

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**



**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**



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## Documenting Endangered Languages

### SAMPLE APPLICATION NARRATIVE

This sample narrative conforms to a past set of guidelines. Please consult the guidelines for the current competition on NSF's website at:

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2006/nsf06577/nsf06577.htm>

## **Project Summary – Alutiiq Web Portal and Archive**

Alutiiq, an Eskimoan language once widely spoken in southcentral Alaska, is endangered today. Within the Alutiiq world, the Kodiak Alutiiq dialect is particularly threatened, with fewer than 35 elderly speakers scattered among isolated, rural communities in the Kodiak Archipelago. Although uniquely placed at the southern extent of the Eskimoan language family, Alutiiq is one of the least-studied Alaska Native languages. *Alutiiq Living Words*, a project run by the nationally-acclaimed Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository, is a three-year community-based research effort to document rapidly vanishing forms of Kodiak Alutiiq oratory, linguistic knowledge, and place names, while (1) supporting the birth of new Alutiiq words and (2) creating an online web portal where scholars, community members, and the public can access linguistic information.

To document Alutiiq oratory, semi-fluent field researchers (primarily Alutiiq people) will work closely with Kodiak Alutiiq speakers to make digital audio and visual recordings. Efforts will focus on the eldest and most fluent speakers, many of whom are over 80 years old. The recordings will be transcribed and indexed by project staff, transferred to CD and DVD, and archived both at the Alutiiq Museum and the University of Alaska's Alaska Native Language Center (ANLC). In addition to new recordings, selected older recordings from ANLC and the Alutiiq Museum's archives, many on analog tapes, will be digitized, transcribed, and translated. Selections of particular interest will then be fully translated for an online database, where short recordings can be played with accompanying Alutiiq and English translations. Recording topics and key words will be searchable in English and Alutiiq, as well as by speaker and village/sub-dialect of origin. P.I. Sven Haakanson, Jr., PH.D. (Alutiiq-Old Harbor), the Alutiiq Museum's Executive Director, will oversee the project. Co-P.I. April G.L. Counciller, M.A. (Alutiiq-Larsen Bay) will coordinate all project objectives.

To document and preserve linguistic place name information, research notes taken by Dr. Jeff Leer of ANLC will be reverified with modern speakers, and compiled in an interactive multimedia Kodiak Archipelago place-names map for the web site. Dr. Leer has nearly 30 years of experience studying the Alutiiq language. In addition to contributing place-names data, he will also act as the project's Faculty Associate, editing Alutiiq language text and guiding the interpretation of selected oratory.

Another primary project objective is to form a New Words Council (NWC) of fluent speakers and semi-fluent project staff, who will develop new words for the language. Modeled after the successful Hawaiian Lexicon Committee, this group will document aspects of Alutiiq language revitalization in practice, as the community advances towards a healthier language status. New words, recordings of these words, and documentation of the word-creation process will be included in the project's online database and disseminated in a printed new words guide.

Intellectual Merit. This project includes a sound academic protocol, oversight by the Native community, and an institutional review based on the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) *Guidelines for Research*. Led by the Native-run Alutiiq Museum with guidance from professional linguists at the Alaska Native Language Center (ANLC), this project directly reflects community concerns and strategic language planning, while addressing the documentary goals of the scholarly community. Moreover, it will result in the development of unique language documentation and learning resource for many audiences.

Broader Impacts. *Alutiiq Living Words* will create resources valuable to others working with endangered languages. The New Words Council will act as a valuable example of a little used tool for promoting language growth. The project's web site and publications will help to educate others about project protocol, benefits and constraints of audio-video and web technology for language documentation and dissemination, and community-based/community-driven research methods. They will provide valuable information about preventive linguistics and local-academic collaboration. Furthermore, they will serve as an example of how such research can be conducted and shared between rural isolated Alaskan communities and a worldwide linguistic audience.

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION – ALUTIIQ LIVING WORDS PROJECT

### Introduction

The Kodiak Archipelago is a large group of islands that lies 30 miles off the southwestern coast of Alaska. Spanning nearly 5,000 square miles, the archipelago is roughly the size of Connecticut. This region is the traditional homeland of the Alutiiq (Sugpiaq) people, who have inhabited its shores for over 7,500 years. Kodiak holds seven small rural communities - Akhiok, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Kodiak, and Karluk - accessible only by air and water. Like the people, the indigenous language of the archipelago is known as Alutiiq. Local speakers use the Kodiak Alutiiq sub-dialect common to Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula. Speakers on the mainland to the north, on the Kenai Peninsula and in Prince William Sound, speak second dialect known as Chugach Alutiiq (<http://www.uaf.edu/anlc>).



