



August 26, 2020

Mayor Beth Weldon
The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly Members
155 S. Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Sealaska Heritage Institute Arts Campus

Honorable Mayor and Assembly Members,

SHI has been keeping Rorie Watt, CBJ Manager informed as to the progress, project updates, needs, etc. of the Arts Campus. We have successfully raised approximately \$10,400,000 to date with another \$2.5 million to raise.

We understood that CBJ supported the construction of the Arts Campus and were hopeful that CBJ would ultimately make a financial contribution perhaps by this fall or at the latest in the spring or summer of 2021. We began construction with this assumption, perhaps naively so, that CBJ would make a financial contribution.

SHI felt it important to move forward with construction as the facility is designed to provide e-learning instructional programming that has become increasingly critical with the closure of schools and move to virtual education. We were also aware that the construction would provide for immediate jobs/economic impacts (55 jobs and \$10 million economic impact per a McDowell Group study) that will provide benefits for our community needs. Further was the consideration that the Arts Campus might provide a glimmer of hope and inspiration in these challenging times not to mention that a delay would result in near 5% increase in cost with inflation.

With the full funding not in hand, we will be required to delay construction of major components of the Campus---including such features as the canopies, the large gathering awning that would be used for performing arts, the pavers in the large courtyard, two upper classroom spaces, as well as other smaller elements. Without the external features, the Campus will definitely not be as aesthetically pleasing or public/visitor friendly. This would be unfortunate as it could serve to diminish visitorship and public use of the performance and classroom areas.

Despite a very successful 2020 Virtual Celebration, our Board of Trustees decided that our community and Juneau would benefit---socially, culturally and financially---from an in-person Celebration that will be held in late summer of 2021. We had hoped that the Campus would be completed for Celebration 2021, which would also be an opportune time for a grand ceremony for the opening of the Arts Campus that the Mayor and Assembly could attend. During this period of public discourse and consciousness focused on social and racial equity, it would send a powerful message to our community that CBJ supports its minority and diverse population with a CBJ contribution to the Arts Campus.

We are respectfully requesting your financial support to allow us to complete the construction of the Arts Campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosita Worl".

Rosita Kaahani Worl, Ph.D.
President

