



HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA
P.O. BOX 1209
HAINES, AK 99827
(907) 766-2231 FAX (907) 766-2716

September 16, 2016

National Endowment for the Arts
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506

Re: Letter of Support for the Alaska Arts Confluence's Our Town Award

To the Selection Committee:

On behalf of the Haines Borough, it is a privilege to recommend the Alaska Arts Confluence (Confluence) for the 2017 Our Town award regarding the Community Design of the Interconnected Portage Cove Waterfront.

For more than a decade, the Confluence has been a stalwart in promoting the arts through local strategic planning and public outreach, creating positive approaches to future growth in our community. The Confluence represents 24 organizations and over 90 individual artists, and its efforts are widely supported by governmental and non-governmental agencies.

The community of Haines is currently involved in a number of redevelopment projects on our waterfront, such as the Harbor Expansion Project, the Interpretive Trail and Harbor Park Project, and the Uplands redesign. In our view, the Confluence is uniquely suited to bring diverse stakeholders together for a common goal: to design an interconnected byway for pedestrian use that promotes and synthesizes our built environment with the natural and cultural beauty of Portage Cove.

We consider ourselves extremely lucky to have the Confluence in our community because they create partnerships through the arts and aid a growing arts economy. The opportunities they provide are invaluable to our residents. Should the Confluence be chosen as a recipient, we are certain it would only enhance public engagement and positive placemaking for Portage Cove.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Hill".

Jan Hill
Mayor, Haines Borough

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Seward".

William Seward
Manager, Haines Borough

The Haines Borough is a manager form of government. The Borough Manager and the Mayor are the highest ranking government officials.



Haines Chamber of Commerce

"Working Together to Build Business & Community"

219 Main Street, Suite 14

PO Box 1449 · Haines, AK 99827

907-766-2202 · 907-766-2271 (Fax)

chamber@haineschamber.org · www.haineschamber.org

September 19, 2016

Selection Committee
National Endowment for the Arts
400 7th St. SW
Washington, DC 20506

Re: 2017 Our Town Planning Process

Haines has a contentious history of planning efforts. Our home rule government agreed to authorize planning powers only 13 years ago. We are not very good at it. That is why the entry of Alaska Arts Confluence as a willing facilitator of planning efforts in the community is a welcome concept.

Alaska Arts Confluence has impacted this community in many positive ways in its short history, and the Chamber fully supports this organization taking the leadership to draw the various stakeholders together to address issues on our waterfront. In fact I think it is the only organization that could. Waterfront is a valuable community resource for competing interests: commercial, industrial, aesthetic, recreational and environmental.

My interest in this project goes beyond support. I strongly advocate for this project as the beginning of a new way of resolving community conflict over land use issues. The Alaska Arts Confluence is uniquely prepared, connected and envisioned to lead a community planning effort focused on our waterfront.

I believe that with this project a new day will dawn.

Sincerely,

Debra Schnabel
Executive Director



Haines Sheldon Museum

PO Box 269 • Haines • Alaska • 99827
(907)-766-2366 Fax: (907) 766-2368
www.sheldonmuseum.org

September 20, 2016

Dear National Endowment for the Arts,

The Haines Sheldon Museum strongly supports the Alaska Arts Confluence's Our Town proposal. The proposal will fund a much-needed planning process for our beautiful historic harbor, engaging a diverse cross-section of stakeholders in proactive planning for the 1.6 mile Portage Cove waterfront. Our concern is that the waterfront, which started as a beautiful sandy curve, is being cut up by differing concerns and not being viewed as a whole asset whose aesthetics greatly enhance our town.

The Haines Sheldon Museum is located on a bluff overlooking the Portage Cove waterfront, just above the small boat harbor. Our site is the location of the first settlement in Haines, the Presbyterian missionary home. From our location, we look at the harbor and the striking Lynn Canal – a mountain-lined fjord at the northern end of the Southeast Alaska water corridor. In our collection, we hold photographs showing the harbor over time, as it became more and more built up.

