


# Memo

**Thru:** Mark Gorman, Administrator  
**To:** Mayor McConnell and Assembly Members  
**From:** Jay Sweeney, Finance Director   
**Date:** 5/6/2015

**Re: Match for SHS Sesquicentennial Grant**

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The Sitka Historical Society has recently announced that it has received a grant to help celebrate the 2017 sesquicentennial of Alaska as a United States territory (enclosure). The grant has a local match requirement, and, the Sitka Historical Society has requested that the Municipality assist with a \$10,000 matching donation.

Within the General Fund, unexpended appropriations currently exist within the Public Works, Street Department, Snow Removal budget (account #100-530-033-815-5212.000) in excess of \$10,000. Assembly approval is required, however, to transfer funds between departments in the General Fund.

Accordingly, Staff requests Assembly approval to transfer \$10,000 from the Public Works, Street Department, Snow Removal budget to the Other Expenditures, Donations budget, and, authorize the expenditure of the funds for a grant match.

Staff will follow this request by including the transfer on the next supplementary budget adjustment ordinance.

**Executive Director**

Hal Spackman

**Curator**

Kristy Griffin

**Board of Directors**

Ernestine Massey - President

John Stein – Vice-President

Sabra Jenkins - Secretary

Sheila Finkenbinder - Treasurer

Chris Kowalczewski, Linda Trierschild,

Pat Alexander, Jack Ozment



**Sitka Historical  
Society & Museum**

330 Harbor Drive

Sitka, Alaska 99835

907-747-6455

907-747-6588 FAX

Web Site: [www.sitkahistory.org](http://www.sitkahistory.org)

April 22, 2015

Mark Gorman  
Municipal Administrator  
City of Sitka

Dear Mr. Gorman:

I am pleased to inform you that the Sitka Historical Society has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the State of Alaska Office of History & Archaeology to help our organization and the Sitka Community commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Purchase of Alaska from Russia.

Our successful proposal, among other things, allows us to hire a "Sitka Community 150<sup>th</sup> Liaison" who will have as his/her sole responsibility the promotion and facilitation of this landmark event. This position will, importantly, provide a central point of contact for persons or organizations which want to support and commemorate Sitka's history leading up to and following the Transfer.

To secure these funds, the Sitka Historical Society must provide matching contributions totaling \$15,000. The Society has already allocated \$5,000 of its monies to meet this goal. Consequently, we are seeking an additional \$10,000 contribution from the City & Borough of Sitka, so we can receive the grant monies and begin conducting proposed activities. As background information, I have attached a proposal detailing our request and the major grant activities we plan to conduct.

I look forward to a splendid year of commemoration that establishes Sitka as a major cultural tourism destination.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Hal Spackman

CC: Ernestine Massey, President, Sitka Historical Society

**Executive Director**

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**Curator**

Kristy Griffin

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**Sitka Historical Society, Inc. proposal requesting City & Borough of Sitka funds to support its State of AK  
Office of History & Archaeology Sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup>) Grant**

**The Sitka Historical Society (SHS) requests a \$10,000 contribution from the C & B of Sitka to help our organization meet the matching funds (Total \$15,000) required to secure our successful grant award. SHS has already allocated \$5,000 of its own funds towards this amount.**

Because Sitka played a primary role in Alaska's history, SHS has already begun planning for this event by facilitating public meetings to raise public awareness and develop commemorative strategies. Thus, we have gained public support to commemorate this landmark event.

The goal of this project is to provide a central point of contact for the Public to enhance, promote, organize, encourage and coordinate the community of Sitka's educational, economic, cultural and historical activities surrounding the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Purchase of Alaska.

**Grant timeline/activities**

April 15, 2015 through September 30, 2016: Contract with a Community Liaison who can represent the community of Sitka as a central point of contact, facilitator, advocate, promoter and organizer for the events and activities associated with the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Purchase of Alaska. *(Note: When these grant funds end, The Society will seek funding to contract with this liaison through October 18, 2017).*

April 2015 – September 2015: Collaborate with historians to produce historically accurate text that communicates Sitka's role in the Purchase of Alaska for use in promotional materials and media venues.

April 15, 2015 – May 15, 2015: Develop and post a "150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Purchase of Alaska" Sitka website and Facebook page (continue to manage and update these sites through December 2017).

April 2015 – April 2016: Collaborate with local educators and historians to develop and publish curricula teachers may use to build students' knowledge of the history of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Alaska's Purchase.

April 2015 – September 2016: Seek venues that broadly communicate and publicize Sitka's role in Alaska's history and advertise, globally, activities and places of historical interest to attract visitors to Alaska.

April 2015 – September 2016: Work with the City & Borough of Sitka to secure monies to fund two major, historically-themed, well researched, art projects which commemorate the Purchase of Alaska. These works will be prominently displayed in the newly renovated Sitka Centennial Hall upon its completion in January 2017.

April 2015 – October 18, 2017: On an ongoing basis - schedule, facilitate, support and participate in meetings of the Sitka “150<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Task Force and Steering Committee.”

## Jay Sweeney

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**From:** Hal Spackman <halspackman@sitkahistory.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:10 PM  
**To:** Mark Gorman; Jay Sweeney  
**Subject:** SHS, Inc. awarded grant for 150th Community Liaison

Hi, Mark and Jay,

I am pleased to inform you that the grant the Sitka Historical Society submitted to the AK Historical Commission was successful. Our proposal funds a person to act as the 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Sitka Community Liaison! This grant includes some other line items, such as, web site development and fees, advertising, and few other things related to supporting Sitka's efforts in this historic occasion.

