

SB

66

<TARGET><BILL>SB 66</BILL><SUBJECT>SB
66</SUBJECT><COMM>SEDC30</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 2/22/17

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3-13-17

Education Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 66

SB 66 ST. COUNCIL ON THE ARTS: PUBLIC CORP.

"An Act redesignating the Alaska State Council on the Arts as a public corporation and governmental instrumentality of the state; defining the powers and duties of the Alaska State Council on the Arts; providing exemptions from certain statutes for the Alaska State Council on the Arts; making conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

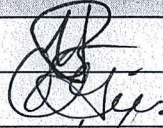
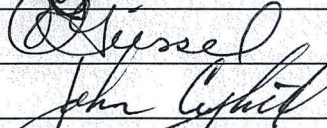
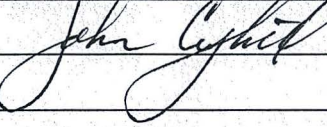
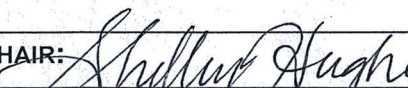
- be replaced with CS _____ (_____) Same Title New Title
- adopt previous CS _____ (_____) Same Title New Title
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
EED	MVA
DEC	DNR
DFG	DPS
GOV	REV
DHS	DOT
AJS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
EED		✓		1
ADM			✓	2

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Begich	✓			
	Giessel			✓	
	Coghill	✓			
CHAIR: 	Hughes	✓			

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Shelley Hughes, Chair
Session: Capital Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3743



Senator John Coghill
Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Tom Begich

Senate Education Committee

Senate Bill 66 – State Council on the Arts: Public Corporation

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 66 quasi-privatizes the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) by restructuring it as a public corporation in order to help the ASCA to continue its work with self-employed Alaskan artists and art businesses during these challenging fiscal times. This new status will allow the ASCA to increase its ability to leverage funds from non-governmental contributors and better adapt to the shifting economic climate. This effort responds to the widespread interest in governmental entities, as much as they are able, to at least partially privatize their operations and increase their operating efficiency.

Under SB 66, ASCA will remain within the Department of Education & Early Development. Changes to the ASCA include exemption from the State Procurement Code, while still providing for formal, appropriate procurement protocols for ASCA. Restructuring will keep ASCA's operating budget under the Executive Budget Act for openness and transparency. Transition language in SB 66 will allow ASCA's advisory committees, public processes, and public participation to remain in place as ASCA administers grants, programs, and services.

As the State of Alaska evolves and grows in response to fiscal challenges, ASCA wants to ensure that it is in a position to expand its important work to serve all Alaskans. Private funders across the nation are increasingly approaching ASCA to offer support for the work of the Council, and carefully considered restructuring efforts have the potential to allow the Council to advance the opportunity to grow the development base of ASCA, as well as reduce its reliance on State funds, including in its work with students in Alaska's schools.

SB 66 will improve the ability of ASCA to leverage non-state funding and represents a real opportunity to realign ASCA to better perform in the environment which exists in Alaska today.

Staff Contact: Joshua Banks, (907) 465-3743

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Shelley Hughes, Chair
Session: Capital Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3743



Senator John Coghill
Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Tom Begich

Senate Education Committee

Senate Bill 66 – State Council on the Arts: Public Corporation

Sectional Analysis

Section 1 (Pages 1-4): Amends AS 39.25.110 concerning exempt state employees to add all employees of the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA), thus making employees of ASCA exempt from the State Personnel Act.

Section 2 (Pages 5-7): Adds artists' submissions made in response to an inquiry or solicitation initiated by the Alaska State Council on the Arts, to the list of records that are exempt from public inspection under AS 40.25.120.

Section 3 (Page 7): Repeals and re-enacts AS 44.27.040 regarding the creation of ASCA, to establish the Council as a separate and independent public corporation of the state of Alaska within the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED).

Section 4 (Page 7): Amends AS 44.27.041 to charge ASCA to be governed by an 11 member board of trustees, adds literary arts as a field represented within the board, and a member's expertise, rather than interest, as a factor for consideration for board membership.

Section 5 (Page 7): Amends AS 44.27.042 to replace the term "members" with the term "trustees" and "council" with "board of trustees".

