\$49,612Amount of cost share:\$26,717

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Abstract
- Narrative
- Schedule of Completion

Please note that the instructions for preparing narratives for FY2016 applications differ from those that guided the preparation of FY2014 and FY2015 applications. Most obviously, the names of the three narrative sections and the order in which they appear have changed. Be sure to use the narrative instructions in the FY2016 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program and project category to which you are applying.

Abstract

The Gulf of Alaska is a place of extremes. This enormously productive marine environment teams with life. Sea mammals, birds, fish, and shellfish abound and provide plentiful sources of food and material for coastal peoples. Yet, the gulf also has some of the worst weather in the world. A storm crosses the region about every five days, stalling against a ring of high coastal mountains and delivering heavy winds, cold rain, and dangerous waves. The Kodiak Archipelago lies in the heart of this environment. Here Alutiiq people have thrived for over 7,500 years, adapting successfully to the challenges of life in an abundant but stormy setting. Sophisticated boats and clothing made this possible. Refined over millennia, the skin-covered kayak was their most essential tool. Carved by men and covered by women, this ingenious technological system provided effective transportation, access to marine life, and protection in some of Alaska's most treacherous waters.

Today, knowledge of Alutiiq kayak construction is waning. Steel and fiberglass vessels have replaced skin boats, and just a few craftsmen know how to carve and assemble kayak frames, sew boat covers, and fabricate the waterproof clothing essential to paddlers. In recent years, studies of ancestral kayaks in distant museums have helped culture bearers advance their knowledge of boat construction. With their assistance, the Kodiak community has begun to build model kayak frames and sew and process gutskin. However, revitalization of boatbuilding remains in its infancy and Kodiak lacks a complete, traditionally fabricated watercraft to further mentor craftsmen and students. As such, the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository (AMAR), Kodiak's tribal cultural center, identifies displaying a complete historic kayak as a goal of its long-range plan, a goal support by community advisors.

To advance knowledge of Alutiiq kayaks and develop capacity to revitalize kayak construction, Koniag, Inc. proposes *Qayaq Angit'sqaq—The Returned Kayak Project*. This fifteen-month partnership with the Alutiiq Museum will update and enhance the museum's current kayak exhibit to feature a complete, nineteenth-century kayak from Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (PMAE). With help from Alutiiq culture bearers and a previous IMLS grant, the PMAE conserved the boat in 2010. The PMAE now proposes to lend the kayak to AMAR for ten years.

Alutiiq Museum Executive Director Dr. Alisha Drabek will lead *Qayaq Angit'sqaq*. The project will begin with development of a new kayak exhibit in the museum's gallery. AMAR will revise its current kayak installation to improve interpretation, add objects, and develop a fresh design. Community advisors will provide ongoing evaluation and select Alutiiq language vocabulary. For the new exhibit, the Alutiiq Museum will work with the PMAE to borrow, ship, and install the historic kayak. To inaugurate the presentation, a free public lecture series will be developed around the boat and exhibit themes. Culture bearers and scholars will discuss Kodiak weather, kayak building, waterproof sewing, and more. These lectures will be digitally videotaped for the museum's archives and shared on an online exhibit. Patrons will be asked to evaluate the lectures and exhibit quality. Finally, the museum will work with community advisors to develop a plan for education programs related to kayak construction skills to implement during the boat's decade-long stay in Kodiak.

This project builds on AMAR's success revitalizing cultural traditions by connecting craftsmen and communities with the ancestral knowledge stored in ethnographic objects. By returning a one-of-a-kind kayak to Kodiak for extended display, *Qayaq Angit'sqaq* lays a foundation for educational programs that teach skills needed for boatbuilding. It provides an invaluable resource for cultural learning and the perpetuation of technological traditions for tribal members of all ages. Moreover, it will refresh an outdated exhibit and better share Alutiiq kayaking with the public, both in Kodiak and afar. By developing lasting resources that teach people of many heritages about Alutiiq culture, *Qayaq Angit'sqaq* will advance a more inclusive community dialog about Kodiak's cultural heritage, encourage exploration of Native lifeways, and promote dignity among Alutiiq people.

