

Alaskan women participate in Smithsonian program



Ellen Hope Hays of SE Alaska Indian Culture Center. photo by Dane Penland

Elizabeth Mayock, museum curator of the Yugtarkvik Regional Museum in Bethel, Alaska, and Ellen Hope Hays, chairman of the board of directors of the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center in Sitka, have just returned from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., where they have completed the first phase in the Smithsonian's Native American Museums Program Exhibition Design and Production Project.

From Jan. 27 through Feb. 7,

Mayock, Hays and 10 colleagues from nine American-Indian and Alaska Native museums across the United States attended an intensive two-week

course, consulting with Smithsonian staff experts in exhibition planning research, design and production, lighting, fundraising and education.



Each participant came to Washington with a specific exhibition to be planned with the Smithsonian faculty. In the second phase of the project, participants will oversee the preparation and installation of the exhibitions at their own museums, with on-site consultations by Smithsonian staff. An evaluation session at which participants will share their experiences and discuss the final outcome of their individual projects will be held during the summer.

The Yugtarkvik Regional Museum is dedicated to preserving the Native culture and lifestyle of the Yup'ik Eskimo people of the Kuskokwim River through the acquisition, development and exhibition of a per-

manent collection related to traditional practices of the residents of the area. Mayock is developing an exhibition in Dancing and Ceremonialism.

The Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center is located within the Sitka National Historical Park Visitor Center. The center hires traditional tribal artists who teach, and create works for the cultural center's collection and serve as demonstrators in the center's interpretation of regional art and culture. Hays' project focuses on traditional forms and new expressions in the design of ceremonial regalia.

The Native American Museums Program was established by the Smithsonian's Office of Museum Programs in 1977. It provides information and educational opportunities to staff members of Indian, Aleut and Inuit museums and heritage centers and others who work closely with the study and preservation of indigenous collections, archives and language in the United States and abroad. The Program's overall goal is to promote the growth and development of tribal and

urban cultural institutions and collections. The program also helps provide for the preservation and transmission of Native-American cultural history to future generations. Equally significant is the increase in intercultural pride and understanding and the expansion and promotion of scholarship concerning our national patrimony.

The Exhibition Design and Production Project is funded by a grant from the Smithsonian Institution's Education Outreach Program.



Elizabeth Mayock of the Yugtarkvik Museum in Bethel. photo by Dane Penland