



Arts & Culture is a vibrant sector in Alaska. From Alaska's rich and diverse Native cultures to the state's 60+ museums, to individual artists working and selling work as small businesses, the cultural sector supports jobs, attracts outside investments and stimulates regional economies through tourism and consumer spending. This sector includes both for-profit and nonprofit arts-related activities. The non-profit portion of this sector includes a wide variety of cultural organizations, museums, schools and community groups supported in part with state and federal public funds awarded and monitored by the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the Alaska Humanities Forum.

Access to the Arts for All Alaskans

The arts bring vibrancy to Alaskan communities. Communities that offer robust arts and cultural offerings are viewed as more desirable places to live, work and visit. Alaskans place a high priority on access to arts and cultural events in their communities, as well as access to arts education, increasingly viewed as essential to developing the creative workforce of the future and an innovation economy.

The Arts Mean Business

The arts sector in Alaska is an economic driver. Over 9,900 Alaskans are employed in the arts and creative industries. Sales of artwork by Alaska artists are robust, and arts organizations statewide generated in excess of \$27 million in revenue in 2011 (Creative Vitality Index, WESTAF, 2011). The arts in Alaska are a vital part of the state's economy and brand, while at the same time serving as a catalyst for community engagement and a healthy quality of life.

State funding for the arts is an integral component to arts economy; the state and federal funds managed by the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) leverage significant private and individual funds both within Alaska and nationally. These diverse revenue streams ensure the sustainability of arts organizations, so they achieve their primary purpose: to provide public programs to benefit Alaskans.

Public Investment

The Alaska State Council on the Arts' funding requests to the Alaska Legislature include not only the continuation of state funds for grants, education and staffing, but the authority to spend other funds made available through its partnership with the Rasmuson Foundation. This public-private partnership leverages the expertise and knowledge of the Arts Council to provide greater services statewide, particularly in the area of performing arts touring and arts education. The Council also requests approval to spend existing funds in the Art in Public Places Fund, to support the acquisition of works of art by Alaskan artists for public display. Additionally, ASCA requests a one-time investment of \$500,000 in capital funds for investment in local communities to build the capacity of local arts councils and to partner with local elected officials to use the arts to address and strengthen community needs. This request would expand Creative Placemaking projects in communities across Alaska, which have been seeded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and other national funders, and are already attracting attention. This request will enable more and smaller communities to undertake this work.

Museums: Stewards of Alaska Culture

Museums Alaska is an association of museum professionals and volunteers dedicated to the advancement of museums, historical societies and cultural centers across the state. Located in communities as diverse as Homer, Kodiak, Fairbanks and Bethel, as well as large cities of Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau, museums are an integral part of the statewide cultural ecology. They are critically important stewards of Alaska's material culture, offer unique education programming and provide lifelong learning to youth, residents and thousands of visitors annually.

History: Preserving Alaska's Story

The Alaska Historical Society is the statewide non-profit dedicated to promoting Alaska's history by exchange of ideas and information, the preservation and interpretation of resources, and the education of Alaskans about their heritage. The Alaska Historical Society supports continued state operating funding for the State's Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums as well as the Office of History and Archaeology. Additionally, the Alaska Historical Society supports approval of \$37.215m in final funding need for the SLAM (State Library, Archives, and Museum) Building in Juneau, as well as funds to rehabilitate the Stratton Library in Sitka for the state's Sheldon Jackson Museum.

Investment

A recent survey of Museums Alaska members indicates that 75% of them plan significant capital investments in the next five years. With that demand, Museums Alaska recommends the development of a new state-funded matching grant program for capital improvements (see Museums Alaska fact sheet).

Strategic investments in Alaska's museums will result in job creation from capital improvements, increased capacity to deliver public programs around their collections and more robust organizations ready to collaborate with tourism and other local partners.

The Humanities: Promoting Cultural Understanding, Civic Engagement and Social and Economic Fulfillment of All Alaskans

The Alaska Humanities Forum is an independent 501c3 organization that uses grants, leadership initiatives, cross-cultural exchanges and forward-thinking educational programs to strengthen the foundations of civil society in Alaska and create a more adaptive and competitive workforce statewide.

Emphasizing critical perspective and imaginative response, Alaska Humanities Forum grant programs support ambitious projects throughout Alaska in the study of languages, history, civics, film, religion, and the arts. Forum grant projects explore Alaska's place in history, apply traditional wisdom to modern concerns, and foster communication between Alaskans with divergent points of view while emphasizing the ideals we hold in common.

The Forum's Alaska History and Cultural Studies program is Alaska's most popular online resource for course materials relevant to the state's Alaska history graduation requirement. Since it began in 2004, it has served more than 700,000 educators and students. The Forum recently launched a major campaign to update, expand and redesign its Alaska History and Cultural Studies website to enhance its value for all Alaskans, but especially students and teachers in rural districts.

Education-focused cultural exchange programs run by the Alaska Humanities Forum include Take Wing Alaska, which supports Alaska Native students from rural communities in transitioning to urban postsecondary education. Another unique forum program is Sister School Exchange that help to strengthen relationships between urban and rural Alaskans by building mutual respect and a statewide sense of community through cross-cultural exchanges of teachers and sister school in urban and rural districts.

The Alaska Humanities Forum's C3 Project seeks to reduce staff turnover rates in rural Alaska districts by providing new-to-Alaska teachers with summertime cultural immersions at subsistence camps in the rural districts where they will teach in the fall.

The Alaska Humanities Forum also runs Leadership Anchorage, the state's premiere civic engagement and leadership cultivation program, now in its 17th year. More than 300 Leadership Anchorage alumni currently serve as leaders in a wide array of businesses, public agencies and major non-profit organizations statewide.

Investment

The Alaska Humanities Forum's funding requests to the Alaska Legislature include \$200,000 to expand and enhance its online content that is used by many Alaska Studies students and teachers across the state. A strategic investment in this online resource will provide every Alaskan student with the very best information about the history of Alaska and its rich and diverse cultures in a very cost effective manner. Additionally, the Alaska Humanities Forum requests

\$65,000 for the development of the Leadership Alaska initiative, which will provide a diverse set of leaders in Alaska with an unique, first-hand experience of the wide ranging issues that leaders face across our state. Leadership Anchorage, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and private sponsors, has already had a significant impact on the leaders in Alaska and this request will allow the Alaska Humanities Forum and its partners to continue to expand this program across the state.

Support for Alaska Culture + Increased Benefits for Alaskans

The Alaska State Council on the Arts, Museums Alaska and the Alaska Humanities Forum - and the hundreds of organizations they support - contribute to the economic and community vitality of the state every day.

- Arts and culture play a major role in community development and redevelopment by creating new jobs and fostering an environment and amenities that attract new workers and visitors.
- Tourism centered on arts and culture contributes to state and local economic vitality by providing a diversified and sustainable means for creating jobs and attracting revenue.
- Artists, writers, musicians and scholars are creating new work that is Alaska-based, branding Alaska as a creative center.
- Alaska's Native artists and cultural leaders form a globally distinctive asset for the state.
- Alaska's powerful landscape has inspired artists and writers for centuries, leaving a legacy that brings visitors from across the globe to experience their works.

The CHAMP partners encourage you to support the legislative requests of the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Museums Alaska and the Alaska Humanities Forum. Should you need any additional information, please contact each agency's representative:

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