Narrative

1. Project Justification:

<u>Need</u>: The Alutiiq are one of Alaska's least known Native people. Rapid conquest of their homeland by Russian traders led to profound change. Catastrophic losses of Alutiiq lives, language, and traditions suppressed the transmission of cultural knowledge. Many traditions were hidden or lost. Today, Alutiiq customs are preserved in relatively inaccessible places: the memories of Elders, archaeological sites, and museum objects. This has made it hard for Alutiiq people to know and share their history. It has also led to misconceptions about the Alutiiq, omitted Alutiiq heritage from discussions of local history, and created feelings of shame about a remarkable culture.

The Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository (AMAR) works to reverse this situation by providing diverse audiences with accurate, accessible cultural information and opportunities to explore Alutiiq traditions. Exhibits, programs, and publications share arts, language, harvesting, and history, revitalize traditions, and build community respect for Native heritage. Arts programs are the most popular. Hands-on exploration of craft and technology have connected people of all ages to Alutiiq heritage, advanced cultural knowledge, and grown a new generation of artists. However, not all arts have been easy to share.

The boatbuilding arts are among the least known on Kodiak. In part, this reflects a limited number of traditionally trained craftsmen. Alutiiq boys once studied kayak fabrication by apprenticing skilled builders. They learned to use the dimensions of a paddler's body to plan the size of kayak parts, to carve, bend, join, assemble, and tie intricate pieces, and to oil and pull the cover over the frame. Similarly, Alutiiq girls learned to make boat covers by working beside mothers and aunties to prepare animal hides and shape them with waterproof stiches. By the turn of the twentieth century, however, the production of skin boats faded with the introduction of commercial fisheries and Western-style boats. There are just a handful of people with experience making the components of Alutiiq kayaks and most are self-taught. The cultural mechanisms that once promoted instruction are no longer in place.

Today, the central source of information on Alutiiq kayaks is historic watercraft, boats built by traditionally trained craftsmen and now stored in museums. Although Alutiiq kayak frames are present in a number of collections, skin-covered craft are extremely rare. The best examples are curated in Russia and Massachusetts, far beyond community reach. Thus, despite strong interest in Alutiiq arts and a new cohort of carvers and skin sewers, craftsmen have limited access to detailed examples of kayak construction. Moreover, AMAR, Kodiak's cultural tribal center, has an old and poorly interpreted kayak exhibit with an uncovered boat frame. For these reasons AMAR's long-range and interpretive plans identify exhibiting a complete Alutiiq kayak (Supportingdoc3). Its community-based Exhibits Advisory Committee enthusiastically supports this goal (Supportingdoc5).

<u>Activities</u>: Through *Qayaq Angit'sqaq–The Returned Kayak* project, Koniag, Inc. proposes to support the Alutiiq Museum to update its kayak exhibit. Additional objects and interpretation, and a fresh design will be united with a complete Alutiiq kayak borrowed from the collection of the Peabody Museum. Collected in 1868 by Edward Fast, a US army officer stationed in Alaska, the boat is a unique example of a skin-covered kayak. The boat preserves information on cover attachment and delicate, detailed decoration along its seams (Supportingdoc5). Alutiiq researchers discovered the boat in PMAE's collections in 2006. In 2011, it was the centerpiece of a PMAE skin artifact conservation project funded by a Save America's Treasures grant. Harvard worked with Alutiiq craftsmen to study and preserve the boat, with the goal of eventual exhibition in Kodiak. The boat is ready to travel and the PMAE proposes a ten-year loan.

With the kayak installed in a new gallery exhibit, the Alutiiq Museum will organize a free public lecture series around exhibit themes. Eight culture bearers and scholars will discuss weather patterns, kayak building, waterproof skin sewing, etc., to enrich the presentation. These lectures will be digitally videotaped for AMAR's archives and shared on its website with an online exhibit. Patrons will be asked to evaluate the lectures and

exhibit with a short survey that gauges their increase in knowledge of Alutiiq kayaks and their use. Finally, the museum will work with community advisors to develop a plan for educational programs that teach skills related to kayak construction, to be implemented during the boat's tenure in Kodiak.