Section 6 (Page 8): Amends AS 44.27.043 to replace the term "member" with "trustee".

Section 7 (Page 8): Replaces the term "members" with the term "trustees" in AS 44.27.044 and replaces language that entitles trustees to be reimbursed for travel expenses at the same rate of members of state boards under AS 39.20.180.

Section 8 (Page 8): Amends AS 44.27.045 to use gender-neutral terms for board members.

Section 9 (Page 8-9): Amends AS 44.27.050 to require the council to encourage literary arts as well as other disciplines, invest in arts throughout the state, and conduct research into artistic and cultural activities throughout the state.

Section 10 (Page 9): Amends AS 44.27.052(a) to replace “educational” objectives with “strategic” objectives as it relates to the council’s ability enter into contracts and accept gifts, contributions, and bequests.

Section 11 (Page 9-10): Amends AS 44.27.054 to replace language with the proper terms “chair” and “trustees” previously established and makes a conforming amendment to Section 1.

Section 12 (Page 10): Adds a new section to AS 44.27 detailing the administration of affairs of the board of trustees. The board of trustees shall manage the assets of the council, establish and amend bylaws governing the business of the corporation, and employ an executive director to supervise the administration of ASCA. This section also exempts ASCA from the State Procurement Code (AS 36.30), instructs the board of trustees to establish procedures for procurement, and requires consistency with the Alaska Veterans preference established in AS 36.30.32(f). The operating budget of ASCA is subject to the provisions established in the Executive Budget Act (AS 37.07).

Section 13 (Page 10): Amends AS 44.27.058 to require that ASCA comply with the 20 U.S.C 951 – 960 (National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965) as it relates to the receipt and disbursement of funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Section 14 (Page 10-11): Amends AS 44.27.060 to add new subsections (e) and (f) regarding confidentiality of artist submissions and adds a provision for public disclosure to submissions when the artist is awarded a commission for said submission. However, under subsection (g), subsections (e) and (f) do not apply if the submission was created as a work for hire under 17 U.S.C. 101 or if the artist’s copyright has been transferred under 17 U.S.C. 204.

Section 15 (Page 11): Amends AS 44.27 to add definitions for “board of trustees” and “council”.

Section 16 (Page 11-12): Creates transition language for ASCA to allow council members to remain on the board of trustees until their term is over, allows current employees to remain with ASCA, allows regulations, contracts, rights, liabilities, and obligations created under current law to remain in effect, and allows ASCA to retain all records, equipment, appropriations, and other property.

Section 17 (Page 12): Creates an effective date for this legislation as July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 66
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB066-DOA-DOP-02-24-17
Title: ST. COUNCIL ON THE ARTS: PUBLIC CORP.
Sponsor: EDUCATION
Requester: (S) EED

Department: Department of Administration
Appropriation: Centralized Administrative Services
Allocation: Personnel
OMB Component Number: 56

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2018	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2018 Request	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2018	FY 2018					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? N/A

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version

Prepared By: <u>Kate Sheehan, Director</u>	Phone: <u>(907)465-4403</u>
Division: <u>Personnel and Labor Relations</u>	Date: <u>02/24/2017 04:00 PM</u>
Approved By: <u>Sheldon Fisher, Commissioner</u>	Date: <u>02/24/17</u>
Agency: <u>Administration</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 66

Analysis

The Division of Personnel administers the payroll plans for all state employees which includes classified as well as non-covered employees contemplated in the bill. There will be not fiscal impact on the division resulting from this legislation; therefore Personnel submits a zero fiscal note.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 66
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB066-EED-ASCA-2-24-17
Title: ST. COUNCIL ON THE ARTS: PUBLIC CORP.
Sponsor: EDUCATION
Requester: (S) EED

Department: Department of Education and Early Development
Appropriation: Commissions and Boards
Allocation: Alaska State Council on the Arts
OMB Component Number: 192

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2018	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2018 Request	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Personal Services	***		***	***	***	***	***
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	***	0.0	***	***	***	***	***

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	***	0.0	***	***	***	***	***

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By:	Andrea Noble-Pelant, Executive Director	Phone:	(907)269-6610
Division:	Alaska State Council on the Arts	Date:	02/24/2017 04:40 PM
Approved By:	Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner	Date:	02/24/17
Agency:	Department of Education & Early Development		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 66

Analysis

This legislation re-establishes the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) in a different title of Alaska Statutes, making the Council into a public corporation and instrumentality of the State of Alaska. This structure maintains ASCA's position housed administratively in the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) and other structural elements, but at the same time seeks to make ASCA more nimble and capable of operating as independently and successfully as possible in the current challenging fiscal environment.