Map image courtesy the Alaska Native Language Center Web site: <http://www.uaf.edu/anlc>

Today, Kodiak's population of 13,000 includes roughly 1,722 Alutiiqs who are members of 10 federally recognized tribes and live in all of the islands' communities. A survey of the Alutiiq population in 2002 identified just 37 fluent Kodiak Alutiiq speakers, with an average age of 72 years (Hegna 2003). The advanced age of Kodiak's Alutiiq speakers is particularly disturbing when compared to the life expectancy of Alaska Natives – just 69.4 years (Healthy Alaskans). Since 2002, at least 6 fluent speakers have passed away. Compounding the small number of speakers is the fact that some are unwilling to work with researchers, due to an internalization of the negative attitudes toward Native heritage espoused by 20<sup>th</sup> century missionaries, cannery bosses, and American-school teachers.

Before suppression of Kodiak Alutiiq, the size of the archipelago and the relative isolation of its communities promoted the development of two sub-dialects, as well as village-specific variations in speech. Villages characterized by the "Southern" sub-dialect include Akhiok and Old Harbor. The "Northern" sub dialect is found in Karluk, Larsen Bay, Port Lions, Ouzinkie, and Kodiak. Of these dialects, the Northern sub-dialect is more endangered, with a higher average speaker age, and a greater level of language denial. However, with the dwindling number of all speakers, there are only a handful of fluent people remaining in each village. There are no permanent resident speakers left in Karluk or Larsen Bay, and none of the fluent speakers in Ouzinkie are willing to speak with researchers, even Alutiiq scholars.

Despite this sad picture, there is an overwhelming support for the documentation and revitalization of the language. In the 2002 survey, ninety-five percent of the 435 survey respondents believed that it was important for the Alutiiq people to “know their Native language” while 89 percent agreed or strongly agreed that knowing how to speak Alutiiq was an “important part of being Alutiiq” (Hegna 2003).

### **Previous work**

The Alutiiq language is traditionally oral. Russian-Alutiiq students at church schools during the historic era created a written Cyrillic alphabet for Alutiiq, from which a handful of liturgical texts remain (Black 2001). The earliest formal scholarly work on the Alutiiq language began in the 1960s with the late linguist Irene Reed, who traveled around the Alutiiq region making recordings in the language. In the 1970s, Dr. Jeff Leer began fieldwork in the Kodiak area, ultimately producing a conversational dictionary in 1978. He later created a grammar book (1990) for use in his classes at the University of Alaska, and authored articles on aspects of the language. An updated, multi-dialect dictionary with over 6,000 entries is in preparation, which the Alaska Native Language Center (ANLC) will publish by 2008.

Early community-driven research on the Alutiiq language in Kodiak began in the late 1980s, with an "Alutiiq Language Corner" article in the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA)'s Newsletter, authored by a fluent KANA staff member. Philomena Hausler-Knecht, then a Harvard graduate student, created an Alutiiq language workbook and Hypercard computer program based on work with local Elders in 1995. There were two short-lived classes with Alutiiq language content in the early 1990s, each lasting one semester (Hegna 2002). However, these efforts ended without lasting impact, as there was no strategic, community-based plan for language documentation or revitalization.

As Alutiiq leaders began noticing the rapid decline of speakers, the first cooperative efforts to address Alutiiq language decline occurred in 2000. An Alutiiq Language planning project led by the Alutiiq Museum and funded by the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) took place in 2002-2003, and resulted in the first community-wide planning efforts for local language preservation. This plan included community specific goals and strategies, a language-status study, and resolutions by all area tribes in support of the Alutiiq Museum's continued efforts to preserve and document Alutiiq. The results were compiled in an informally-published report titled "*Yugnet Ang'alluki: To Keep the Words - A Report of the Goals Strategies and Status of the Alutiiq language*" by Shauna Hegna (2003). The tribes recently (Aug. 2006) reaffirmed their support of the Museum's role in language revitalization (See Supplemental Documentation)

In 2003, the Museum formed the *Qik'rtarmiut Alutiit* Regional Language Advisory Committee (QARLAC) comprised of tribal and Native corporation representatives, educational organizations, and interested individuals. This committee continues to meet monthly to guide language efforts. The QARLAC recently updated the regional goals and strategies for language revitalization to acknowledge early successes and increase the role of documentation (See Supplemental Documentation pg. K-L).

In 2004, ANA awarded the Alutiiq Museum a 3-year Language Implementation grant for the *Qik'rtarmiut Alutiit* Master-Apprentice project. The primary goals of this project were to teach Alutiiq to a set of apprentices using the immersion technique, create

recordings of those lessons for the Museum’s archive, and create language-learning materials and lesson plans. This project, now beginning its third year, is successfully creating a small group of semi-fluent speakers.

Despite the growth of new speakers, their limited conversational ability does not match true Native speakers, who without a written language, grew up in an environment rich with song, speech, and storytelling. The number of fluent speakers is still dropping, and the need remains to document higher forms of oratory - those used by the first-language fluent speakers. Under the current program, the apprentices from the *Qik’rtarmiut Alutiit* project will form a group of able researchers, eager to assist in documentation efforts.

