

**From:** Carol Tuynman <[ctuynman@gmail.com](mailto:ctuynman@gmail.com)>

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**To:** Stephanie Scott <[sscott@aptalaska.net](mailto:sscott@aptalaska.net)>, Joanne Waterman <[blackdoghp@yahoo.com](mailto:blackdoghp@yahoo.com)>, Daymond Hoffman <[Daymondhoffman@yahoo.com](mailto:Daymondhoffman@yahoo.com)>, Smith Norm <[fortseward@yahoo.com](mailto:fortseward@yahoo.com)>, Jerry Lapp <[bflipper3@starband.net](mailto:bflipper3@starband.net)>, [dberry@haines.ak.us](mailto:dberry@haines.ak.us), Debra Schnabel <[dschnabel@haines.ak.us](mailto:dschnabel@haines.ak.us)>, [svick@haines.ak.us](mailto:svick@haines.ak.us)

**Subject: Economic development, arts, culture and education go hand-in-hand**

To The Honorable Mayor Stephanie Scott and Honorable Haines Borough Assembly Members:

Regrettably I am unable to attend this evening's Assembly Meeting. Please enter my comments below into the public record at tonight's meeting. Thank you.

I encourage you to continue full support of our core cultural institutions: Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center, Chilkat Center for the Arts and the Haines Borough Public Library.

Thousands of visitors from around the world and most, if not all, of our local residents use these facilities every year and for the most part, every day. Haines is famous for the stunning scenery and we are equally famous for our rich cultural heritage which is known through our museums our history, music and art, the books that are written about this area and the people who have lived here over decades and centuries.

Without our thriving cultural institutions as repositories and platforms for sharing this great wealth, there would be little to attract visitors, new businesses or keep people living here. I'm proud of all that Haines offers in cultural enrichment and believe the benefits to our children, families and general population is well worth the percentage of our taxes that goes towards these institutions.

Carol Tuynman  
President, Alaska Arts Confluence  
Steward, 7 Echoes Homestead  
Post Office Box 633  
Haines, Alaska 99827  
907.766.3715