

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Nome

Project Title:

Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition

Nome - Museum Construction and Development

State Funding Requested: \$16,000,000
One-Time Need

House District: 39 / T

Brief Project Description:

Construct a new building to exhibit, house and protect the extensive inventory of photographs, artifacts and archives of the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, owned and operated by the City of Nome.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$16,000,000

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
State Funds	\$50,000	2007				
Other Funds	\$50,000	2008				
Total	\$100,000					

Explanation of Other Funds:

Nome Historical Foundation contribution made possible by Chuck and Marguerite West, and funds provided by the Clara Mielke-Richards Estate.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The City of Nome is seeking funding to construct a new building to exhibit, house and protect the extensive inventory of photographs, artifacts and archives of the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, owned and operated by the City of Nome. The Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving and showcasing the Nome Gold Rush, Bering Sea Eskimo, Military, Aviation, as well as the contemporary history of Nome and the Bering Strait region of Western Alaska. It is a focal point of visitors and residents alike, providing education and research to everyone from school children to international visitors and researchers. The people of Nome as well as the 20 tribes of the Bering Strait Region will benefit from this project.

The need for a new Museum has long been recognized and began in earnest in 1993 as part of planning for Nome's Centennial Celebration. Because we have so much history, our Celebration took place over four years (1998-2001). Receiving unanimous consent from the Nome Common Council in January 2003, the Museum & Library Commission moved to the design phase for a new building. An Architectural Program Report was completed by architect Terry Hyer (ECI/Hyer-Anchorage) in October 2003. After thorough evaluation, in August 2008 the Commission recommended construction of a new museum next to "Old St. Joe's" Church on Anvil City Square. With City Council concurrence, the Commission in conjunction with the Nome Historical Foundation engaged additional services by ECI/Hyer and exhibit designer André & Associates. Local contributions and a design grant from the State of Alaska allowed completion of a narrative program and concept design for the new 14,500 square foot building.

The Museum is currently crammed into the 1,000 square foot basement of a 41 year-old building located in the floodplain on

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

**\$5,000,000
Approved**

6:06 PM 5/4/2010

Front Street. Northwest Alaska's only museum and its collection are constantly threatened by high water resulting from severe Bering Sea storms. With advance warning, museum staff was able to move the entire contents of the Museum to higher ground when storms in 2004 and 2005 flooded Nome. We cannot gamble on always being that lucky. A larger, safe facility is needed to properly protect, display and archive the rich history embodied in our priceless, irreplaceable collections.

Nome has the most unique history in the State of Alaska and our legendary status gives Nome one of few Alaska place names immediately recognized worldwide. Utilizing our vast collection, archives and historic photographs, the Museum portrays the Nome Gold Rush, from the discovery of gold by the Three Lucky Swedes in 1898 to the arrival of Wyatt Earp in 1899 and the rush of 40,000 people to Nome in 1900. Through artifacts dating back 2,200 years, the lifestyle and ingenuity of the Bering Sea Eskimo is examined. Other historic highlights lodge Nome as the birthplace of long distance sled dog racing beginning with the All Alaska Sweepstakes; the home of "Fritz" - Leonhard Seppala's lead dog in the 1925 Serum Run and now the finish line of the Iditarod. Construction of Marks Air Force Base during World War II made Nome the last stop during the Lend-Lease Program and an alternate site considered for the Yalta Conference. The gold rush city was stomping grounds of many notable aviators of state and national fame. Jimmy Doolittle, Billy Mitchell, Charles Lindbergh, Hans Mirow, Bill Munz, Noel Wien, Carl Ben Eielson, Chuck West, Roald Amundsen and Willie Foster are all intricately linked to Nome's history.

Founder Carrie M. McLain began collecting Nome's history in the mid-1940's. Upon her death in 1973, the Nome City Council named the city museum in her honor. Scores of families have donated their photographs and possessions over the past 68 years. Recent gifts include over 2,000 Eskimo artifacts dating back as far as 200 B.C. as well as hundreds of Nome archival documents and remarkable memorabilia including Wyatt Earp's piano from the Dexter Saloon, Nome's first phone booth and a King Island kayak from 1900. Donations still arrive daily. In 2005 the State Archivist transferred custody of the original documents of the Cape Nome Recording District to the Museum.