<u>Goals & Beneficiaries</u>: This project has two broadly related objectives (1) to advance public knowledge of Alutiiq kayaks, and (2) to create a foundation for revitalizing kayak-building skills. These objectives will be met by bringing Harvard's complete Alutiiq kayak to Kodiak for extended display and study, developing lasting educational resources on Alutiiq kayaking, and creating a detailed scope of work for educational programs surrounding kayak fabrication skills. As such, *Qayaq Angit'sqaq* will help to return knowledge essential to Alutiiq boatbuilding to the Kodiak community. Additionally, the new exhibit, a project webpage, and a welldocumented lecture series will help Kodiak better understand skills once essential to life on the island. They will expand community dialog on Alutiiq heritage and promote a more inclusive view of Kodiak history. Moreover, by sharing *Qayaq Angit'sqaq* on the museum's website, this information will be accessible to a global audience.

<u>Contributions to Museum Services</u>: *Qayaq Angit'sqaq* is explicitly designed to strengthen the Alutiiq Museum's services by creating a foundation for future educational programming. At present it is difficult for the museum to support community interest in boatbuilding without a complete watercraft to share. We have craftsmen who can carve and sew, but lack a mentor kayak. Installation of the PMAE boat provides that critical resource for investigation, instruction, and inspiration. It builds capacity for cultural arts education. Moreover, the boat's ten-year presence in Kodiak provides a compelling opportunity for developing educational projects and funding their implementation. As part of *Qayaq Angit'sqaq*, AMAR will work with community advisors to create a detailed scope of work for kayak-related educational programs, developing the administrative foundation for a decade of public outreach. Finally, the project will strengthen the museum's gallery by updating an old exhibit and making additional objects from the museum's collection available for display. AMAR's current kayak exhibit is one of its oldest. The presentation has limited interpretation, no Alutiiq language content, no supporting graphics or artifacts, unrelated items in surrounding space, and no protective barrier (Supportingdoc5). Moreover, the design is outdated. It does not match more recent installations. *Qayaq Angit'sqaq* will create a more complete, engaging, artifact-friendly exhibit useful far beyond this project.

2. Project Work Plan

Activities, Schedule & Personnel: Koniag, Inc. will provide AMAR with IMLS funding to implement a 15month project. Founded in 1995, AMAR preserves Alutiiq traditions 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, 7,069 sq. ft. facility in downtown Kodiak staffed by 11. AMAR serves about 8,000 visitors annually. Thousands more benefit from programs, publications, and digital resources that reach far into schools and communities. AMAR has an excellent record of financial management and project completion. In 19 years of operation, AMAR has managed numerous grants from private, state, and federal organizations, and in 2011, earned national accreditation.

Qayaq Angit'sqaq will begin in August of 2015, under the direction of AMAR Executive Director Dr. Alisha Drabek. In the first three months of the project, AMAR's curatorial staff and graphic designer will develop the content of a kayak exhibit for the museum's gallery featuring the historic boat from the PMAE. Curator of Collections Marnie Leist and Curator of Archaeology Patrick Saltonstall will select objects and image from AMAR's holdings and complete related registration work. Director of Research and Publication Amy Steffian will draft the exhibit script. Communication Director Brian Fraley will create the exhibit design. Drabek will consult the island-wide Alutiiq language advisors for vocabulary to include (Supportingdoc4). Leist and Steffian will also complete a loan agreement with the PMAE for the historic kayak. The PMAE has long-planned to loan

the boat to AMAR and wishes to support this project as an outcome of their 2011, IMLS-funded, conservation project (Supportingdoc1). Importantly, AMAR has already submitted a loan request. PMAE Registrar Viva Fisher will complete loan paperwork upon grant award a process that will take about a month. Exhibit planning will end with a meeting of AMAR's Exhibits Advisory Committee (EAC), a volunteer group of community members that will review the script and design. During project planning, the EAC endorsed the exhibit and contributed to its conceptualization (Supportingdoc5).

