



## For Immediate Release

Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository  
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DATE: February 14, 2022  
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### **Shelly Lawson Named Volunteer of the Year**

In honor of Valentine's Day, the Alutiiq Museum likes to show a little love for its volunteers. We are fortunate to have many community members who contribute their time and talents to our work, both near and far. To highlight the importance of our volunteers, we honor one outstanding contribution with our Volunteer of the Year award. For 2021, we picked Shelly Lawson to honor her years of service as a partner, donor, volunteer, and friend.

Shelly is the Education Specialist at Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. She first came to Kodiak in 1996 as an Alaska State Parks volunteer and immediately fell in love with the island and its people. The Alutiiq Museum was a helpful place to learn about her new home. During her early days in Kodiak, Shelly visited the museum to learn about Kodiak's history and attended museum lectures and presentations. She started working at the Refuge in 2009 and began incorporating museum resources in her programs and activities—like salmon camp.

Beyond her professional activities, Shelly visits the museum regularly to enjoy events, shopping, and view exhibits. She volunteers on our Collections Advisory Committee, helping to select artwork and objects for the museum's permanent collection and she regularly assists in caring for the Alutiiq Ancestors' Memorial. This past year she gave her time to a book review. She wrote a thoughtful summary of Iqسانی's Trout Hook, one of our new Alutiiq history publications, helping others understand the book and its value.

When asked about her dedicated service to the museum, Shelly said, "It doesn't feel like work . . . the staff here have helped me in so many ways and I have learned so much. I feel like we are good neighbors and take care of each other and share resources . . . I love the museum and you take care of the things you love. Plus, it is fun to be involved."

To learn more about volunteering with the museum, please contact our Director of Advancement & Operations, Djuna Davidson (844-425-8844; [djuna@alutiiqmuseum.org](mailto:djuna@alutiiqmuseum.org)). We welcome all volunteers, and no experience is necessary.

The Alutiiq Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and culture of the Alutiiq, and Alaska Native tribal people. Representatives of Kodiak Alutiiq organizations govern the museum with funding from charitable contributions, memberships, grants, contracts, and sales.

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