

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pratt Museum is preparing to embark on a new chapter of the institution's development. The Museum's founders constructed the original museum building in 1968. That humble structure was expanded in 1977, 1986 and 1991. As the building area grew, so did the site area. Today the 9.3 acre site is nearly three times the size of the original land holding. Each building and site acquisition has brought new opportunities to the Museum, many of which have recently been identified but not yet implemented. This project has been conceived to marry site and building uses, conserve and protect the museum objects and artifacts and to enhance the visitors' experience at the museum.

Once again the Museum finds itself in a structure that does not fully support its goals and opportunities. The existing 10,500 square foot building is over 40 years old and is in need of repair and equipment upgrade. Likewise the galleries, collections and public meeting spaces are overwhelmed by the growing patronage. As the Museum began noting the building deficiencies they took a systematic approach to evaluate their options. A site utilization study was commissioned through Agnew:Beck in 2003. An evaluation of the existing facilities' physical condition was undertaken by Steve Fishback, Dick Armstrong and Bill Nelson in 2007. Later that year the Museum was accepted into the Foraker Group Pre-Development program. Through this vehicle, RISE Alaska conducted a Visioning Session with the museum's board and staff. The information gathered in the visioning session was carried forward into programming and concept design efforts conducted by Agnew Beck and ECI/Hyer. Construction cost estimates were derived from the concept work and form the basis of the project budgeting requirements.

The concept design was structured around the premise that the museum will continue to provide services during the construction project. To accomplish this criteria the project was divided into phases. Phase 1 incorporates most of the site development and expands the structure to the south side. The new 3,000 square foot space is primarily a meeting, circulation and temporary gallery space. Phase 2 is a renovation project with limited expansion. During Phase 2 construction the newly constructed Phase 1 space will be used as gallery space. When Phase 2 is complete the division between Phase 1 and 2 work will be removed, providing one 16,368 square foot contiguous space. Phase 1 is currently scheduled to begin in 2011 and is expected to cost \$3,112,540. Phase 2 is expected to begin in 2012 and cost \$3,857,591.

The concept design has created four distinct zones within the building. The addition will contain the entry, circulation and public meeting and gallery space. The lower level will house support spaces, the main level will contain the galleries, which will be contiguous with the addition. A partial third level will provide office and conference space.

This construction project will provide the Museum with a facility that will enable a greater number of visitors to participate in a large number of activities and gain a broader understanding of the Kachemak Bay region.