

The Maxine and Jesse Whitney Museum

Valdez, AK



A woman, her story and her collection

For 30 years, Maxine Whitey amassed an eclectic collection of Alaskan objects. With little or no provenance, no curator and a mandate to exhibit the entire collection, the fundamental challenge the Museum faced was finding a unifying concept for interpretation and display.

APA worked with Prince William Sound Community College and Maxine to develop a compelling concept that celebrated the collections, the artists who created the works and the woman who collected them. The result was an exhibit that takes visitors on a journey through Alaska as Maxine saw it from the 1940s to the 1970s, while touching on the larger stories of making art, collecting and cultural representation. Visitors encounter towering bears, vignettes of life in Alaska, masses of mukluks, ivory miniatures and much more, while being prompted to question the impulse to collect and how it relates to their lives. APA developed the Museum's exhibit concept, produced design documentation and managed the fabrication and installation of exhibit components.

