



ANCHORAGE OPERA

February 4, 2026

**To Representative Carolyn Hall
Alaska State Capitol Room 434**

On behalf of Anchorage Opera I am writing in support of HB 221, establishing June 21st as Arts and Culture Day in Alaska.

For 63 years, Anchorage Opera has been a centerpiece of the greater Alaska arts and culture scene. Our organization offers high quality professional performances for an Alaskan audience while offering employment and creative opportunities for hundreds of talented Alaskans each year.

I am sure you are aware of the amazing phenomenon which is Alaska's unique arts & culture. From the earliest Native Alaskan dancers and mask-makers to today's painters, writers, and performers, Alaska has served as a muse and inspiration to people in and outside our state's boundaries. From our history, it makes sense that Alaska should formally honor our rich cultural and artistic heritage with the dedication of an Arts and Culture Day.

Alaskan Arts & Culture Day though is not just symbolic. Many studies link artistic expression and participation in community groups to improved well-being. By regularly recognizing the richness of our culture and art, we encourage engagement with local arts and arts organizations that can similarly improve the well-being of Alaskan communities.

Designating June 21st Alaska Arts and Culture Day promises to uplift our communities and instill pride in one of state's most valuable resources. To honor such a day on the summer solstice- a time of celebration in our state seems only too appropriate. We enthusiastically support HB 221 as it moves through the 2026 session.

Sincerely,

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

**Ben Robinson
General Director, Anchorage Opera**

