

**MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release**

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The Alaska Humanities Forum and the Anchorage Centennial Committee announced today the awarding of \$231,000 to 13 Anchorage Centennial Community Grant projects.

The Centennial Community Grant program supports community projects commemorating the first 100 years of Anchorage following its founding in 1915.

The Rasmuson Foundation committed \$500,000 over two years to support the program.

A second round of centennial community grants is scheduled to open April 15, 2014, with a final deadline of June 15, 2014.

Successful proposals will meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Focus on a significant aspect or time period of Anchorage history
- Focus on cultural diversity within the community
- Educate the community on historical or cultural aspects of the last 100 years in Anchorage
- Enhance the spirit of community and environment in Anchorage

For more information visit akhf.org.

Listed below are details on the first round of Anchorage Centennial Community Grant projects, identified by project title, name of the sponsoring organization or individual grantee, and grant amount, followed by a project summary. The projects are listed alphabetically by title.

ACT 50/60 Celebration, Anchorage Community Theatre, \$2,500

The 1964 Good Friday Earthquake interrupted an ACT production of “Our Town” in Grant Hall. To mark the 50th anniversary of the earthquake and celebrate its 60th season of theatre, ACT will present scenes and songs from the past six decades.

Anchorage Remembers: A Centennial Memoir Project, 49 Writers, \$7,500

49 Writers will conduct a series of free memoir writing workshops for older Anchorage residents of all cultural backgrounds. The project will culminate in a public reading.

Anchorage Heritage Garden, Alaska Botanical Garden, \$20,000

The Alaska Botanical Garden will develop and install a permanent heritage garden exhibit celebrating the work of pioneer gardeners in the early decades of Anchorage.

Anchorage Stories, Anchorage Community Works/Nathan Shaefer, \$34,000

Anchorage artist and educator Nathan Shaefer will create a four-part interactive walking tour of Anchorage presented as an augmented reality application for tablets and smart phones and told through the fictional stories of four characters experiencing the city at different periods in Anchorage history.

Anchorage Youth History, Spirit of Youth/Alaska Teen Media Institute, \$7,000

Alaska Teen Media Institute youth reporters will produce Anchorage history stories from a teenage perspective to air on the monthly KNBA radio program “In Other News.”

Anchortown Historic Buildings Project, Anchorage Fairs & Festivals, \$5,000

Working with Cook Inlet Historical Society, Anchortown will replace 20 existing structures at the annual Trick or Treat Town event with facades of

iconic Anchorage buildings in Anchorage.

Celebrating Anchorage: Ten Decades and Counting, Anchorage Log Cabin Quilters, \$14,000

The Anchorage Log Cabin Quilters will create art quilts depicting events, places and people important to the development and growth of Anchorage from 1915 to present. The quilts will be presented by decade and will hang from a banner quilt featuring the Anchorage Skyline during the 2014 Great Alaskan Quilt Show.

Follow the Light: Anchorage's Next 100 Years, Anchorage Park Foundation/Light Brigade, \$35,000

The art group Light Brigade will create a large scale wintertime light sculpture and live performance venue in Elderberry Park that repurposes the iconic eight-foot-tall Christmas decorations installed annually throughout downtown Anchorage in the 1960s and 1970s. Eighty thousand LED lights will be woven into the ornaments along the flowing contours of the park. Performances at the venue will be free and open to the public.

From Tents to Towers: A Century of Maps of Alaska's Largest City, Katherine Ringsmuth, \$55,000

From Tents to Towers will intersect geography, art, and history by depicting Anchorage's development and expansion through historically significant maps and photographs that showcase the unusual and provoke critical thought. The images will be used for public exhibition, academic curriculum, virtual tours and community lectures.

The Historical Anchorage Radio Hour: The Mysterious Death of Police Chief Sturgus, Alaska Sisters in Crime, \$8,000

Alaska Sisters in Crime will produce a 1940s-style radio show based on the true story of the February 1921 unsolved murder of John "Black Jack" Sturgus, the first Police Chief of Anchorage.

A Historical View for a Healthy Future, Alaska Sports Hall of Fame, \$18,000

The Alaska Sports Hall of Fame will organize a family-friendly, non-competitive 10K run and 2K walk/run honoring 100 years of athletic achievements in Anchorage.

Oral and Written History of Fairview, Judith Owens-Manley, \$15,000

Dr. Judith Owens-Manley will record oral histories of Fairview in a “Story Booth” inspired by the National Public Radio project StoryCorps, and train Fairview community members to create and collect written histories of one of Anchorage’s four original neighborhoods.

Tent City Festival, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, \$10,000

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce will host a three-day Tent City Festival on the Delaney Park Strip in July 2015.

Centennial Community Grants Selection Committee Members

- **Judy Bittner**, State Historic Preservation Officer and Chief of the Office of History and Archeology
- **Ian Dutton**, Rasmuson Foundation Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
- **Larry Kairaiuak**, Community Grants Program Manager, State of Alaska Tobacco Prevention and Control Program
- **Christine Marasigan**, Finance Aide to Senator Kevin Meyer, Trustee and Treasurer, Filipino American National Historical Society
- **Susan Duck**, Anchorage Centennial Director and Special Advisor to the Mayor’s Office
- **Julie Saupe**, Visit Anchorage CEO
- **Nina Kemppe**, Alaska Humanities Forum CEO
- **David Holthouse**, Alaska Humanities Forum Centennial Projects Manager