### **Partner Organizations**

•The Alutiiq Museum – The national award winning Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository will lead the *Alutiiq Living Words* project and oversee completion of all project objectives. A successful, community-governed institution, the museum boasts a professional staff of which 50% are Alutiiq tribal members. The Alutiiq Museum has shown its ability to administer sizeable, multi-year grants in the past, including funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Park Service, the Rockefeller Foundation, the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, and many others. Moreover, the museum’s efforts to preserve the Alutiiq language have received widespread attention. Museum staff have presented at the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education, the Bilingual and Multicultural Equity in Education Conference, the Smithsonian Institution's Museums in Language Preservation Workshop, and others.

•Kukanui O Hawai'i Ma Hilo (University of Hawai'i at Hilo) Hawaiian Lexicon Committee – Nearly 20 years old, the New Words Committee, chaired by Larry Kimura, is a well-established entity that will provide valuable guidance for the Alutiiq New Words Council. The committee has committed a volunteer to attend the initial training for participants of the *Alutiiq Living Words* project, and have expressed interest in possible continuing collaboration or comparative study based on this contact. A letter from Mr. Kimura is attached the Supplemental Documentation, page O.

•Alaska Native Language Center – The Alutiiq Museum and ANLC have a strong existing relationship, having collaborated on both the Alutiiq Dictionary Project and the *Qik’rtarmiut Alutiit* Master-Apprentice project. The Alaska Native Language Center will support the *Alutiiq Living Words* project by providing access to its archive and housing duplicate copies of all recordings made for the project. In addition, they have agreed to place a link to the Alutiiq Web Portal on their web site. Their commitment to the project is outlined in their attached letter of support (Supplemental Documentation pg. M).

Educational Organizations – Two local educational organizations, the Kodiak Island Borough School District and the Native Educators of the Alutiiq Region (NEAR) are strong proponents of the Alutiiq Museum’s language program, and both have expressed support for this project. The KIBSD will place a link on their web site to the Alutiiq Web Portal, and provide access to its videoconference system for meetings of the New Words Council. Additionally, representatives of NEAR will evaluate the content of materials and publications produced in the *Alutiiq Living Words* project, and encourage educators to make use of the web portal in social studies and language classes. Letters of support from both organizations are attached in Supplemental Documentation, pgs. P & Q.

Qik'rtarmiut Alutiit Committee – The QARLAC, made up of tribal, educational, and Native Corporation representatives, meets monthly or bimonthly throughout the year to receive updates from language program staff, and provide feedback and guidance to the language program. The QARLAC will receive regular project updates and provide ongoing evaluation to this project. The QARLAC has identified documentation as a short-term goal for the revitalization of Alutiiq in its recent goals and strategies update. (See Supplemental Documentation pg. K-L).

Kodiak Area Tribes and Native Corporations – The Alutiiq Museum has received letters or resolutions of support from ten of the tribal councils and Native corporations of the Kodiak area, indicating their desire to see the *Alutiiq Living Words* project advance. The Tribes committed to offering meeting space for researchers and elders, if needed. Supporters include – Native Villages of Afognak, Akhiok, Larsen bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port lions, and the Sun'aq Tribe, as well as Kodiak Area Native Association, Afognak Native Corporation, and Koniag, Inc. (See Supplemental Documentation pgs. R-AA). Although some researchers might feel that seeking this level of support from local and tribal entities is excessive, the Alutiiq Museum feels that it is imperative for the planning, as well as success of any community-based research project to have this extent of community buy-in.

### **Primary Project Staff and Qualifications**

•PI Sven Haakanson, Jr., Ph.D. (Alutiiq – Old Harbor) – Sven Haakanson, Jr. received his B.A. in English from the University of Alaska in 1992, and his Ph.D. in Anthropology from Harvard University in 2000. Also known as *Iqalluk* (Fish), Dr. Haakanson has been the Executive Director of the Alutiiq Museum since 2000, overseeing such projects as the annual *Traveling Traditions* rural exhibit and artist-in-residence program, and an *Indigenous Geography* web site project completed in collaboration with the National Museum of the American Indian. Dr. Haakanson will allot 7% of his time during the grant period to overseeing the *Alutiiq Living Words* Project. His participation will be funded by the Alutiiq Museum as an in-kind contribution to the project. Please see Dr. Haakanson's biographical sketch, and his job description in Supplemental Documentation pgs. B-C.

•Co-PI April G.L. Counciller, M.A. (Alutiiq – Larsen Bay) - April Gale Laktonen Counciller, also known as *Isiik* (owl) has studied Alutiiq as an Apprentice for 3 years, and she currently manages the *Qik'rtarmiut Alutiit* Language Revitalization program at the Alutiiq Museum as the Alutiiq Language Manager (ALM). She received her B.A. in Anthropology and American Civilization from Brown University in 2002, and her M.A. in Rural Development from University of Alaska in 2005. Projects she has led include the *Sharing Words* Alutiiq Language CD ROM & Alphabet Poster, the *Alutiingcut* (Little Alutiis) DVD, and the *Kodiak Alutiiq Conversational Phrasebook with Audio CD*, which recently received the Honoring Alaska's Indigenous Literature Award, 2006. Ms. Counciller apprentices to fluent speakers Nick Alokli and Florence Pestrikoff, and is among the first in her generation to achieve semi-fluency in Alutiiq. She is a tribal member of the Native Village of Larsen Bay. Ms. Counciller will manage the completion of all objectives of the *Alutiiq Living Words* project, to which she will devote 100% of her time during the grant period. Her position will be grant funded. Please see

Ms. Counciller's biographical sketch and her job description in Supplemental Documentation pgs. D-E.