The museum serves as the anchor between the waterfront and Main Street. The museum's sculpture garden, which has grown rapidly since its inception two years ago thanks to generous private donations, helps encourage visitors who are walking along the waterfront to climb up the hill and explore downtown. We hope that as part of the planning process funded by this grant that we will solidify a vision for direct access to our grounds from the waterfront, and from there into downtown.

The Haines Sheldon Museum shares with Arts Confluence a vision of a better quality of life for citizens through the arts. Creative place making is one way we can make this happen. We have worked together with the Arts Confluence on Art on Main Street, co-founded First Friday, and were key in the development of the Sculpture Garden and Fort Seward Interpretive Walking Tour signage.

In small town Alaska, where the winters can be long and dark, creative outlets and inspiration are vital to the mental health and well-being of the community. These creative outlets include visual arts, impromptu performances (in our town these often use beautiful locally made puppets or Native dancing), skits or storytelling. At the museum, we encourage artists to submit for one-man shows, where they reimagine a small gallery. We also have community guest curators who develop an exhibit around their passion, be it puppets or portraits or Native formline art. Art demonstrations in our water front garden also pull people into town.

I hope that you are able to fund the Arts Confluence's request. It will make a significant difference to our community.

Sincerely,

Helen Alten, Executive Director



The Haines Sheldon Museum is a Haines Borough Facility
Museums, Libraries, Archives -- Your Keys to Lifelong Learning

Haines Arts Council
Thomas Heywood, president
P.O. Box 505
Haines, AK 99827
Heywood@aptalaska.net
907-766-3056


Dear NEA Our Town Grant Committee,

It is with pleasure that I recommend The Arts Confluence of Haines, AK to you for your Our Town grant. Over the past four years the Arts Confluence has made a strong impact on the people of Haines and its visitors. Many of their programs are now thriving in our community. "Art on Main" has displayed and promoted the work of many local artists in the windows of numerous businesses. It is impossible to walk Main Street without getting the feeling that art is a strong part of our town's identity. "First Friday" has transformed businesses and non-profits into galleries each month to feature our artists and get community members assembled under the theme of visual art. The Fort Seward Sculpture Garden pairs local sculptors with our fascinating historic district, and the Fort Seward Walking Tour has become an informative historical walk for many visitors to our town.

I mention the above projects particularly as examples of the ability of the Arts Confluence and their leader, Carol Tuynman, to conceptualize, plan, and execute innovative and impactful projects. In so doing, the Arts Confluence is changing the fabric of Haines. We all feel more connected to our growing identity as an "art town."

I am very excited that the Arts Confluence has taken on the project of developing a comprehensive plan to transform our beautiful waterfront into an accessible and integral part of our community's offerings for residents and visitors alike. Developing our harbor is at the forefront of the consciousness of Haines residents at the current time. Having Arts Confluence plan and implement an attractive and informative access that features and preserves the natural history and beauty of the area gives me confidence that the project will become a reality. They have not failed to deliver on any of their projects.

As the president of the Haines Arts Council for over 15 years now, I have worked hard to bring music, dance, theater and film to Haines. I see Arts Confluence as the perfect complement to my mission with the arts council. The "Our Town" grant contribution to our waterfront project will have an immediate impact on Haines and help create a permanent source of pride for our residents. I hope you will consider Arts Confluence to be worthy of your generous support.

Sincerely,
 9/20/16
Thomas Heywood, Haines Arts Council president



CHILKAT VALLEY NEWS

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To: Our Town Grant Selection Committee

Sept. 19, 2016

Please strongly consider the Alaska Arts Confluence's application for an Our Town Waterfront Planning Grant for Portage Cove, here in Haines, Alaska.

Our waterfront is at a critical crossroads, with a patchwork of recent and planned development promising to alter one of Alaska's great coastal mountain landscapes. Our municipality has been unable to meaningfully plan for this area, although it has made statements in support of trails, beaches and other public improvements.