When you get a minute, would you please call me regarding this grant? My cell is 738-3766.

Thank you,  
Hal

## Jay Sweeney

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**From:** Mary Miller <mary\_miller@nps.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2015 6:31 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Poulson  
**Cc:** Bill Davis; Hal Spackman; steve dahlquist; Steven Dalquist; Mim McConnell; John Stein; Ernestine Massey; lawrence.spottedbird@sitkatriben-sns.gov; sitkashiela@gmail.com; bob\_sam777@hotmail.com; Brinnen Carter; kristygriffin@sitkahistory.org; Mark Gorman; Jay Sweeney; Jennifer Robinson; Garry White; Sarah Lawrie  
**Subject:** Re: Draft press release/brochure for 150th, Notes from March 27th

Was out of town. Sorry

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2015, at 7:52 PM, Rebecca Poulson <[rebecca\\_poulson@hotmail.com](mailto:rebecca_poulson@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Hello, the last meeting on the 10th, no one came!

At the meeting previous to that one, though, on March 27th, as far as I can recall it was Gerry Hope, Mary Miller, Hal Spackman, me (Rebecca), John Stein and Bill Davis - am I missing someone?

We talked about the mission statement reflecting the fact that the Russians did not in fact possess Alaska - that it was a Treaty of Cession of what they did hold, which was not all of Alaska - in part because they had never conquered or made treaties with the Natives.

The change, suggested by Alaska legal historian Kathy Ruddy of Juneau, is:

"During the year 2017, Sitka is commemorating the 150th anniversary of the 1867 Alaska Treaty of Cession that transferred Russian possessions to the United States by . . . ."

(Juneau writer Peter Metcalfe, who sent that along, does not like the comma after 2017. We'll debate that at the next meeting.)

We also talked about the Clan Conference holding their 2017 Clan Conference in Sitka, and, at this year's Clan Conference (in November, in Juneau), their holding a session to generate ideas and involvement by Alaska Natives in the 150th commemoration.

We also talked about how to get articles in state and national media, to encourage visitors. I'm president of the Alaska Historical Society, and we are going to look at working with the state Historical Commission (a state board) and the Alaska tourism office to do that. Mary Miller said she would contact Alaska Airlines magazine to see if they could tell her a writer they work with who could do a feature on the 150th and Sitka.

And, Hal was concerned there would not be enough things for visitors to do and see - in particular, historical dress and flag raising reenactments - and would like to encourage that.



Hal also announced that the State Historical Commission has granted Sitka matching funds (was it \$10,000?) for hiring a 150th coordinator, to work on planning for the community. (Previously, Mark Gorman had said there could be City funds, as well, for this job.)

And, finally, someone had the idea of coming up with historical training for tour guides.

I'm not sure if we are still meeting tomorrow - but see what you think of this draft, which would be a press release, and a rack card brochure, and get me comments and edits.

We'd also talked at earlier meetings about rolling this out, along with the website, and proclamations by the Assembly and Tribe, all at the same time, maybe in May.

Thanks,  
Rebecca

----- Original Message -----

**From:**

"Hal Spackman" <[halspackman@sitkahistory.org](mailto:halspackman@sitkahistory.org)>

**To:**

"steve dahlquist" <[marzmn@gmail.com](mailto:marzmn@gmail.com)>, "Steven Dalquist" <[stevedalquist@gmail.com](mailto:stevedalquist@gmail.com)>, "Mim McConnell" <[assemblymccconnell@cityofsitka.com](mailto:assemblymccconnell@cityofsitka.com)>, "Rebecca Poulson" <[rebecca\\_poulson@hotmail.com](mailto:rebecca_poulson@hotmail.com)>, "John Stein" <[john.c.stein@gmail.com](mailto:john.c.stein@gmail.com)>, "Ernestine Massey" <[e.massey@alaska.net](mailto:e.massey@alaska.net)>, "WILLIAM E. DAVIS" <[daviswme@gci.net](mailto:daviswme@gci.net)>, "Mary Miller" <[mary\\_miller@nps.gov](mailto:mary_miller@nps.gov)>, <[lawrence.spottedbird@sitkatriben-sn.gov](mailto:lawrence.spottedbird@sitkatriben-sn.gov)>, <[sitkashiela@gmail.com](mailto:sitkashiela@gmail.com)>

**Cc:**

"Mark Gorman" <[markgorman@cityofsitka.com](mailto:markgorman@cityofsitka.com)>, "Jay Sweeney" <[jay@cityofsitka.com](mailto:jay@cityofsitka.com)>, "Sitka Chamber" <[jen@sitkachamber.com](mailto:jen@sitkachamber.com)>, "Garry White" <[garrywhite@gci.net](mailto:garrywhite@gci.net)>, "Sarah Lawrie" <[justsosarah@gmail.com](mailto:justsosarah@gmail.com)>

**Sent:**

Tue, 7 Apr 2015 14:20:50 -0800

**Subject:**

150th mtg Friday, April 10 at 12 noon in Rosseau Room

150<sup>th</sup> Team,

During the last 150<sup>th</sup> meeting, attendees asked to schedule this **Friday's, April 10 meeting at 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

I have reserved the Rosseau Room for the meeting.