•Associate Staff Jeffrey Leer, Ph.D. - Jeff Leer's commitment to Alaska Native languages began in childhood when he began to study Tlingit in his hometown of Juneau. Since 1973, he has been a linguist and teacher at the University of Alaska's Alaska Native Language Center, (ANLC) and in 1991 he completed his Ph.D. dissertation, *The Schetic Categories of the Tlingit Verb*, at the University of Chicago. He speaks both Tlingit and Alutiiq, and has done extensive linguistic work in other languages, as well as in comparative Athabaskan-Eyak-Tlingit. Mr. Leer has worked with Kodiak Alutiiq speakers on a variety of projects since the late 1970s, including developing *A Conversational Dictionary of Kodiak Alutiiq* and *A Classroom Grammar of Koniag Alutiiq, Kodiak Island Dialect*. He recently edited the *Kodiak Alutiiq Conversational Phrasebook with Audio CD*. Dr. Leer will devote approximately 6 hours of his time per month as a contracted associate staff member on this project. His participation will be grant funded. Please see his letter of commitment in Supplemental Documentation pg. N.

•Language Outreach Specialist – The Language Outreach Specialist (LOS) will conduct fieldwork, complete digital transfers of audio and video media, manage the archive catalog, and assist the ALM in outreach activities. This position will be a full-time position at the Alutiiq Museum, with 20 hours per week (half time) devoted to the *Alutiiq Living Words* Project. Participation in the project will be grant funded. Please see the job description for this position in Supplemental Documentation pgs. F-G.

### **Objectives and Methodology**

Alutiiq Living Words will synthesize a variety of Alutiiq language materials – both old and new – to document and share fluent Alutiiq speech. This project has five primary objectives: 1. Documentation, 2. Archive Creation, 3. Database Development, 4. New Words Creation, and 5. Dissemination.

All phases of the project will adhere to the Alaska Federation of Natives *Guidelines for Research* in Native Communities, as per a resolution passed by the Alutiiq Heritage Foundation Board of Directors, the governing board for the Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository (See Alutiiq Heritage Foundation resolution in Supplemental Documentation pg. H). All human subjects will be contracted employees in the project, and will be allowed to opt for full or partial anonymity after a presentation on human subjects research in the initial training. As the Native speaker community is small on Kodiak, all expected fluent participants are accustomed to research interviews, and have participated in publicly accessible research projects in the past. Information of a sacred or potentially injurious nature will not be made available for public access.

### **Documentation**

Four newly-fluent Alutiiq language Apprentices from communities around the island will work as part-time field researchers with fluent Elders, focusing on the oldest and most knowledgeable speakers of both Kodiak Island sub-dialects. The field researchers (primarily Alutiiq tribal members) will all have *advanced-low fluency* by ACTFL (American Council on the teaching of Foreign Languages) standards, and will have three or more years experience working with Elder speakers, as well as three years



previous training by the Alutiiq Museum in field methods, the Alutiiq writing system, and language outreach.

They will work with Elders of *advanced-high* to *advanced-superior fluency* from all areas of the Archipelago, in an effort to document sub-regional language variation. Their areas of inquiry will include conversational dialogue, storytelling, oral histories, and descriptive linguistics, as well as rapidly-fading cultural knowledge of plantlore, animal behavior, and weather prediction. They will use digital minidisc recorders, condenser microphones, and mini-digital video cameras owned by the Alutiiq Museum to create high quality digital recordings to supplement notes and photographs of Elder speakers. A significant part of researchers' hours will be spent in creating detailed outlines or transcripts of each recording.

Selected recordings from ANLC and the Alutiiq Museum archives (those with signed legal paperwork from speakers or descendants) will be collaboratively translated with the assistance of fluent speakers who can understand older modes of speech. While the number of recordings translated and made available through this project will be modest, approximately 20 of various lengths, the importance of this task cannot be overstated. These untranslated recordings hold rapidly fading linguistic knowledge that has not before been made available to scholars or the general public. They may also unfortunately be among the last recordings made from speakers not significantly influenced by English.

#### **Archive Creation**

All project recordings, photographs, notes, and releases will be copied, cataloged and indexed by the LOS with oversight from the Museum's professionally trained curatorial staff to create a publicly accessible collection. Original materials will be stored in the museum's secure, climate controlled collections storage facility in Kodiak. Duplicates of all notes, photographs, recordings, and releases will be sent to the Alaska Native Language Center (ANLC) in Fairbanks for backup, off-site storage. Portions of recordings containing sacred, confidential, or protected information will not be forwarded to ANLC or included in the publicly accessible collection or on the web site. They will be stored in the Museum's sacred collection area under restricted access, following the museum's established Guidelines for the Spiritual Care of Collections.