We have the history, reputation, expertise, artifacts, photographs, technology, and volunteers as well as financial and community support. The only thing lacking is secure space! Nome's greatest asset is its people and the history they have created. A new building in a safe location will preserve and protect that legacy.

Nome seeks State assistance in constructing the estimated \$16 million facility.

Project Timeline:

Proposed site has been identified, program space plan developed and basic architectural concept designs completed. With funding a commitment can be made to location, which will then allow completion of architectural and construction drawings, and building erection.

SFY09 - \$6,000,000 Design, Land, Materials Procurement

SFY10 - \$10,000,000 Construction

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Nome

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Mayor Denise Michels/City Manager Josie Bahnke
Address:	PO Box 281 Nome, AK 99762
Phone Number:	(907)443-6663
Email:	mayor@ci.nome.ak.us, manager@ci.nome.ak.us

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



CITY OF NOME

Celebrating 100 Years of Gold Rush History

Incorporated April 9, 1901

February 1, 2010

The Honorable Sean Pamell, Governor
The Honorable Gary Stevens, Senate President
The Honorable Mike Chenault, Speaker of the House

Subject: 2010 State Legislative Priorities for the City of Nome, Alaska

Dear Fellow Alaskans:

The City of Nome is pleased to provide you with its 2010 State Legislative Priorities. The Nome Common Council conducted meetings with Citizens, Boards and Commissions and adopted resolutions endorsing the capital projects and position statements for inclusion in this session's Legislative Priorities package.

We find ourselves with the strong will to continue investing in our community. Nome desires to improve our economic base and to pursue and develop long-range projects that will provide stable employment for our Citizens. Nome's aggressive approach to move forward is evidenced by seeking projects that will improve the quality of life for the citizens of Nome, our welcomed visitors and for the surrounding villages, who view Nome as the center for many of their needs.

We work closely with our local partners to diversify and strengthen our economy. We do seek State assistance to help us meet the demands and needs of our citizens.

We seek the State of Alaska's assistance and support for Capital Projects and Legislative Positions contained within this document. The City has prioritized the following capital projects for consideration:

1. The Richard Foster Building to Contain the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, Original Records of the Cape Nome Recording District and Nome's Historical Archives; and
2. Water and Sewer Infrastructure Improvements

The City has identified other issues of importance to the community meriting state consideration:

- A. Nome City Community Infrastructure;
- B. Nome School Capital Improvements;
- C. NJUS Power Generation Issues;

2010 State Legislative Priorities for the City of Nome, Alaska (continued)

- D. Alaska Army National Guard Readiness Center;
- E. Alaska State Office Building;
- F. Pioneer/Veterans Home in Northwest Alaska;
- G. Norton Sound Health Corporation Detoxification Center;
- H. State Fiscal Issues;
 - 1. Support for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program;
 - 2. Support to Expand PCE Program;
 - 3. Support of Transportation Infrastructure Funding;
 - 4. Support of the Development of the State of Alaska's Renewable Energy Sources;
 - 5. Support of Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment 2009 Report Recommendations

We will actively promote State assistance for these items through our lobbyist, Ms. Wendy Chamberlain. She will be able to assist you on these projects and can describe our need and interest for the projects included within the Legislative Priorities. The City's staff and I are available and eager to provide additional information to you and your staff. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at 443-6610 or Ms. Josie Bahnke, City Manager at 443-6600.

We thank you for your continuous support and consideration of our 2010 Legislative Priorities.

Sincerely,
CITY OF NOME, ALASKA



DENISE MICHELS
MAYOR



**“THE RICHARD FOSTER BUILDING”
To Contain the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum,
Original Records of the Cape Nome Recording District
and Nome’s Historical Archives**



Richard Foster was elected to the Alaska State House of Representatives in 1988 and served the people of our district and the State of Alaska with honor and distinction for nearly 21 years. His special interest included History of the Seward Peninsula and Military History. He was an avid and devoted collector of items of historical significance.