The exhibit will feature the kayak mounted diagonally on AMAR's existing platform (Supportingdoc6). The boat will be canted towards viewers so its interior is visible through its cockpit. A 2' x 4' mirror resting on the platform beneath the boat will provide a view of its base. Key artifacts will surround the kayak, including a layer of stone sinkers and related objects like paddles from AMAR holdings. Five, vertical, 2.5' x 5' interpretive panels will share historic images of kayak use and key concepts about weather, frame design, waterproofing, and the history of the PMAE boat. Four drawers in the base of the kayak platform will invite viewers to explore small artifacts related to boating–e.g., the contents of a kayaker's tool bag, amulets, toy boats, and touchable materials used in boat manufacture (e.g., seal skin, gutskin, sinew). Vinyl lettering on the wall to the left of the boat will title the exhibit–*Alutiiq Kayak*. Opposite the exhibit, in a video viewing area, visitor will be able to watch a PMAE film on kayak conservation, and view an uncovered kayak frame hung from the ceiling.

Exhibit fabrication will take place from January to March 2016. Fraley will order professionally produced interpretive panels (Supportingdoc3) and a mirror, and create object labels. Leist and Collections Assistant Natalie Wadle will work with carpenter Don Corwin to fabricate wooden risers (Supportingdoc3) and brass mounts to hold AMAR objects, and order a Plexiglas barrier for the kayak platform's edge (Supportingdoc3).

In April 2016, AMAR will close its gallery for three weeks. Leist, Wadle, and Fraley will deinstall the current kayak exhibit, paint the kayak platform and adjacent walls, and install exhibit panels. In preparation for kayak shipment, the Alutiiq Museum will add a rider to its wall-to-wall collections insurance to specifically cover the boat, based on a valuation provided in-kind by the PMAE. In Boston, the PMAE will crate and ship the kayak. The inner crate and three kayak mounts have already been built and will be shared at no cost. An outer crate and a crate for the kayak mounts will be constructed with project funds in a space rented for the task (Supportingdoc3). Fisher will work with Boston fine arts handler UA Arts (Supportingdoc3) to arrange shipping. The crated boat will be too large (>17 feet long) for air travel. As such, it will be trucked to Seattle and barged to Alaska. US Arts will oversee the Seattle transfer and PMAE Conservator T. Rose Holdcraft will fly to Kodiak for a week to uncrate and install the kayak and establish procedures for condition reporting. Corwin will seat object mounts in the platform and assist with the installation of the Plexiglas barrier.

In the summer of 2016, AMAR will devote its annual, free, public lecture series to investigating themes related to Alutiiq kayaks. At least eight culture bearers and scholars will be invited to present. Two of the culture bearers who assisted the PMAE with the boat's conservation have already volunteered to provide lectures about the kayak (Supportingdoc6). The series will be hosted in AMAR's gallery where the boat can be observed. Evening talks will take place from August to October and advertised in the Kodiak newspaper. In addition to display ads for each presentation, Fraley will create a series schedule for a loose insert into the Kodiak paper when the series commences (Supportingdoc6). With signed permission from presenters, he will digitally videotape each lecture and link them to a project webpage. This page will also feature images and text from the exhibit. Leist and Wadle will preserve the digital videos in an archive collection for AMAR holdings, completing registration tasks. Each video will be numbered and described on a catalog sheet with related metadata. This catalog will serve as a finding aid. It will be made available on the project webpage and distributed to interested cultural organizations. For example, the Kodiak historical society has pledged to add a copy of the catalog to its collections of finding aids on Kodiak history.

The project will end with program planning. Drabek, Steffian, and AMAR Cultural Education Specialist Marya Halvorsen will develop a draft ten-year outreach plan to explore skills essential to kayak fabricationcarving, bending, joining, tying, skin processing, stitching, and oiling. The plan will include a schedule of desired programs, a description of each program and its intended audience, the names of likely instructors, desired resources, funding streams, collaborators, and methods of evaluation. This plan will be shared with the EAC at a fall 2016 meeting, to consider community interests and collaborations, and finalized.

