



## Chilkat Valley Community Foundation

An Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation

*“Joyful givers realizing community dreams”*

National Endowment for the Arts  
400 Seventh St. SW  
Washington DC 20506

September 21, 2016

To the NEA Selection Committee,

The Chilkat Valley Community Foundation is happy to submit this letter of support for the Alaska Arts Confluence’s Our Town proposal. The Alaska Arts Confluence is a motivated, energetic and respected organization in Haines. With imagination and skill, they have promoted art and artists through large, public projects.

The mission of the Chilkat Valley Community Foundation is to promote giving to sustain and enhance the quality of community life. We recognize that the Alaska Arts Confluence shares a commitment to a high quality of life for the Haines community. Chilkat Valley Community Foundation has given the Arts Confluence two grants in the last three years to assist them in their efforts.

We are all proud of Art on Main Street. The Arts Confluence works with merchants and artists to bring art to under utilized or vacant storefronts. Now people walking on Main Street see up to 23 windows with displays of art, along with a small sign with the artist’s biography. This has perked up our main business area, and draws the eye of locals and visitors alike. Up to 90 artists have participated in this project since 2014.

Since the Confluence and Skipping Stone Studios started First Friday in January 2015, the event has grown, now with two museums participating regularly. Several times there have been activities for youth at the school garden (Starvin’ Marvin). First Friday in Haines is an idea begun by the Arts Confluence, but it has taken hold up and down Main Street.

The Alaska Arts Confluence has proven that they can work with diverse groups: artists, merchants, Native Alaskans, and the public at large, to provide exciting and informative projects. They add beauty, economy and pride to our community. We hope you will consider the Alaska Arts Confluence for your Our Town award. We feel sure that in their hands our community will accomplish a beautiful waterfront design for our town, which will add to an enriched experience for our many tourists and for the quality of life for local residents.

Sincerely,

Crystal Badgley and Anna Jurgeleit,  
Co-chairs