

Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk



The Design Alaska Wild Arts Walk took place on Sunday, June 11. This event features about 30 local artists who display and sell their artwork as well as a fundraiser for Creamer's Field. During the event, several artists participate in Quick Art. Artists are given one hour to create a piece of artwork which will be auctioned off. This year's auction was held online. Upon admission, each family received a collector's mug that was created by our very own Tehya McLeod. The design for this year's cup was a Black-Capped Chickadee.



President's Corner

Rural Alaska Projects

I was asked the other day about doing projects in rural Alaska and how that is an important part of our business.

Rural Alaska work (generally defined as anything off the road system) has been part of Design Alaska since the beginning. The first project in our Master Project List for rural work was for the Minto Airport. We deliberately pursue projects throughout rural Alaska as we know we can provide the custom solutions that are needed to serve the needs of their diverse communities.

There are generally no Survey, Architecture, and Engineering services that live within the communities to provide local services. When they need help thinking through a new project, someone needs to come from outside the community to help figure out a solution to meet their needs. We have always embraced that we can help anyone in Alaska with design solutions, and the rural communities need great service as well.

There are many opportunities and challenges to working in rural areas. One big challenge is always travel logistics to see the project. It can be time consuming, but it is important to remember it is no easier for them to travel to Fairbanks than for us to go to their community. There is a frequent desire to dash into and out of the community as quickly as possible to see the project and get back home. I have found it pays to plan for a longer stay; however, and really get to know the area. Having flexibility if weather conditions warrant spending the night is also important and happens more often than we expect.

When we design projects in rural areas, we are frequently bringing in a very important community asset as new facilities are not regularly common. The things we design (water plants, health clinics, schools, airports, communication shelters) are the very basic needs that make a community a safe place to live and raise a family. It is very rewarding to see the community's passionate need for the project and the positive impact it brings when completed.

The construction crews to build the project are frequently from outside the community as well to augment the locals in the area. It is great to see the knowledge transfer and skills that are shared between the crews and community. The local construction workers tend to be the same people that will maintain the structures long-term, and you really feel like you are building it for them personally. We take pride in making systems that are energy efficient, easy to maintain, and easy to use. It may not have all the fancy bells and whistles designed for urban areas, but it will be reliable and robust for daily use and jack of all trade's maintenance.

I have frequently said we are 'Design Alaska'. We will design whatever facility is needed anywhere in Alaska, and customize it to the needs of the community and people that will use for years to come.

~Chris Miller P.E.

President

Company Picnic



On June 9, 2023, Design Alaska employees and their families gathered at the Chena River Wayside Pavilion for our annual Company Picnic. This year's event featured an unofficial theme of 'Backyard BBQ' complete with delicious food, New Orleans style sno cones by Duncan's SnoBalls, giant Jenga, giant 4 in a Row, and a bounce house from Alaska Jump N Party, as well as corn hole, volleyball, and music by two of the Headbolt Heaters, Suzanne Richards and Jeff Siniscalchi. The weather was perfect, warm with little to no wind, and the sun shining as attendees enjoyed food and games into the evening. After enjoying the meal of BBQ chicken, pulled pork, baked beans, mac and cheese, and corn on the cob, attendees headed over to the campfire to roast marshmallows and put together smores using a variety of ingredients; cinnamon graham crackers, fudge strip cookies, Hershey's chocolate bars, and Reese's peanut butter cups. It was a great evening with coworkers, family, and friends.



Welcome, Jade!



Jade Fine is the newest addition to the administrative department, joining as part of the Front Desk/ Construction Administrative staff. She is currently working through TDL Staffing; however, plans to remain on as a permanent employee after seeing the friendly and

welcoming environment Design Alaska fosters.

Jade was born and raised in Fairbanks, but moved away in 2018 to Phoenix, AZ. She moved back in May, and is excited to be close again to friends, family, and her boyfriend Connor. When asked, Jade stated, "Phoenix is hot and exciting, but you really learn to miss the community and warmth from Fairbanks. I plan to travel and get out more now that I've moved back, and explore what Alaska has to offer". Jade has 5 siblings, and has a cat named Bodega that she is very insistent on sharing pictures of whenever prompted.