Resources: Valuable existing resources and strong commitments of institutional support are a foundation of this project. The PMAE will share a one-of-a-kind Alutiiq kayak, recently conserved and equipped for travel with an inner crate and mounts. They will also provide interpretive resources-boat photos, artifact information, and a 4:30 minute video of Alutiiq culture bearers discussing the artifact, as well as an artifact appraisal, and the time of four staff members. AMAR will contribute a platform to mount the object, secure off-site storage of crating, the time of four staffers, overhead costs, and additional objects and interpretation. In 2009, AMAR created a small traveling exhibit on kayaks. As such, the museum has research, photos, and objects that can be used in exhibit development. These include rare archaeological and ethnographic artifacts that have not been shown to the public. Moreover, AMAR's board of directors resolved to support the annual costs of the kayak loan and save for its return to Harvard (Supportingdoc1). Each year, AMAR will pay for condition reporting and additional collections insurance, and make a deposit to a savings account to build a fund for de-installation and return shipping (Supportingdoc2). This represents a contribution of ca. \$34,000 over ten years. Finally, Koniag, Inc. will contribute \$4,000 cash to assist with shipping costs. To complete the project, however, funding is needed to pay for the substantial costs of kayak crating and cross country shipping. AMAR also needs support for the development of the gallery exhibit and its promotion. This includes the time of four staffers whose salaries are paid in part with grant funds. These are costs AMAR cannot absorb.

Evaluation: Qayaq Angit'sqaq will include both in process and patron evaluation. During development of the exhibit, AMAR will work with its Exhibits Advisory Committee (EAC) to review the exhibit script and design. Committee members will be asked to comment on themes, clarity, organization, and aesthetic in a meeting with staff. Similarly, the EAC will help create the museum's draft educational plan for kayak construction projects and review the draft plan. Minutes from both meetings will assist AMAR in recording and addressing community input. To track changes in patron knowledge, and assess the quality of presentations, select gallery visitors and lecture attendees will be asked to complete a short written survey (Supportingdoc6). Similarly, website users will be able to complete an online survey about the exhibit, and Facebook and Instagram patrons will be encouraged to comment on posts that share information with general questions like, "What is the most interesting fact about Alutiiq kayaks?"

<u>Tracking Activities</u>: Staff timesheets, kept electronically with ClickTime software, will document hours spent on the project. Photographs taken by curatorial staff will document the steps in exhibit development, from de-installation to debut. Notes from meetings of the EAC and Qik committees will illustrate completion of community consulting and capture recommendations. A catalog of digital videos will demonstrate completion of lecture taping, archive development, and metadata recording. A log of project promotions (e.g., press releases, newsletter articles, media coverage, social media postings) will record the date, method, subject, and audience with which information and resources were shared. Finally, Drabek will report on project progress to AMAR's board of directors in her written bi-monthly report.

<u>Sharing Results</u>: Project activities and results will be shared throughout *Qayaq Angit'sqaq*. AMAR will announce project funding with a press release to statewide media, and post project activities and images to social media during exhibit design. To share the completed exhibit, AMAR will host a public debut event in May 2016. Community members will be invited to celebrate the return of the kayak by viewing the exhibit and watching a short video produced by Harvard on the artifact's conservation. This event will be advertise in the Kodiak newspaper, and shared via email broadcast, AMAR's website, and social media. AMAR will also promote public awareness of the project by publishing two articles in its quarterly newsletter, one during

design, another following exhibit debut. The newsletter will be mailed to >300 museum members and made available for free download from AMAR's website. Finally, the project web page will allow a global audience to access exhibit and lecture content. This page will be hosted on the exhibits section of the AMAR's website (<u>www.alutiiqmuseum.org</u>) and replace an older discussion of kayaks. Throughout the project announcements, photos, progress updates, and links to resources will be shared to the museum's popular social media sites – Facebook (>3290 followers) and Instagram (>170 followers). We anticipate at least 10 posts to social media. IMLS will be acknowledged for its project support in all publicity.

3. Project Results.

<u>Performance Indicators:</u> *Qayaq Angit'sqaq* will achieve three main outcomes for AMAR and its patrons, corresponding directly to our project goals:

1. By October 31, 2016, 90% of visitors surveyed agree that the *Qayaq Angit'sqaq* project has increased their knowledge of Alutiiq kayak traditions.

By October 31, 2016, 85% of members surveyed express a high degree of satisfaction with project products.
By October 31, 2016, 100% of Exhibit Advisory Committee Members and the Alutiiq Museum Board approve a long-range education plan to revitalize kayak-building skills.