Under this legislation, ASCA continues to be subject to the Executive Budget Act in order to ensure appropriate gubernatorial and legislative awareness of and supervision over ASCA's budget and operations; ASCA continues to be subject to the Executive Branch Ethics Act to ensure transparency and irrefutably ethical operations and behavior by Council members and staff; and finally moves ASCA staff from the classified service to exempt service.

This fiscal note is indeterminate at this time. The positive impact of cost reductions cannot be determined until the agency restructures. Efficiencies that are anticipated in operating costs cannot be quantified at present. The ASCA is undergoing an external evaluation for efficiency in arts education programming in April 2017. ASCA expects to leverage private funding without any adverse fiscal impact to the state.

This legislation takes effect July 1, 2017.

Bill would change state arts council to a corporation

By Ed Schoenfeld, CoastAlaska - Juneau -

March 1, 2017

Lawmakers take their first look Friday at a bill changing the [Alaska State Council on the Arts](#) from an agency to a public corporation.

The council distributes funds to artists and art organizations around the state.

Executive Director Andrea Noble-Pelant said it would allow for more partnerships and funding opportunities.

“Our choice is we can stay the same and watch our organization dwindle, or be less effective,” Noble-Pelant said. “Or we can take a step to become more efficient.”

[Senate Bill 66](#) and [House Bill 137](#) call for the change.

The switch to a public corporation would result in a number of operational adjustments.

One would remove the council from requirements of the state procurement code.

Juneau’s Ben Brown, who chairs the arts council’s board, said it’s a necessary change.

“The procurement code is something to make sure that state agencies operate in a certain matter,” Brown said. “We’re a little bit different than some other state agencies in some of the programs and services we are trying to provide. We’re certainly different in having funding available to us from private foundation partners.”

The council’s budget for this year is about \$2.8 million. About a quarter comes from the state, a quarter from the federal government and the rest from foundations and other private donors.

The legislation was proposed by the council after an extensive operational review, Brown said.

It will have its first hearing at 8 a.m. Friday before the Senate Education Committee. The identical House version is not yet scheduled.

Both versions were authored by their chamber's Education Committees, which reflects broader support than a measure sponsored by individual legislators.

Another section would exempt artists' submissions to the council from public records laws.

Noble-Pelant said information about accepted art commissions would remain public. The bill removes those from artists whose proposals are not accepted.

"Artists are business people and they are part of that creative economy," Noble-Pelant said. "They are often sole proprietors and when they apply for a commission, it's much like someone who's applying for a job."

The bills would keep the state arts council within the Department of Education.

The legislation changes board member requirements, from having interest in the arts to having expertise. Brown said that's important.

"Hopefully, all Alaskans have interest in the arts. That's one of the reasons the council exists," Brown said. "But I don't know that it's fair to say that as many Alaskans have expertise in the arts. And to be a member of the council, it's appropriate that people have more than just a passing interest, but have some level of expertise, whatever that may be."

The change could expand the pool of applicants to administrators and others who are not necessarily artists themselves, Noble-Pelant said.

Under the bills, the board's 11 members would automatically become trustees for the new corporation. Members would continue to be appointed by the governor.