#### **Database Development**

While language revitalizers are still evaluating the value of the internet for language revitalization, its use in documentation and dissemination is already gaining acceptance (Buszard-Welcher 2001). This project will result in a model of such technology useage. Selected audio and visual recording clips from the archive will be used in an online web database. These recordings, chosen for their valuable information about traditional stories, village histories, and Alutiiq lifeways will be transcribed in the Alutiiq alphabet, translated into English, and be made available on a web database linked to the Alutiiq Museum ([www.alutiiqmuseum.com](http://www.alutiiqmuseum.com)) and ANLC web sites (<http://www.uaf.edu/anlc>).

The online database will have many components. It will contain a word finder engine, with which users can use to look up words and short phrases in Alutiiq, and hear them pronounced by a fluent speaker. It will contain a section discussing the Alutiiq writing and spelling system, as the new alphabet for Kodiak was finalized in 2002, and is yet widely unknown. There will be an interactive place-names map where users can

zoom in to different regions, view photographs of people and places in that area, and hear recordings of place names by fluent speakers. This map will build on previous unpublished research by Dr. Jeff Leer of ANLC. Place names will be reconfirmed and recorded for the web site by project field researchers, creating the first comprehensive and widely accessible island-wide place name collection. Like other personal, confidential, or sensitive information, locational information on sacred places, burials, archaeological sites, and other culturally sensitive locales will not be included on the publicly accessible web portal.

The two final areas of the database will be for audio and visual selections (see sample draft web shots below). In the audio section, users will be able to search for 1-5 minute recordings based on key words, cultural topic, speaker, village or sub-dialect of origin. The transcribed and translated written version of the recording will be visible as the audio is being played, along with a photograph of the speaker, and other pertinent cultural or linguistic comments.

The video component will be set up similar to the audio selections, but will contain a *QuickTime* video player. This database will feature a bibliography, citing all known resources on the Alutiiq language, contact information, and links to relevant web sites. The content of the web database will be reviewed by Dr. Jeff Leer from the Alaska Native Language Center to ensure linguistic integrity.

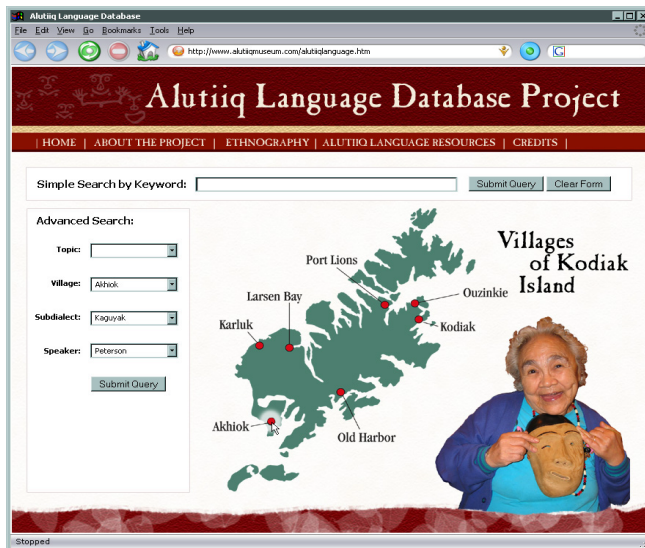


Figure 2: Draft web shot of Audio-Video Search Page



Figure 3: Draft web shot of video results page

A professional web designer will be contracted to create the web database, using *Dreamweaver* and *FilemakerPro* software. Availability of the web database will be widely advertised through press releases, QARLAC and other community meetings, and a link placed on the ANLC and KIBSD web sites.

*"An endangered language will progress if its speakers can make use of electronic technology." – David Crystal, Language Death, 2000*

### New Words Creation

Fluent and semi-fluent Speakers from around the archipelago will be invited to serve on a New Words Council, to create and publicize new Alutiiq words for modern

items such as cell phones, skateboards, and email. One of the markers of a dying language is its inability to adapt to modern situations and a decline in vocabulary – this council will allow our language to adapt to changes in the modern world, and provide regional oversight by knowledgeable Elders as words are added to the lexicon. Monthly council meetings will be recorded in order to document the methods used to create new words. Elders will receive modest stipends for their time.

While a formal New Words Council has never existed on Kodiak, Elders are not new to the idea of word creation. Masters in the *Qik'rtarmiut Alutiit* project are frequently asked to develop new words, and a one-time Elders meeting in 2004, at the Northern Dialectical Forum, was held to create a few new words. Exhibiting different approaches to word creation, Elders produced words for computer, *umiartuusqaq masiinaruaq* (a sort-of machine that thinks), and television - *TV-iq*.

The committee will meet in-person, by videoconference and audioconference during the year at the convenience of the Elders. Those who reside in Kodiak (a majority of speakers) will meet in person and conference with rural residents on the committee. Project staff will also endeavor to schedule meetings when rural Elders are likely to be in the City of Kodiak for annual gatherings.

