

# Alaska Historical Society



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The Alaska Community Foundation  
3201 C Street, Suite 110  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Dear Friends:

The Alaska Historical Society has learned about the Valdez Founders Memorial Project and enthusiastically endorses it.

A great deal of planning and work has gone toward making the project a reality. The memorial will recognize two of the City of Valdez founders, George Cheever Hazelet and Andrew Jackson Meals, and the region's indigenous people before them. The name for the trailhead monument display is Suacit [The People Of The Place That Rises Into View], recognizing the Alutiiq-Sugpiak of the region.

The display has been designed as a public art project with meaning and depicts the many true Alaskan partnerships that were so important to ushering the territory into statehood. There will be three panels with historical text and benches to create a space for visitors to reflect and learn about the rich history of Valdez.

Of particular note is that many diverse groups in Valdez are involved with the project. These include The Valdez Native Tribe, the arts and museum communities, outdoor groups and the City of Valdez. Recently the Valdez City Council approved the design and site location. As you know, the project is now in the final stages to raise the necessary funds to construct the trailhead exhibit area and manufacture and install the panels.

The Alaska Historical Society adopted a statement on monuments and statues in 2020, and the Valdez project meets its standards. The statement says new monuments should reflect the diversity of Alaska and provide an inclusive portrait of our state's people by adopting Alaska Native place names.

The Valdez Founders Memorial Project will be a wonderful asset for the city of Valdez and appreciated by residents and visitors alike. The Alaska Historical Society appreciates the initiative of John H. Clark and the Port Valdez Company for undertaking the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Ramseur". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Ramseur  
President