Posted February 25, 2017 08:01 pm
By [Benjamin Brown](#)
FOR THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

My Turn: Arts council restructuring presents great opportunities

As Alaska faces the most severe fiscal crisis since statehood, Alaskans are responding in a variety of ways. These responses are individual, as people adjust their spending habits and economic choices, and collective, as government locally and statewide seeks ways to economize, become more efficient and reconsider methods of doing business that have gone unchanged for decades.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) is Alaska's state arts agency, and over the years has done an admirable job ensuring that Alaskans enjoy the arts in their daily lives, and reap the economic, emotional and other benefits of artistic and cultural activity. I am a huge believer in ASCA's work, and have a direct interest in and responsibility for what the agency does as I serve as chairman of ASCA's 11-member volunteer board. Even before the fiscal crisis reached its current, acute phase, we at ASCA were thinking proactively about what we could do to provide more and better services with the least amount of government funding. In the last year, we have focused intently on the possibilities for positive change, and potential rewards that may come from rising to meet the challenges we face.

ASCA was created and continues to exist as an agency of the state of Alaska in order to be able to receive crucial matching funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. The National Arts & Humanities Act mandates placement within state government and a dollar-for-dollar appropriation to trigger federal moneys. But this is a minimum requirement, which doesn't place an upper limit on what ASCA can do. The Council has crafted and put forward a plan to restructure the agency to allow for the highest level of operational efficiency and maximum ability to leverage non-governmental sources of funding, to support individual artists, arts organizations, arts education programs and all ASCA's other important programs and activities.

This past week, identical pieces of legislation were introduced in the Alaska Legislature, sponsored by the House and Senate Education Committees. House Bill 137 and Senate Bill 66 are designed to keep ASCA firmly established as a state agency, but to change structural elements that have caused problems in the past and thus open up opportunities for improved operations in the future.

ASCA's restructuring bills keep the Council housed for administrative purposes as it is currently within the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. ASCA would be reconstituted as a public corporation, giving it more operational independence. Key changes include taking ASCA out from under the unhelpful and burdensome State Procurement Code, substituting appropriate procurement rules. Because ASCA uses

substantial amounts of private foundation funds to provide services, the strictures of the existing way of doing business have caused a host of unnecessary problems without providing any actual benefit to the public.

ASCA's budget will still be controlled by the provisions of the Executive Budget Act, allowing legislative and executive branch oversight, and openness and transparency for all Alaskans. ASCA's grant-making processes, public arts programs and capacity enhancement efforts will be run as they currently are, and Council members and staff will remain subject to all the provisions of the Executive Branch Ethics Act. Council members will still have to file annual Public Official Financial Disclosure forms to disclose any potential conflicts to the public.

Over the past decade, ASCA has been fairly and equitably treated by the Alaska Legislature, and the minimal funding needed to keep the agency in existence has been duly appropriated. At the same time, ASCA has found ways to partner with private foundations to significantly expand activities, especially in arts education. ASCA is now poised to be able to expand our work to serve more Alaskans in fields beyond arts education, and restructuring will help make this happen.

Every state and territory in the nation has an arts agency, and there have been few efforts across the field to move away from continued operations as run-of-the-mill government agencies. A misguided effort to privatize the state arts agency in Kansas ended disastrously, with the complete loss of all federal funds in that state and the loss of artistic and cultural opportunities to the people living there. ASCA's restructuring effort is informed by this example of how not to do it, and is carefully balanced between changing things that will make a difference but keeping the affiliation with state government that justifies public funding and ensures accountability and responsiveness to the public.

HB 137 and SB 66 will be heard in the coming weeks by the House and Senate Education Committees, and if successfully reviewed by these panels, will move on to the Finance Committees. ASCA hopes to see this legislation pass after being carefully considered, and enacted into law before the beginning of the new fiscal year in July. This outcome will enable ASCA to be part of the solution to the fiscal crisis, continuing to support a vital economy in the great land and the highest quality of life for all of us so fortunate as to call Alaska home.

Benjamin Brown is a lifelong Alaskan and an attorney who lives in Juneau. He serves as chairman of the Alaska State Council on the Arts.



Celebrating the Western Imagination through the Arts

February 28, 2017

Senator Shelley Hughes
Chair
Senate Education Committee
Alaska State Senate

Dear Senator Hughes,

I would like to strongly endorse SB66, a bill related to the restructuring of the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA). WESTAF (the Western States Arts Federation) has worked with the Council for many years, and finds its initiative to restructure to be exemplary and likely a model for state arts agencies around the nation.