The City of Nome is seeking funding to construct a new building in which to exhibit, house and protect the extensive inventory of photographs, artifacts and archives of the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, owned and operated by the City of Nome. The Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving and showcasing the Nome Gold Rush, Bering

Sea Eskimo, Military, Aviation, as well as the contemporary history of Nome and the Bering Strait region of Western Alaska. It is a focal point of visitors and residents alike, providing education and research to everyone from school children to international visitors and researchers. The people of Nome as well as the 20 tribes of the Bering Strait Region will benefit from this project.

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The Museum is currently crammed into the 1,000 square foot basement of a 41 year-old building located in the floodplain on Front Street. Northwest Alaska’s only museum and its collection are constantly threatened by high water resulting from severe Bering Sea storms. With advance warning, museum staff was able to move the entire contents of the Museum to higher ground when storms in 2004 and 2005 flooded Nome. We cannot gamble on always being that lucky. A larger, safer facility is needed to properly protect, display and archive the rich history embodied in our priceless, irreplaceable collections.

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dog racing beginning with the All Alaska Sweepstakes; the home of "Fritz" - Leonhard Seppala's lead dog in the 1925 Serum Run and now the finish line of the Iditarod. Construction of Marks Air Force Base during World War II made Nome the last stop during the Lend-Lease Program and an alternate site considered for the Yalta Conference. The gold rush city was stomping grounds of many notable aviators of state and national fame. Jimmy Doolittle, Billy Mitchell, Charles Lindbergh, Hans Mirow, Bill Munz, Noel Wien, Carl Ben Eielson, Chuck West, Roald Amundsen and Willie Foster are all intrinsically linked to Nome's history.

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In honor of Richard Foster's long and distinguished statewide service career, the City of Nome believes the efforts and contributions made by Richard during his lifetime to preserve and share the history of the great State of Alaska is fitting of permanent recognition, and by unanimous Resolution, is seeking capital funding to allow the City of Nome to construct "The Richard Foster Building" in which to locate repositories of historical collections of items currently entrusted, and those to be received in the future.

Nome seeks State assistance in constructing the estimated \$16 million facility.





Presented by:
Mayor & Council
Action Taken:
Yes 6 No 0
Abstain 0

CITY OF NOME, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. R-10-01-09

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE CITY OF NOME TO CONSTRUCT
"THE RICHARD FOSTER BUILDING" IN NOME

WHEREAS, Richard Foster was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives in 1988 and served the people of our District and the State of Alaska with honor and distinction for nearly 21 years; and,

WHEREAS, Richard was a member of the Bush Caucus, served as Majority Whip from 1993 to 2007, and was a member of the House Finance Committee from 1993 until his death in 2009; and,

WHEREAS, Richard dedicated his life to public service and was honored by the University of Alaska as a Distinguished Alumni; and,

WHEREAS, Richard's special interest centered on the History of the Seward Peninsula including its Aviation History and was an avid and devoted collector of items of historical significance; and,

WHEREAS, Richard would regularly spend time in the State Archives researching the history of the our area and the State, and freely shared his knowledge and memories with all who would visit with him; and,

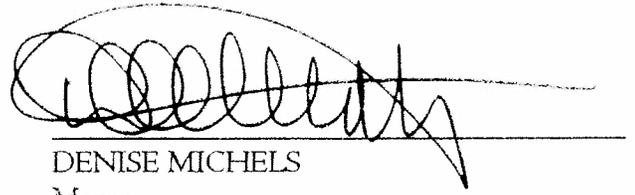
WHEREAS, Richard never let politics stand in the way of friendship, and earned the love and respect of people in our community, the region, and the State as a whole; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Nome believes the efforts and contributions made by Richard Foster during his lifetime to preserve and share the history of the great State of Alaska should be recognized and permanently memorialized; and,

WHEREAS, Nome's Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum serves as the repository of our area's rich Aviation, Bering Sea Eskimo and Gold Rush History; the State Archivist has transferred to Nome the original District Recorder's Books for the Cape Nome Recording District renowned as the first Recording District in Alaska; and Nome has a rich World War II Military History, all of which the City desires to more prominently display, make available for educational and historical research, and preserve and protect for future generations.