I have confidence Alaska Arts Confluence could play a critical role in hammering out a community plan for this area acceptable to all interests, given the group's track record of success.

The Arts Confluence has proved itself a quiet engine of progress in our town, steadily helping revitalize Main Street and Fort Seward.

Partnering with businesses, it established storefront art displays and helped with commercial displays to make our commercial thoroughfare attractive. Small-town merchants struggling to survive against Internet sales and big-box stores often lack the time, as well as expertise, to make their businesses attractive.

The Confluence stepped in to help the businesses, and in doing so, helped our town.

The Confluence's "First Friday" program brings as many as 100 or more people downtown on Friday nights, a time slot when our Main Street was most often deserted. These events draw a diversity of residents, providing an important social mixer in our small town and valuable exposure to area artists.

The success of the idea was demonstrated by a number of other stores and attractions (even the Presbyterian Church) opening their doors on Friday nights to be part of the scene.

At historic Fort Seward (conjoined to our downtown), the Arts Confluence sculpture garden has taken a literal junkyard and transformed it into the area's most captivating art installation. The foundation of the demolished barracks for years was a prominent community eyesore. It's now a colorful and intriguing attraction, drawing visitors into the town's history.

The Confluence's Fort Seward interpretive walking tour is an important addition to this privately-owned historic area, as the most recent attempt at providing on-site interpretive information dated to the mid-1980s.

The Alaska Arts Confluence has demonstrated its ability to work with residents from all parts of our community to move its ideas and projects forward. More importantly, the group has proved it knows "where to go" in our town for resources and individuals who make its projects a success.

These attributes, I believe, make Alaska Arts Confluence a worthy planning grant recipient. To date, money spent by this group has not been wasted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Morphet

Publisher,
Chilkat Valley News



9/21/2016

National Endowment for the Arts
“Our Town” Selection Committee

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing in support of the Alaska Arts Confluence. This organization has been a powerhouse from its inception, pulling from disparate community groups to engage them in public projects that have brought art and beauty to the town of Haines. One of the great strengths of this organization is the proactive nature of its work - planning ahead to give enough time for the many stakeholders in different projects to absorb and integrate the information, bringing consensus to a sometimes fractious town of passionate individuals.

KHNS is proud to be a media partner with the Confluence for the Arts. Our mission is to provide information, education and entertainment to our communities. We accomplish this with a small staff and a number of dedicated volunteers and by working closely with our community groups and organizations. Confluence for the Arts is a pleasure to work with because of its collaborative and generous approach to inclusion and creativity.

KHNS has brought artists on the air to speak about *Art on Main Street*, a wonderful beautification of our downtown area showcasing artist's work in local businesses; we run announcements regularly making listeners aware of *First Friday*, an innovative event pairing business and art with a monthly social gathering; *The Sculpture Garden*, *The Fort Seward Interpretive Project Walking Tour* and now the proactive planning for the 1.6 mile Portage Cove waterfront trail between Picture Point and Portage Cove Campground that is underway are just a few of the impressive projects that KHNS has had the pleasure to be involved in.

We are fortunate to live in a place of extraordinary beauty, but it takes hard work and foresight to keep the urban creep at bay. Alaska Arts Confluence and Carol Tuynman in particular, has that foresight as well as the cohesion and efficiency of an extremely well – organized group to make these projects happen in a way that brings together rather than dictates. I hope you will recognize and join us in supporting the Confluence wholeheartedly.

Kay Clements
General Manager, KHNS
907-766-2020 x3 gm@khns.org



Outlier Farm

Cut Flowers & Bouquets
Stephanie Scott

Box 431
6.5 Mile Mud Bay Road
Haines, Alaska 99827
907-766-2718
sscott@aptalaska.net

Seasonal subscriptions for weekly bouquets.