SB66 is desirable because it does a number of things:

- The bill allows the ASCA to become more entrepreneurial and to deploy its resources in a way that will garner increased benefits for all Alaskans.
- The bill will help the Council continue to expand its relationship with the Rasmuson Foundation. That relationship allows for the regranteeing of Rasmuson funds through the Council. This activity is a tremendous advantage to Alaskans; however, in order to maintain the relationship, the flexibility SB66 provides is needed.
- The bill (SB66) opens up pathways to enhance the Council's funding that do not currently exist. In Alaska's current difficult budget situation, having such pathways is essential for the arts, especially the economic force of the arts in Alaska to not lose ground during a time of economic stress.

Our organization seeks to make state arts agencies more responsive to the public and more entrepreneurial. We believe SB66 creates a framework for this, and we strongly endorse its passage.

Sincerely,

Anthony Radich
Executive Director
WESTAF



TEL: (907) 445-5231 • FAX: (907) 443-4452



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STEBBINS
ST. MICHAEL
TELLER
UNALAKLEET
WALES
WHITE MOUNTAIN

March 3, 2017

Alice Bioff
P.O. Box 862
Nome, Alaska 99762

Public Testimony Given to the Senate Education Committee

SB66 - Alaska State Council on the Arts Restructuring Initiative

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Honorable Committee Chair and Committee members,

My name is Alice Bioff, resident of Nome, Alaska, currently employed at Kawerak, Inc. and an Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) council member. Thank you all for the opportunity to testify in support of SB66. I am testifying today in my capacity as an ASCA council member. I am a tribal member of the Native Village of Koyuk, and grew up there and in Nome. My family and I have lived in Nome for the last 17 years. For much of that time, I have been employed by Kawerak, Inc., the regional Native non-profit consortium of tribes for the Bering Strait region, as a Business Planning Specialist.

Through our work here at Kawerak, I am honored and privileged to work with artist entrepreneurs within our communities. We provide direct technical assistance offering tools and resources to assist artists continue their work so that they can sustain themselves, their families and their communities. It is through this work that I have seen firsthand how important it is for these artists who live in communities with very few resources and infrastructure, to grow their businesses through opportunities such as those that become available through ASCA and others.

Artist Entrepreneurs are economic development drivers in their communities and the Alaska State Council on the Arts supports these communities through their work and advocacy. With their partnerships, resources and programs, we see a bright future and growth opportunity to support all artists across the State.

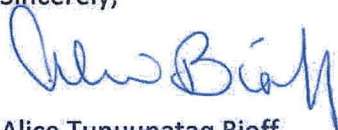
Through the restructuring initiative, we see ASCA services continued and strengthened to support the artists through improved ability to react to funding opportunities and

better represent, support and advance the artists by offering the tools and services needed to strengthen an already existing and important economy. This is critical to strengthening and sustaining our rural communities in this fiscally challenging time.

SB66 streamlines the process ASCA will use to present opportunities to artists all over Alaska, including those artists we have worked with for years here in the Bering Strait region. From my perspective, this will be a great benefit for all artists including those in rural Alaska.

Thank you for this opportunity, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at, (907) - 443- 4366 or email me at bp.spec@kawerak.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alice Bioff".

Alice Tunuunataq Bioff
Business Planning Specialist
Kawerak, Inc.
P.O. Box 948
Nome, Alaska 99762
bp.spec@kawerak.org
(907) 443-4366
www.kawerak.org

Anchorage
Concert Association

March 3, 2017

Senator Shelley Hughes
Chair
Senate Education Committee
Alaska State Senate

430 W. 7th Avenue // Suite 200
Anchorage // Alaska, 99501

P // 907 272-1471
F // 907 272-2519
W // anchorageconcerts.org

Dear Senator Hughes,

I would like to endorse SB66, a bill to restructure the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA).

The Anchorage Concert Association has a very long history with ASCA. Each year, ASCA provides important funds to support the operations and activities of ACA.

The arts sector has been and continues to go through significant changes. Arts organizations are called on to be more flexible to the changing environment. Funding organizations like ASCA need greater flexibility to meet these demands.