### **Dissemination**

The Alutiiq Language Manager and Language Outreach Specialist will conduct community outreach, sending bimonthly program updates to area tribal councils, interested Native Corporations, and local media. Monthly or bimonthly meetings of the QARLAC, open to all interested organizations, tribes, and individuals, will also help disseminate information and guide program functions. The Alutiiq Museum Bulletin, a quarterly newsletter (circulation 2,700) will provide a venue for project updates. Koniag Inc., the regional Native Corporation for the Kodiak region, has offered to advertise availability of the web site for shareholders through their newsletter, circulation 3,000. The Year 3 Symposium will also provide an opportunity to share project results (See Year 3 Work Plan). The ALM will also travel to one statewide conference per year (Alaska Anthropological Association or similar) to disseminate project results.

### **Work Plan -Year 1**

The primary activities for year 1 will be: training for all participants, formation of the New Words Council, digitization and translation of selected older recordings, and place names research. Special efforts will be made to gather recordings from the oldest speakers during the first year.

All field researchers will undergo a weekend training in linguistic field methods, proper use of recording equipment to achieve archive-quality sound and visual recordings, and a refresher on the Alutiiq writing system. Dr. Leer will be a presenter, and will lead an example recording session with a fluent speaker. Fluent speakers will be present at the general training, but will also have special sessions on enunciation and other recording-improvement techniques for aiding their research partners. All participants will receive training on human subjects research and the protection of sacred and confidential information, and will receive copies of the Alutiiq Museum's policy on research in Native Communities (See Supplemental Documentation pg. J)

Because many of the most advanced speakers of Kodiak Alutiiq are in their 80's and 90's, the first year of the project will focus on recording these individuals in their

homes or in their local tribal council offices. Field researchers will also seek the assistance of fluent speakers in translating older recordings, which are in a more traditional, or antiquated mode of speech than used today. During this first year, the ALM will visit each field researcher for an on-site evaluation of a recording session.

The New Words Council will be formed of about 10 fluent speakers from around the island, who will meet bimonthly throughout the project. Participants in the New Words Council will also participate in the initial training week and will attend additional presentations by a guest instructor from the Hawaiian Lexicon Committee. At the conclusion of the first year, a preliminary selection of new words will be made available for community review on the Alutiiq Museum's general web site, and through a mailing to all members of the QARLAC. Dr. Leer will also review the preliminary word lists, and provide constructive questions and comments for the Council.

Field researchers will provide recordings, photographs, recording notes, and transcriptions or translations to the Alutiiq Museum, where the ALM and LOS will compile the initial catalogue, content summaries, edited transcription/translation, and digital duplication of recordings. The ALM will select short, 1-5 minute audio and visual clips for inclusion in the draft web site. All materials will be duplicated for back up at ANLC and the originals stored in an archivally sound manner in the Alutiiq Museum's permanent collection.

Throughout the project, the ALM will participate in selected recording sessions to review researcher performance and provide helpful feedback on research techniques and recording quality. The ALM and LOS will also conduct a public relations campaign around the island, and hold monthly meetings about language revitalization with local organization representatives and interested individuals through the QARLAC.

During this first year the web portal structure will be designed, but not readied for public use. Major areas of the site will be created for later upload of information. Five selected test recordings will be added to the audio and visual sections, and the language map portion will be roughed out. At the end of year 1, the Native Educators of the Alutiiq Region, and the QARLAC will evaluate the web site structure for ease of use, content value, and potential for use by different scholars and interest groups. The recommendations from these review sessions will help guide modifications and improvements to the web portal in the second year.

<i>Alutiiq Living Words - Year One Work Plan</i>				
Activities	Project Staff	Time Period		Contracted/ In-Kind
		Begin Month	End Month	
<b>Activity 1:</b> Purchase recording & archiving supplies	ALM	1	1	
<b>Activity 2:</b> Hire field researchers, fluent contractors, and NW Committee members	ALM, Director	1	1	
<b>Activity 3:</b> Provide initial participant training	ALM	2	3	Guest Trainer, Dr. Leer
<b>Activity 4:</b> Conduct field research	Researchers ALM, LOS	2	12	Fluent Consultants
<b>Activity 5:</b> Transfer old recordings to digital	LOS	1	8	ANLC staff
<b>Activity 6:</b> Hold NW Committee meetings	ALM, LOS	2	12	New Words

				Committee
<b>Activity 7:</b> Conduct staff evaluations & site visits	ALM	5	8	
<b>Activity 8:</b> Create <i>draft</i> website database	ALM	7	12	Get On-Net web design
<b>Activity 9:</b> Conduct monthly “Qik” Committee meetings and public relations	ALM, LOS	2	12	
<b>Activity 10:</b> Archive copies of project materials at ANLC	ALM	11	12	ANLC
<b>Activity 11:</b> Edit Alutiiq text for archive and web site, evaluate & suggest research topics		2	12	Dr. Leer

**Work Plan - Year 2**

In the second year of *Alutiiq Living Words*, primary activities will include: completion of a draft web portal for public review, continued research recordings with Elders, continued meetings by the New Words Council, and a year-end planning symposium for program participants.

