

February 17, 2026

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Dear Representative Hall and Members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the Anchorage Concert Association (ACA), I am writing to express our strong support for HB 221 establishing an Alaska Arts and Culture Day.

Alaska's arts and cultural sector is one of our state's most meaningful assets. From Indigenous traditions that have shaped this land for generations to contemporary artists and organizations serving communities statewide, the arts strengthen civic life, contribute to local economies, support education, and help define Alaska's identity. A designated statewide Arts and Culture Day would provide long-overdue recognition of these contributions.

At ACA, we see firsthand how arts experiences connect people across geography, age, and background. Through performances, education programs, and community partnerships, we witness the role arts and culture play in community well-being, tourism, and local business vitality. Establishing an annual day of recognition affirms that these contributions are essential to Alaska's civic and economic landscape.

As this bill moves forward, we welcome continued discussion about the timing of the observance to ensure it maximizes statewide engagement and visibility. October is National Arts and Humanities Month, and many organizations across Alaska — including ACA through our ARTWORKS Anchorage initiative — already concentrate outreach and storytelling efforts during that time. Aligning statewide recognition with October could create strong amplification and public awareness. We offer this in the spirit of collaboration and remain supportive of the bill's core purpose.

Thank you for your leadership and for recognizing the importance of arts and culture in communities across Alaska.

Sincerely,



Jason Hodges
Executive Director