

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center

Northern Initiative
POLAR LAB
2014-2015

Request for Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until these final deadlines:

2014 Deadline: March 31, 2014

2015 Deadline: September 30, 2014*

**2015 focuses on the Anchorage Centennial and the Arctic*

The Anchorage Museum seeks proposals for 2014 and 2015 participation in the Northern Initiative's **Polar Lab**. If you wish to propose a project or apply for an internship, please follow the application process detailed below.

Northern Initiative overview

As one of the premier cultural institutions in the Circumpolar North, the Anchorage Museum is undertaking a Northern Initiative to explore key issues facing the North and the people who inhabit it. The Northern Initiative brings together Alaskan and international artists, scientists, anthropologists, historians, decision-makers and influencers immersed in Northern issues. The goal: to explore and discuss challenges facing the North today and develop insights leading to a greater understanding, broader perspective, and celebration of place and the North.

Learn more about the Northern Initiative on the Anchorage Museum website: http://www.anchoragemuseum.org/about/northern_initiative/index.aspx

As part of the Polar Lab project of the Northern Initiative, artists and organizations are invited to propose activities that will engage the community, such as "pop-up" events, temporary installations, live performances, community-action projects, non-studio-based residencies, events, presentations, research-based investigations, internships, and forums at the Anchorage Museum and outside Museum walls.

In 2015, the events will commemorate Anchorage's Centennial and the Arctic. Centennial efforts at the Museum will be done in collaboration with the Municipality of Anchorage and the Alaska Humanities Forum.

Evaluation Criteria: Northern Initiative and Anchorage Museum staff will review all applications and make final selections. Projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Does the proposed activity contribute to Northern Initiative goals?
- Are the necessary resources realistically available or attainable?
- Does the applicant demonstrate the ability to successfully manage the project?
- Are residencies set during 2015 designed with an Anchorage Centennial or Arctic focus?

Application Deadline: 2014 Deadline: March 31, 2014

2015 Anchorage Centennial Deadline: September 30, 2014*

*Proposals for Anchorage Centennial-based Polar Lab projects will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, with September 30, 2014 serving as a final deadline.

Proposal/Project Information

Local, national, and international individual artists/organizers or organizations are encouraged to submit proposals. Limited travel and artist/organizer stipends are available. Projects totaling more than \$5000 in cash expenses must also include a proposal for how additional funds will be brought to the project by the artist/organization rather than through Museum fundraising.

Proposal acceptance may require meetings or teleconferences to discuss details and to establish agreements. Commitments will be made only after definitive agreements are reached, and amount and timing of expenses will depend upon the nature of each proposal. All Polar Lab collaborators/participants will be required to execute a definitive agreement with the Anchorage Museum (and, if applicable, with third party participants) which will set forth appropriate agreements on details including the scope, nature, and timing of the project. Costs accrued prior to proposal acceptance may not appear in the project budget.

How to prepare and submit a proposal

The Anchorage Museum does not necessarily expect traditional proposals, and in fact encourages unorthodox paths to reach Northern Initiative goals. We are interested in the questions and methods behind your work, and the degree to which your project will benefit the public.

Proposals should be formatted as a single, page-numbered PDF document emailed as an attachment, accompanied by supplemental material as appropriate. Please include your name and the project name on the first page. Also include supporting materials such as hyperlinks, PDFs, or audio/visual files in the email submission. The proposal should include the following:

Artist(s)/organization and project names:

One sentence description of the activity:

Proposed date, dates, or date range:

Full description of your proposed project (250 word max):

Artist bio and/or CV, if apt, or summary of organization's activity/mission:

Description of the artistic merit of the proposed project (250 word max):

How does your project contribute to the Northern Initiative?

How will your proposed project engage Anchorage or Alaska (and broader) communities?

Please list any known sources of funding for the project, including in-kind support, and, if applicable, any conditions related to that funding.

Residency proposals should answer the following questions: Is the residency artist-led and does it have artistic merit? Will the residency benefit from access to the staff or collections of the Anchorage Museum or other regional resources? Does the process proposed by the artist include opportunities to present ideas, artwork, or collaborative opportunities to the public?

Detailed proposed project budget (please include direct costs, including artist stipend, travel, materials, etc.):

If appropriate, please submit up to five images, video/audio files, etc. that represent the idea for your project.

Please submit questions or complete proposals to northerninitiative@anchagemuseum.org

Proposed residencies might include working closely with a member of the curatorial, collections or programming staff. Artists are encouraged to engage with Anchorage and Alaska communities through lectures, workshops, meetings, collaborations or research in the Anchorage Museum's collections. Some residencies may lead to an exhibition or program, but the primary goal is research and experience.

A formal exhibition in the Museums galleries is not encouraged as part of this proposal process. Exhibitions go through a different process of selection and will not be part of Polar Lab, which seeks to activate non-traditional spaces and methods within and outside the Museum.

