



Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum

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The Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum is dedicated to supporting the Sheldon Jackson Museum and its unique Alaska Native ethnographic collection through advocacy, acquisition, and educational programming.

Annual Meeting on May 3, 2025

Call to order 2:07pm

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement – Rosemary Carlton noted 2025 as the 40th year of the organization and noted the passing of Irene Schuler, the first Friends of SJM president.

Approval of Minutes for 2024 Annual Meeting (held on April 3, 2024) – show of hands adoption by membership.

President and Financial Report – Melissa Fouse presented the finance report detailing income from donations, grants, and expenditures. A notable acquisition in 2024 was the John Hoover mask, enhancing the contemporary collection. Fouse also highlighted the Friends' contributions to the 2024 SJM Interpretive Plan, which is essential for the museum's re-accreditation. The financial report revealed that a \$25,000 grant for the residency program from the National Endowment for the Arts will not be received. To address this setback, members were encouraged to advocate for NEA funding.

SJM Curator Report – Jackie Fernandez-Hamberg provided an overview of SJM activities in 2024, emphasizing the 147 Alaska Native-driven programs and educational initiatives.

ASM Director Report – Amy Phillips-Chan shared the happenings of the Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums (LAM), the overall department that the SJ Museum is a part of. Addison Field noted three priorities in 2025 for the SJ Museum: a new intro exhibit, a new welcome wall, and the beginning of a new building design.

Old Business

No old business

New Business

Resolution 2025-01 Supporting SJM Name Change – discussed supporting renaming the museum, reflecting a survey indicating 71% of respondents favored the change. The resolution, developed by board members Justin Ketah and Christopher Berk, calls for consultation with Alaska Native organizations to ensure the new name aligns with community values. The resolution does not propose a specific new name. Concerns about the legacy of Sheldon Jackson were raised, with multiple members advocating for a name change. The discussion highlighted the importance of addressing the museum's colonial legacy and ensuring the name reflects the museum's role as a cultural institution. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Election of Directors – Three seats available and one candidate present on the ballot, allowing for multiple write-in candidate opportunities. Members voted by secret ballot. Melissa Fouse, elected.



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Good of the Order

Summer Hours at SJM – 2025 will have a reduction of open hours to no weekend summer hours.

2025 Native Artist Residency Program - collaborative efforts are necessary for the museum's success.

Please join us for refreshments in the lobby.

Adjournment at 2:52 pm