



Representative Carolyn Hall

House District 16 | Turnagain, Spenard and Sand Lake

HB 221

Sponsor Statement

April 28th, 2026

Version N

"An Act Establishing Alaska Arts and Culture Day"

House Bill 221 would establish the first Friday of each October as Alaska Arts and Culture Day. Alaskans know how many amazing resources our state offers, and that these resources make Alaska one of the greatest places to live. We regularly honor some of these resources with days, such as Alaska Wild Salmon Day, Alaska Mining Day, and Alaska Agriculture Day.

Alaska's artistic and cultural resources should be no different and should be recognized and uplifted with similar regularity. Designating the first Friday of October as Alaska Arts and Culture Day highlights the creativity and dedication that Alaskans infuse into their everyday lives. The day will further encourage celebration of the many artistic and cultural treasures that bring economic prosperity, beauty, and meaning to Alaskan communities.

The October date is particularly apt for an Arts and Culture Day. The first Friday of October aligns the day with its goals of educating Alaska's younger generations and raising widespread awareness of our Arts and Culture. For one, this date ensures that Arts and Culture Day will occur on a school day, allowing teachers to participate with their classrooms. October is also already a special month for the arts nationally. In 1993, our federal government established October as Arts and Humanities Month. However, since then, Alaska has only irregularly acknowledged its creative culture through the governor's proclamations. By setting a date on the first Friday of October, we would more regularly remind Alaskans of our role in this national arts celebration and facilitate avenues for participation in classrooms.