Using reviews from the Native Educators of the Alutiiq Region and the QARLAC, the web designer will perfect the web portal design. Some aspects of the site will be completed with files shared by the ALM, while the audio and visual sections will be upload enabled – once the format is finalized, the ALM will be able to complete the majority of data uploads. The majority of the web portal will be designed by the end of the second year. Completed (but still open for additional data) sections will include the place names map, the audio and visual sections, history and background sessions on the Alutiiq language and writing system, a list of new words from the New Words committee, and a interactive review/suggestion form.

Guided by suggestions from Dr. Leer and the QARLAC, researchers will expand recording topics. These will likely include, but are not limited to: songs, personal names and nicknames, plant names, and the unique oratory style used in storytelling.

A second year collection of new words from the New Words Council will be disseminated for review by the community, the QARLAC, and Dr. Leer, and then shared via the web site.

Monthly “Qik” committee meetings will continue, and participants will be asked to review and comment on the content and quality of the web site and other publications. A public relations campaign will be conducted by the LOS and ALM to keep the communities of Kodiak Island aware of project updates.

At the end of the second year, all project staff will meet in Kodiak to review the database and archive, and assess areas of need for the final year. A plan will be drafted to increase recordings in topic and grammar areas that are still desired in the archive.

<i>Alutiiq Living Words - Year 2 Work Plan</i>				
Activities	Project Staff	Time Period		Contracted/ In-Kind
		Begin Month	End Month	
<b>Activity 1:</b> Purchase recording & archiving supplies	ALM	1	1	
<b>Activity 4:</b> Conduct field research	Researchers	1	12	Fluent

	ALM, LOS			Consultants
<b>Activity 5:</b> Transfer recordings to digital media	LOS	2	12	ANLC staff
<b>Activity 6:</b> Hold NW Committee Meetings	ALM, LOS	3	12	NW Committee
<b>Activity 7:</b> Conduct staff evaluations & site visits	ALM	5	8	
<b>Activity 8:</b> Update website database	ALM	9	12	Get On-Net
<b>Activity 9:</b> Conduct monthly “Qik” Committee meetings and public relations	ALM, LOS	1	12	
<b>Activity 10:</b> Archive copies of project materials at ANLC	ALM	11	12	ANLC
<b>Activity 11:</b> Edit Alutiiq text for archive and web site, evaluate & suggest research topics		2	12	Dr. Leer
<b>Activity 12:</b> Organize and hold Year 2 Symposium for review and planning	ALM, LOS	10	12	Dr. Leer

### Work Plan - Year 3

The final year of the project will be devoted to: 1. acquiring additional recordings to provide a holistic selection of the language, 2. completing the database web site, based on an evaluation of the number and content of previous recordings, and recommendations by Dr. Jeff Leer, and 3. hosting a modest project-end symposium to share and disseminate results with the community and other researchers.

Researchers will hold group socials with fluent speakers in Kodiak and the rural villages to capture conversational speech between Elders. Database content will be reviewed at local monthly community meetings, and by a professional linguist, and the completed web database will be released at the Alutiiq Museum at a community celebration near the end of the project.

Availability of the web database and the accessible archive will be widely advertised through press releases, public service announcements, and articles in the museum’s newsletter (circulation 2,700). Copies of the final archive catalog, and the web site on CD-ROM format will be sent to all of the ten local tribes, the village and regional Native corporations for Kodiak, the Kodiak Island Borough School District's Rural Schools and the Alaska State Library system for statewide library distribution. Digital copies of all recordings, and their accompanying catalog and content information produced throughout the project will be sent to the Alaska Native Language Center in Fairbanks for archiving, in addition to being added to the Alutiiq Museum’s permanent collection.

Near the end of the project, a compiled dictionary of new words from the entire project with an accompanying audio CD from the Elders' New Words Council will be published for island-wide distribution, and archived at both ANLC and through the statewide library system.

At the end of year three, all project participants will meet in Kodiak to review the project and share results. This will be a modest 2-3 day symposium, with a small number (about 10) of guests from the statewide Native and linguistic communities. This will be an opportunity to disseminate information within the Native, linguistic, and revitalization

communities, as well as an opportunity to bring a number of these individuals together for communication and networking.

<i>Alutiiq Living Words - Year 3 Work Plan</i>				
Activities	Project Staff	Time Period		Contracted/ In-Kind
		Begin Month	End Month	
<b>Activity 1:</b> Purchase recording & archiving supplies	ALM	1	1	
<b>Activity 2:</b> Edit all written Alutiiq for web site and project publications		1	12	Dr. Leer
<b>Activity 3:</b> Conduct field research and hold fluent speaker socials	Researchers, ALM, LOS	1	12	Fluent Consultants
<b>Activity 4:</b> Transfer recordings to digital	LOS	2	12	ANLC staff
<b>Activity 5:</b> Hold NW Committee Meetings	ALM, LOS	1	10	NW Committee
<b>Activity 6:</b> Conduct staff evaluations & site visits	ALM	5	8	
<b>Activity 7:</b> Complete Website database	ALM	6	12	Get On-Net
<b>Activity 8:</b> Conduct monthly “Qik” Committee meetings and public relations	ALM, LOS	2	12	
<b>Activity 9:</b> Archive copies of project materials at ANLC	ALM	11	12	ANLC
<b>Activity 10:</b> Publish and distribute a cumulative New Words dictionary & CD	ALM	8	12	NWC
<b>Activity 11:</b> Edit Alutiiq text for archive and web site, evaluate & suggest research topics		2	12	Dr. Leer
<b>Activity 12:</b> Hold Year 3 Symposium for dissemination	ALM, LOS	10	12	Dr. Leer