Jade's hobbies include video games, watercolor painting, and cooking/baking. Jade is planning on bringing in lots of baked goods to share with everyone, and said, "I would love to share recipes if you have any favorites!" Jade's favorite thing to cook is soup, and favorite thing to bake is anything fruit related. Jade's favorite meal would be a salmon with a honey-miso marinade, white rice, a clear soup, and a side salad.

She feels she is at her most productive and best in the afternoons, from "around noon to 4pm". She also stated to not wake her up before 7am, as the odds you'll get bitten are drastically higher. Jade's perfect day includes waking up at 10am, having a nice brunch with friends, and then relaxing at home and making dinner with loved ones. Welcome to the team, Jade!

Food Truck

On July 20, Fireweed Bites N Things joined us for a company food truck lunch. Despite the cloudy weather, the variety of gourmet grilled cheeses, Mexican corn dip, and fast, friendly service made it a great experience for all. See you next month for Corn Diggity Dogs!



What has been the highlight of your 2023?	
Marina Jones	Learning I was pregnant on January 1st and watching the amazing process of pregnancy happen. It has been an exciting road and made me in awe of what the human body is capable of in a 9 month timeframe.
Mary Sue Dates	Going to Arizona and watch my daughter walk the stage as she received her Doctorate Degree in Innovation and Global Development and getting a Shiba Inu puppy / Ari (R eeee)
Eliza Cink	Definitely my husband getting back from his deployment, and then going to see Six the Musical with him!
Jack Wilbur	The return to Fairbanks of our friends Brad and Bene with their new baby Birdie Sue.
Blake Burley	Courtney, David, and I visited the Big Island of Hawaii in January and among other things hiked out to the Green Sands Beach. We got there pretty late in the day and had the rare opportunity to have the beach to ourselves. It was incredibly beautiful, peaceful, and the perfect temperature. 10/10 recommend it. The walk back reminded us just how quickly it gets dark in Hawaii, oops!
Lyle Axelarris	Having an empty nest for 3 weeks this summer (Leif at camp, Finn on backcountry NOLS trip). I missed those boys, but it gave Katie and I a quasi-honeymoon of peaceful evenings, stand-up paddling, and dining out. I know I will regret these words when they're both off to college in a few years, but it was a nice change of pace.
Chris Miller	Dancing through the Streets of New Orleans in a 2nd Line parade for a friend's wedding. The city is just full of energy and spirit.
John Rowe	Seeing my daughter flourish in her career and with her daily walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.
Dantasia Baum	My kids and I went to visit my best friend and her kiddos in Gulf Shores, Alabama in February. We went to Mobile for a Mardi Gras parade (so cool!), went to the zoo, made the obligatory Waffle House stop, and then road tripped up to Orlando to hop on a cruise to the Caribbean. We rode a side by side around Nassau with a tour guide to show us cool local spots around the island. It was an amazing trip with my favorite people!



August 2023 ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Table Massage	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Company BBQ	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Table Massage	24 Food Truck	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Manager's Meeting		

August Birthdays

Jeff Putnam	August 1
Matt Kruger	August 1
James Bartlett	August 8
Bob Gras	August 14
Kyle Rankins	August 23
Pete Jacobsen	August 25
Margaret McCormick	August 28
Sebiyam Werdin-Kennicott	August 29
Cathryn Petersen	August 31



Design Alaska Anniversaries

James Godfrey	4th Anniversary	August 5, 2019
Cathryn Petersen	2nd Anniversary	August 16, 2021

2023 TANANA VALLEY STATE FAIR

Your Community Fair

JULY 28 - AUGUST 6
GATES OPEN AT 12 PM



Daily General Admission
\$15 Adults (18-59)
\$8 Youth (5-17) & Senior (60+)
Youth 4 & Under Free

Season Tickets
\$75.00 Adult Season Pass (ages 18 - 59)
\$40.00 Youth/Senior Season Pass (ages 5 - 17 & 60+)
\$230.00 Family Season Pass (2 adults, 3 youth)

Ride the FREE Daily Bus Shuttle
from Randy Smith Middle School
4 PM to 11 PM
Brought to you
by Durham Services



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on your phone!
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free app today!



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JULY 28 - AUGUST 6 - FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 2023

Tanana Valley STATE FAIR

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