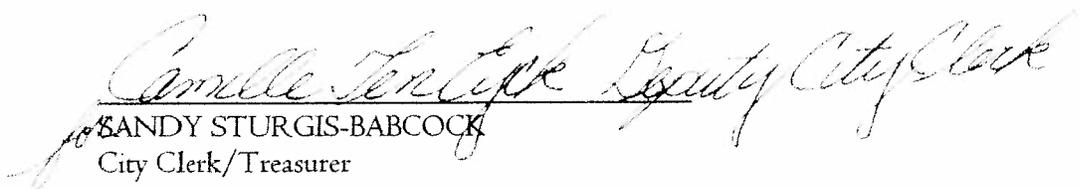
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nome Common Council respectfully requests the Alaska State Legislature, in honor of Richard's long and distinguished statewide service career, to provide capital funding to allow the City of Nome to construct "The Richard Foster Building" in which to locate repositories of historical collections of items currently entrusted to us, and those to be received in the future.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 25th day of January, 2010.



DENISE MICHELS
Mayor

ATTEST:



SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK
City Clerk/Treasurer



With enjoyment and excitement, Richard looks over some historical Nome documents with Laura Samuelson, Director of the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum. Photo taken April 12, 2009 at City of Nome Easter Brunch in Juneau. This was the last time Richard was in Juneau.



Richard reviews a past issue of the Nome High Yearbook with intense curiosity. Brian and Donna James savor the moment and receive an additional oral history lesson from Richard.



Presented by:
Mayor
Action Taken:
Yes 6 No 0
Abstain

CITY OF NOME, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. R-10-01-04

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING PROJECTS AND POSITION STATEMENTS
FOR THE CITY OF NOME 2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

WHEREAS, a public hearing and joint work session of the Nome City Council, Nome Joint Utility Board, Nome School District Board, Nome Planning Commission, and Nome Port Commission was held in Nome, Alaska on Monday, January 11, 2010; and,

WHEREAS, it is with unanimity that the following prioritized projects are considered worthy of advocacy to State of Alaska legislative and administrative leaders:

Priority #1- Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum Construction;

Priority #2 - Water and Sewer Infrastructure Improvements; and,

WHEREAS, it is with unanimity the following Community Infrastructure items are considered worthy of advocacy to State of Alaska legislative and administrative leaders:

Nome City Community Infrastructure:

- Covered Multi-Use Recreational Structure
- Remodel Recreation Center for Emergency Shelter Services
- Port/Causeway Expansion
- Extension of Steadman Street to the By-pass Road for Future Community Development
- Construction of Consortium Library with the University of Alaska
- Long Range Community/Infrastructure Development Nome Airport Master Plan
- DOT/PF Northwest Alaska Access Study

Nome School Capital Improvements:

- Nome Elementary School Hot Water Boiler System Replacement
- Nome Elementary School Gym Floor Replacement
- Direct Digital Controls
- Lighting Upgrade

NJUS Power Generation Issues:

- Develop Alternative Energy Production Sources, including Geo-Thermal and Energy Storage Technology
- Protection/Relocation of Electrical Distribution Facilities in Flood Prone Areas
- Expand Eligibility and Maximum Loan Limits for Participation in State Revolving Bulk Fuel Loan Fund;

WHEREAS, it is with unanimity that the following legislative position statements are supported by the City of Nome and considered worthy of advocacy to State legislative and administrative leaders:

Alaska Army National Guard Readiness Center;

State Office Building;

Pioneer/Veterans Home in Northwest Alaska; and,

Detoxification Center

WHEREAS, it is with unanimity that the following legislative position statements are supported by the City of Nome and considered worthy of advocacy to State of Alaska legislative and administrative leaders:

State Fiscal Issues:

- Support for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program
- Support to Expand the PCE Program to include Municipal Facilities, Schools, Health Facilities and Commercial Enterprises not Eligible Under Existing Law
- Support of Transportation Infrastructure Funding to include Rural Alaska
- Support of the Development of the State of Alaska's Renewable Energy Resources and the Continuance and Expansion of Programs that Increase End-Use Conservation and Energy Efficiency
- Support of the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment 2009 Report Recommendation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nome City Council endorses the aforementioned items for inclusion in the City of Nome 2010 State of Alaska Legislative Priorities Package.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** this 11th day of January, 2010.



DENISE MICHELS, Mayor

ATTEST:



SANDY STURGIS-BABCOCK, City Clerk/Treasurer