	Evidence (Data)							
Outcome-based Performance Indicators		Exhibit/ Lecture Survey*	Member Survey					
1. Have visitors increased their knowledge of Alutiiq kayak traditions?	Х	Х	Х					
Do visitors express satisfaction with project products?	Х	Х	Х					
3. Do Alutiiq Museum members agree that the project has and will continue to revitalize local Alutiiq kayak-building skills?	Х		X					
4. Does AMAR have an education plan to revitalize kayak-building skills?	Х		Х					

* Exhibit survey includes both onsite and online visitor reviews.

<u>Products</u>: *Qayaq Angit'sqaq* will produce five tangible products. These include: (1) a 10' x 16.5' x 4' Autiiq kayak exhibit installed in AMAR's gallery and featuring a nineteenth century boat loaned by the PMAE, (2) an online presentation of the kayak exhibit, (3) two published newsletter articles, (4) a cataloged archive of eight digitally-videotaped lectures for AMAR's permanent collection, and (5) a written plan for educational programs on the skills essential to kayak construction.

<u>Sustainability</u>: *Qayaq Angit'sqaq* is specifically intended to sustain knowledge of the kayak building. By developing critical resources for boatbuilding instruction (a mentor craft, exhibit interpretation, and an education plan), the project will help expose Kodiak's growing Alutiiq arts community to boatbuilding skills and advance growth of a new generation of practitioners. Moreover, the project's educational resources can be used for many years to enhance knowledge and instruction. The webpage and video archive will be available to the public indefinitely, and knowledge of their availability will be dispersed by sharing the catalog with related organizations, for use as a finding aid. This will help to sustain awareness of the resources. Moreover, the exhibit can be maintained beyond the ten-year loan. When the historic boat returns to Harvard, AMAR will replace it with a kayak frame recently purchased from master carver Alfred Naumoff. Although Naumoff's frame lacks a skin-cover, it was made in 2014 with inspiration from the PMAE boat. It reflects a chain of ancestral knowledge gained from both the study of kayaks and apprenticeship with boat builders. Naumoff is the last traditionally-trained Kodiak Alutiiq kayak maker and a project supporter (Supportingdoc6).

Schedule of Completion: August 1, 2015 to October 31, 2016

			2015					2016									
ACTIVITY	STAFF	Α	S	0	Ν	D	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	
Press Release	DRP, CD																
Loan Agreement	DRP, CC, PMAE																
Object & Photo Selection	CC, DRP, AC																
Script Writing	DRP					_											
Alutiiq Language Research	ED, Qik Committee																
Exhibit Design	CD, ED																
Newsletter Article	DRP																
Script & Design Review	ED, CD, Exhibit Comm.																
Services Agreements & Purchasing	DO																
Panel & Label Production	CD																
Plexiglas Barrier Production & Shipping	CC, CA																
AMAR Object Mounts	CC, CA, Corwin																
Insurance Adjustment	DO																
Kayak Crating & Shipping	PMAE																
Deinstallation of existing kayak exhibit	CC, CA, CD																
Installation of AMAR Exhibit Pieces	CC, CA CD																
Installation of Kayak & Plexiglas Barrier	CC, CA, PMAE																
Promotion	CD																
Debut Event	ED, CD																
Newsletter Article	DRP																
Interim Reporting	DRP, GM																
Lecture Series Development & Releases	CD																
Flyer for Educators	CD, KIBSD																
Educational Projects Plan	ED, DRP, CES, EAC																
Lectures & Promotion	CD, Volunteers																
Lecture & Exhibit Evaluation	CD													·			
Digital Video Archive Development & Sharing	CC, CA																
On Line Exhibit	CD, DRP																
Final Reporting	GM																

Key (in alphabetical order): AC = Curator of Archaeology, CA = Collections Assistant, CC = Curator of Collections, CD = Communications Director, CES = Heritage Education Specialist, DO = Director of Operations, DRP = Director of Research & Publication, ED = Executive Director, GM = Grants Manager, KIBDSD = Kodiak Island Borough School District, PMAE = Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology