

Katirvik Cultural Center

Nome, AK



With the people, for the people

Kawerak, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that represents 20 Alaska Native Tribes of the Bering Strait region in northwest Alaska. Kawerak asked APA to design its first-ever cultural center and create a space where elders and youth can come together.

To help the center fulfill its many roles, our firm designed for flexibility and community engagement. Modular, mobile cases can be re-configured to display new community-curated exhibits or make room for programs, staff can easily change the stories presented on the touch tablets, and educators can pull artifacts out of the cases for hands-on learning. A large touchwall provides inviting access to the community's rich archives. Many objects and images came to the collection with little information, so APA designed computer stations where community members add their knowledge to the archival record—making this a truly living archive. Exhibits prominently feature the region's Alaska Native languages, putting the center at the forefront of the language revival movement.