September 20, 2016

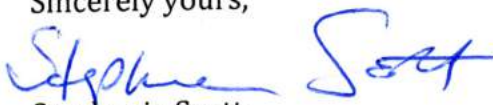
National Endowment for the Arts

RE: Our Town proposal from Alaska Arts Confluence to partner with the Haines Borough to plan a interconnected and accessible waterfront

Over the years the waterfront for the Haines Townsite in the Haines Borough has been subjected to private and public development. However, we have not, as a community, solidified a plan that addresses accessibility for all segments of the community – though we intend to, as evident in the Haines Borough Comprehensive Plan officially adopted by the Haines Borough Assembly. I believe that those relevant sections have been or will be provided to you by the applicant for the Our Town grant. I believe that I can speak for the community's "good intentions," having served on the Assembly for 4 years and more recently as Mayor. What we lacked was a champion for the development of a plan from within the community. We needed a committed and visionary community based partner. I believe that the Arts Confluence is that partner and together, with the elected leaders, we can create a waterfront environment that serves all segments of the population.

I would like to speak as loudly as possible on behalf of one of those segments – the elderly and the disabled. For over a decade, I worked as a special education teacher for the Haines School District. I continue to serve out-of-school individuals with special needs; and as a rising elder myself, I am well-aware of the needs of our 80 – 90- and 100 year olds, many of whom served as backbones for this community –but now, due to lack of foresight and planning, are cut off from enjoying our waterfront. I am a proponent of an accessible path that will connect all segments of the waterfront and will provide healthy and beautiful recreation for children, elders, tourists and community members who, though not boat owners, nor cruise ship passengers, take great delight in observing the environment that supports those who are.

Sincerely yours,


Stephanie Scott

Inspiring Personal Independence



SOUTHEAST ALASKA INDEPENDENT LIVING

PO Box 183, Haines, Alaska 99827, ph/tty: 907-766-3297, fx: 907-766-2753

September 8, 2016

Alaska Arts Confluence
Carol Tuynman
PO Box 1664
Haines, AK 99827

*Thank you Carol! You
guys and gals are doing
Amazing work making Haines
a better place. ♥ Sierra*

Dear Carol and all the wonderful Haines "hightop" artists,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful "Hightops for SAIL" project. Not only was it fun to see all the fantastic works of art on Main Street, the generous donation to SAIL was above and beyond. Thanks in part to your generous donation of \$425, SAIL can continue to work to Inspire Personal Independence for seniors and people with disabilities throughout the Chilkat Valley.

So just what does that mean, Inspiring Personal Independence? For Scott, a young man with Down's syndrome, it meant learning to kayak – he liked it so much, he asked for one for his birthday. Now, he goes out kayaking with his family! For Nadine, it meant getting off the street and into her own apartment. For Cheryl, a senior who uses a wheelchair, it meant the chance to advocate for safe cross walks and accessible buildings. For Ralph, 95 and feeling isolated because he couldn't hear, it meant finding affordable assistive technology to provide amplification, suddenly Ralph could hear again and the world was his oyster. For Marilyn, trapped in her house because there was no ramp for her wheelchair, it meant getting a ramp built by volunteers and having the freedom to get out and mosey around!

There are so many ways SAIL is working to Inspire Personal Independence for seniors and people with disabilities and one thing I feel sure of, we could not do it without the help of caring community members like you. You took the time to think of us when there are so many other organizations doing good works out there as well. All of us here at the SAIL family are truly thankful for that.

I appreciate your trust in us and I assure you, we'll use your donation well. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sierra Jimenez', written over a horizontal line.

Sierra Jimenez
Haines Program Director

Your donation valued at \$425.00 is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Our Federal Tax ID number is 92-0144370. Please consider this letter your receipt.

An Aging and Disability Resource Center and Partner Agency of United Way of Southeast Alaska

Information and Referral · Advocacy · Peer Support · Independent Living Skills Training
De-Institutionalization · Outdoor Recreation and Community Access.(ORCA)

www.sailinc.org