Walter Soboleff Center
Sealaska Heritage Institute
Juneau, Alaska

PROJECT TEAM
Architect: MRV Architects/Synergy Systems
Archival Specialist: Thomas Wilstead/Wilstead Consulting

SIZE
29,570 SF

COST
$16 million

DESIGN SERVICES
01/2011 - 3/2013

SERVICES PROVIDED
Programming
Conceptual Design
Schematic Design
Design Development
Construction Documents
Cost Estimate
Bid Documents
Construction Administration

PROJECT DELIVERY METHOD
Invited Bidders

OCCUPANCY DATE
June 2014

KEY PERSONNEL
Paul Voelckers MRV Architects/Synergy Systems - Principal In Charge
Corey Wall MRV Architects/Synergy Systems - Project Manager
Vlad Irimescu MRV Architects/Synergy Systems - Project Architect
Thomas Wilstead* Wilsted Consulting/Archival Specialist

SUSTAINABILITY
Targeting USGBC LEED® Gold Certification

CLIENT CONTACT
Dr. Rosita Worl, President
Sealaska Heritage Institute
One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 301
Juneau, AK
T 907-463-4844

* Same individuals/consultant proposed on USHMM CCC Project
The Sealaska Heritage Institute collects and preserves the records of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Cultures. It has gathered collections for many years in the Sealaska Corporation headquarters but soon ran out of space. It commissioned MRV Architects to develop plans for a new museum-archives facility that could house its collections and provide an active storage and display space. Exhibit space will feature both permanent and changing exhibits as well as ceremonial space and interior and exterior areas for guest artists to introduce visitors to native art and design.

The building’s attractive exterior incorporates native design and symbols as well as providing exterior space for local artisans. The building adjacent to the Sealaska Corporation in downtown Juneau and is sited within one block of the Juneau Harbor and where it will attract cruise ship passengers and other visitors. The building consists of four levels:

- Basement – Collections storage, mechanical space and research room
- Level 1 – Ceremonial space, exhibits and gift shop
- Level 2 – Offices, Living History Center and curatorial space
- Level 3 – Non-museum office rental space and future museum expansion

The collection storage vault located in the basement area houses both archives and museum artifacts using compact, mobile shelving. The building provides three levels of environment:

- Collection Storage 63°F 40%RH
- Exhibits - 68°F 40-45%RH
- Office Space – 68-72°F with variable RH

The Sealaska Heritage Institute sought a building that provided optimum storage while incorporating traditional decoration and design. Ceremonial space was a critical element as well as the various Native groups meet on a regular basis in Juneau and the building will become a regular meeting place. At the same time, the building must provide some income to cover operational cost. Rental income and museum admission will provide most of these costs. One of the difficult issues in the programming phase was ensuring the protection of collections while still ensuring ready access for building tenants and building visitors. Through careful design of building entry and egress and the use of security systems, this issue has been successfully managed.
MAJOR SUB-CONSULTANTS
Alaska Cultural Resources
Alaska Engineering
BBFM Engineers
Greenbusch Group
HMS Inc.
Lehrman/Cameron
Murray & Associates
PDC Engineers
R&M Engineering
Wilsted Consulting*

Museum Management
Energy Analysis
Structural Engineers
A/V Acoustical
Cost Estimating
Exhibition Design
Lead Mechanical
Electrical Engineers
Civil Engineer
Archival Consultant

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FINISHES
- Exterior wall panels of yellow cedar, with triple glaze glass panel inserts. Copper trim, and integrated carved Native artwork.

FIRE PROTECTION
- Wet pipe system throughout, with prevent system

SECURITY
- CCTV camera system
- Card Access Door Control
- Staffed Security Position at Entry Points

MEP SYSTEMS
The MEP/FP components of the building are using cost-effective, renewable and cutting edge technology. Boilers will use a unique wood pellet that have been developed using native wood harvested on native Alaskan land. Lighting will incorporate LED lighting wherever possible to lower energy costs while protecting collections from harmful UV light. All of the large MEP/FP components are located in the basement mechanical room. Here all of the air handling units, chillers, boilers, pumps, water heaters, emergency generation and electrical transformation are located. These are separated from the collection storage area by a 4 hour fire wall that protects collections as well as providing a high insulating value. Humidification for the gallery and collection storage spaces will be provided using cool steam.

Features:
- Items to be stored: Artifacts, museum exhibits, multimedia material, books, archives, papers, paintings, and cultural objects
- Pressurization: all galleries maintain a positive pressure
- UPS: Security system
- Emergency generators: for critical systems only — pumps, emergency lighting, heating and air-conditioning
- Temperature range/variance for collections: 63° ± 3°
- Humidity range/variance: 40% RH ± 5%
- Chilled Water System
- Condenser Water System
- Heating System: Air Handlers and Pumps and Wood Pellet Fuel Supply