### **Intellectual Merit**

The *Alutiiq Living Words* project will produce valuable resources for linguists by addressing the stated need for more recordings and information on the Kodiak Alutiiq dialect before the most fluent remaining speakers pass away. It will create the first comprehensive archive of fluent Alutiiq speech. It is for this same reason that the project will be beneficial for those involved in language revitalization and preventive linguistics. The project has been designed with the most recent advances in community-driven research theory in mind. Oversight by the Native interest groups, community buy-in and a broad support base will set this project apart, but also guide other similar projects in the future. This project will make publicly accessible to community members, Native groups, and other linguists, what was once only available to visiting scholars with arranged archive access.

A professional team of scholars (the only individuals currently studying the Kodiak Alutiiq dialect) will lead the project. They will pair long term research and knowledge about the Alutiiq language with a new generation of Native scholars who will carry this research forward. They will be well-supported by the Alutiiq Museum, an

award-winning Native-run institution, that has success leading multi-year projects relating to the Alutiiq language. This experience will be bolstered by established principal institutions in the field, such as the Alaska Native Language Center, who have offered their support. The project team will have full access to the majority of known previous research on the Alutiiq language, and experience the benefit of existing relationships with fluent speakers and Native tribes.

The project itself has been developed with extensive community planning and input. All tribal communities have been informed of the project objectives, and are in support of the proposal. The local and regional ANCSA Native corporations, and other local organizations are also in support of the project. The project reflects deliberate action on the Alutiiq region's goals and strategies for both the preservation and revitalization of our language.

### **Broader Impacts**

This project will have broader impacts for other language documentation efforts and community driven research projects. While focused on documenting and recording Kodiak Alutiiq, the proposed project will also serve an educational purpose for the growing number of individuals and organizations seeking to increase Alutiiq language education and available materials. The project will continue the language education and linguistic training of former-Apprentice field researchers, and encourage continued involvement in Alutiiq language documentations and revitalization efforts. The wide availability of access to the Alutiiq web database, via the internet, will allow greater access to Alutiiq language information, and encourage further language learning for all ages.

Traditionally underrepresented groups will provide the major workforce for the *Alutiiq Living Words* Project. It is estimated that of the nearly 25 individual participants in the project, 20 will be of Alutiiq heritage. Furthermore, Alutiiq Elders over the age of 60 will be highly involved in the project, and ascribed a respected expert status, rather than that of test subjects. Increasing the prestige of a heritage language is considered important to language survival (Crystal 2000). This project will also take place primarily in Rural Alaska, and seek to involve those without traditional access to academia, scholarly research, and even the internet.

The project will have a lasting impact in the physical data collection of Kodiak Alutiiq recordings and resources, and strengthen existing cooperative relationships within the Alutiiq community and between partnering organizations. The web portal will be created with file management software that can be added to and updated long after the project period ends, and the Museum commits to funding the cost of web server space after the project period ends. The overall number and quality of Kodiak Alutiiq recordings housed at the Alutiiq Museum and ANLC will be greatly augmented, and in digital form. Most importantly for the survival of Alutiiq, future learning materials and teaching efforts will be able to use the data and web site as resources.

Dissemination will be a major aspect of the *Alutiiq Living Words* Project, as the data will not have resonance if simply filed away. Project progress and materials will be reviewed monthly by the QARLAC, and at special presentations to local tribal councils, Native corporations, and other organizations. The web site will be easily accessed, with links from the Alutiiq Museum and Alaska Native Language Center web sites. Papers on



the ongoing research will be presented annually at one or more statewide professional conferences, such as the Alaska Anthropological Association meeting. Project summaries will also be published in the Alutiiq Museum and Alutiiq Native corporation newsletters and in releases to local media.

This project is the outgrowth of a larger movement of Alutiiq Language revitalization, which is gaining steam in the Alutiiq region. The Alutiiq community and professional linguists see the benefits of simultaneously documenting and revitalizing our language, as the age of Kodiak's fluent speakers leaves no time to waste. The New Words Council will disseminate information about a little-discussed tool for endangered languages for other endangered language groups. The language portal web site and other project publications will be used to share linguistic data on an endangered dialect, but also to educate others about project protocol, benefits and constraints of audio-video and web technology for language documentation and dissemination, and community-based/community-driven research methods. It will provide valuable information about local-academic collaboration. Furthermore, it will serve as an example of how such research can be conducted and shared between rural isolated Alaskan communities and a worldwide linguistic audience.

**NSF funding in the past 5 years by either PI – Not Applicable**

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