The museum may also connect artists to curators, scientists, historians, policymakers and other artists who might be interested in their work — forming the underpinnings of a growing international network of artists with ties to the North and supporting local artists in their projects and career development. Artists are encouraged to create dynamic new work for public engagement at the museum, allowing for strong connections to form between the artists, the museum and the public.

Museum Studies/Northern Initiative Internship

2014 and 2015

The Northern Initiative seeks to support researchers and community engagement at all levels. The Museum Studies/Northern Initiative Internship Program is a volunteer internship opportunity that introduces interns to the inner workings of a major and multi-disciplinary museum. Interns will be paired with Anchorage Museum staff to conduct independent projects. The internships present an opportunity to conduct Northern research not available in most academic settings. The Anchorage Museum will select a diverse group of talented, self-motivated undergraduate and graduate students from a competitive, international pool of candidates.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be at least 18 years old, currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate students, or grads who have graduated within the same calendar year as the internship.
- possess good organizational skills, keen attention to detail, sensitivity when dealing with cultural materials
- have completed at least their sophomore year of college by the end of the 2014 spring semester
- have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average

The Anchorage Museum encourages students from all backgrounds and locales to apply and is dedicated to a culturally diverse internship group.

Evaluation Criteria: Northern Initiative and Anchorage Museum staff will review all applications and make final selections. Applicants will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Does the applicant meet the basic eligibility requirements?
- Does the applicant exhibit sufficient interest and ability to contribute to Northern Initiative goals while developing personally and professionally?
- Based on stated interests and intentions, will the intern benefit from the staff or collections of the Anchorage Museum or other regional resources?

2014 Deadline: March 31, 2014

2015 Deadline: September 30, 2014

Local, national, and international students or recent graduates are encouraged to apply. Limited travel and housing funding may be available for out-of-town awardees. No other stipend will be awarded for these voluntary positions.

Determination of an internship award may require meetings or teleconferences to discuss proposals and to establish agreements. All interns will be required to execute a definitive agreement with the Anchorage Museum, which will set forth details including the scope and duration of the residency, logistics, and more.

Internships will be three months long between June and August during 2014 and 2015. Alternate or school-year proposed schedules will be considered; applicant should propose a schedule as part of their application.

How to apply

Email complete application materials, preferably formatted as a single PDF document if possible, to northerninitiative@anchagemuseum.org. Be sure to include:

- completed Internship Program application form
- academic transcripts (unofficial are acceptable)
- personal essay, 800 words maximum: explain how the internship will advance your academic/career goals
- two letters of reference

Questions: Please submit questions to northerninitiative@anchagemuseum.org

INTERNSHIP APPLICATION
ANCHORAGE MUSEUM – Northern Initiative

PERSONAL:

Name:

Address:

email: _____ phone: _____

Are you over 17 years old?

EDUCATION: Please indicate education or training which you believe qualifies you for the position you are seeking.

High School: No. of Yrs Completed

Diploma or G.E.D. Yes/No?:

School(s): _____ City/State: _____

College and/or Vocational School:

Number of Years Completed:

School(s): _____ City/State: _____

Major: _____ Degrees Earned: _____

Other Training or Degrees:

School(s): _____ City/State: _____

Course: _____ Degree or Cert. Earned: _____

Have you ever been employed in any facility of the Anchorage Museum? If so, please state name used and dates of employment:

REFERENCES:

Professional

1. Name:

Address:

email:

phone:

2. Name:

Address:

email:

phone:

3. Name:

Address:

email:

phone:

Personal

1. Name:

Address:

email:

phone:

2. Name:

Address:

email:

phone:

3. Name:

Address:

email:

phone:

APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION AND AGREEMENT

The undersigned authorizes The Anchorage Museum or its representative to contact my previous employers and other individuals I have given as references. I authorize and direct all such references and any employee of a previous employer to disclose any and all information regarding me and/or my employment, including, but not limited to, information about my job performance, attitude, skills, personality, character, experience, education, training, duties, wages, attendance, punctuality, discipline, strengths, weaknesses, evaluations, terminations, whether I would be rehired, and all other matters whatsoever regarding me and/or my employment. I hereby release and will hold harmless the Anchorage Museum and those who provide information from any and all liability of whatever kind and nature, which at any time could result from obtaining or using such information for internship decisions.

I understand that should an internship offer be extended to me and accepted that I will fully adhere to the policies, rules and regulations of employment of The Anchorage Museum.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date:

Either 1) digitally sign, 2) print, sign, scan, and email, or 3) type your name and date and indicate in the body of your application email that you intend the email to serve as a digital signature.

Please submit this application along with the other materials called for in the POLAR LAB Request for Proposals.