



**ALASKA STATE  
COUNCIL ON THE ARTS**

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March 22, 2017

Public Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee  
SB66 - Alaska State Council on the Arts: Public Corporation  
Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs and Committee Members,

Thank you all for the opportunity to testify in support of SB66. My name is Andrea Noble-Pelant, Executive Director of the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA). I have worked for this agency for eleven years and in the arts sector for almost thirty years.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts, now in its 51<sup>st</sup> year, is ready for organizational change. The timing of SB66 is opportune as Alaska's creative industries are growing due to targeted public and private investment in our cultural infrastructure during the past ten years. As a result, the Alaska State Council on the Arts has experienced rapid growth in grants, programs and public/private partnerships.

We wish to continue this effort, and with the provisions in SB66, the Alaska State Council on the Arts is poised to continue grant-making as a public corporation that will also support new and existing programs to reach more Alaskans with increased impact and efficiency.

Our staff works on local, national and international levels to oversee projects, initiatives and policies that build capacity for arts organizations, provide practical professional development and opportunities for individual artists, and boost students' chances for success through arts in education. SB66 provides flexibility for the Alaska State Council on the Arts to manage fast flow projects in a timely manner and to increase our work across sectors, such as health, economic development, tourism, and transportation.

In the past ten years, our mission has evolved to expand access to arts experiences. Our programs now reach military service members and their families who experience PTSD, incarcerated individuals who plan to produce and sell their artwork after release, pre-service teachers from rural communities, Alaskan children and youth who want opportunities to learn through arts and culture, and parents who want to raise their families in safe, sustainable communities. We have been very fortunate that partners with mutual goals have approached us with these initiatives. SB66 allows for



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responsive project implementation which affects our performance and the ability for the Alaska State Council on the Arts to seek and secure future private funding.

Keeping with our mission, revenue from funders goes back to Alaskan residents and communities as grants, programs and resources. Longstanding partnerships are in place with The Rasmuson Foundation, The Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation, The Atwood Foundation and The National Endowment for the Arts. New partners include Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, The CIRI Foundation, and Sealaska Heritage Institute. Other partners include the Alaska Humanities Forum and The Western States Arts Federation and Americans for the Arts who contribute in-kind support, resources and funding.

Thank you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 907-269-6605 or [andrea.noble-pelant@alaska.gov](mailto:andrea.noble-pelant@alaska.gov)