ACA supports SB66 as a means for more flexibility for ASCA to effectively influence capacity building of arts organizations, create new partnerships, and impact economic growth in Anchorage and other communities in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Jason Hodges
Executive Director



**ALASKA STATE
COUNCIL ON THE ARTS**

March 3, 2017

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

Dear Honorable Committee Chair and Committee members,

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. Thank you all for the opportunity to testify in support of SB66.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts, now in its 51st year, is ready for organizational change. The timing of SB66 is opportune as Alaska's creative industry is currently growing due to targeted public and private investment in the sector 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 allow new and existing programs to reach more Alaskans with increased impact and efficiency.

Our agency works on local, national and international levels to oversee projects and initiatives 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. Through mutually beneficial alliances with public/private sector partners, our reach extends to military service members with PTSD, incarcerated individuals, 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.

Longstanding partnerships are in place with The Rasmuson Foundation, The Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation, and The Atwood Foundation. New partners include Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, The CIRI Foundation, and Sealaska Heritage Institute. Non-profit partners include Alaska Humanities Forum and The Western States Arts Federation which contribute in-kind support, resources and funding. Keeping with our mission, funding from our partners goes back to Alaskan residents and communities as grants, programs and services.

SB66 provides flexibility for ASCA to manage fast flow projects in a timely manner and to work across sectors, such as health, economic development, tourism, and transportation around the state. SB66 allows for responsive execution that is necessary for desired collaborative outcomes which affect performance evaluations and our ability to secure future funding.



Senator Shelley Hughes
Senate Education Committee Chair

Representative Harriet Drummond
House Education Committee Chair

In support of SB66 and HB137

Honorable Senator Hughes and Representative Drummond,

The Alaska State Council represents, supports and advances the creative endeavors of individuals, organizations and agencies throughout Alaska.

The Juneau Arts & Humanities Council depends on the Council for its leadership bringing all the arts organizations, artists, and creative businesses together to fully realize the potential for the arts to contribute to the social and economic well-being of Alaskans.

We partner with the Council on many education programs that affect schools and children around the state, from Artists in the Schools to Poetry Out Loud to Kennedy Center programs for training teachers and artists for classroom arts integrations to the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation education initiatives.

Restructuring the Council as outlined by the two bills will sustain this work and the increase the effectiveness and viability of the Alaska State Council, and therefore the many community arts organizations and artists.

Please support these two bills.

Thank you,

Respectfully

Nancy DeCherney

Digitally signed by Nancy DeCherney
DN: cn=Nancy DeCherney, o=Juneau Arts &
Humanities Council, ou, email=nancy@jahc.org,
c=US
Date: 2017.03.06 08:12:17 -0900

Nancy DeCherney
Executive Director
Juneau Arts and Humanities Council



March 6, 2017

Senator Shelley Hughes
Chair
Senate Education Committee
Alaska State Senate

Dear Senator Hughes:

On behalf of the Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation, I would like to heartily endorse SB66, which would restructure the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) into a public corporation.

The Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation works hand in hand with ASCA, as we are the private nonprofit whose mission is to support arts and culture in Alaska. I also retired in 2012 as the Executive Director of ASCA and know intimately the critical work this state agency has been doing for many years.

SB 66 would provide the flexibility in programming and fundraising that has become more imperative as Alaska works through the next few years of economic challenges. ASCA has the potential to be an economic catalyst to strengthen artists, arts organizations and educators through private partnerships and projects. But remaining as a classic state agency will hinder, not help, ASCA's innovative efforts.

ASCA has done an excellent job of garnering private foundation support, primarily through the partnership with the Rasmuson Foundation. Continuing to build these relationships with the transformation of this Council into a public corporation will benefit the arts, artists and the citizens of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Fox (sent via email)

Vice President, Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation
2017 Recipient, Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts
Recipient, 2017 Joint Legislative Citation, Alaska Legislature

Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation Board Members: Kes Woodward, Fairbanks (President); Charlotte Fox, Anchorage (Vice President); Linda Boochever, Anchorage (Secretary); Jayson Smart, Palmer (Treasurer); Chris Cooke, Anchorage; Norm Campbell, Sitka; Peggy Shumaker, Fairbanks; Asia Freeman, Homer; April Laktonen Counciller, Kodiak. Andrea Noble, Executive Director, ASCA - ex officio.

