Presented by: Mayor Botelho
Introduced: 05/21/90
Drafted by: B.J.B.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 1444

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES ACT OF 1965.

WHEREAS, every five years the United States Congress examines whether to continue funding the arts through reauthorization of the National Endowment of the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 (the Act), and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Act is to encourage and support American art and artists and to provide access to, and appreciation of, artistic excellence, and

WHEREAS, Congress will vote this year on whether to reauthorize the Act, and

WHEREAS, through the Act, funding is provided for various arts programs including the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and

WHEREAS, receipt of a grant from NEA or NEH is a highly competitive process requiring strenuous evaluation, and the organizations that receive grants must show a commitment to artistic excellence, and

WHEREAS, local arts programs in Juneau and throughout Alaska receive funds from NEA and NEH through direct grants and indirectly through grants from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and

WHEREAS, this year alone, NEA and NEH provided approximately $502,500 in funding for Perseverance Theatre, the Sealaska Heritage Foundation, and the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council, and

WHEREAS, since their founding, these local arts programs have been primary sources of artistic and cultural enhancement and education for Juneau and Southeast Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the local arts programs in Juneau have provided a positive economic impact on the community with jobs and the purchase of local goods and services, and

WHEREAS, funding from NEA and NEH is critical to the arts programs in Juneau because without federal funding, these programs would not be able to maintain their high level of artistic excellence, diversity, and vitality, and

WHEREAS, the NEA authorization language outlines the process whereby public panels and the National Council on the Arts and Humanities, appointed by the President, make decisions about the funding of local arts projects with federal dollars, and

WHEREAS, this public panel process has served well as a safeguard to ensure that federal dollars are spent wisely, and

WHEREAS, the NEA has awarded over 80,000 grants over its lifetime, nearly all of which have stimulated nothing but praise for the agency;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

1. That the Assembly urges the United States Congress to reauthorize the National Endowment of the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 to assure continued funding of local arts programs in Juneau and throughout the State of Alaska.

2. That the city and borough clerk shall send copies of this resolution to Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Frank Murkowski, Representative Don Young, the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and the Alaska Humanities Forum.

3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this day of 1990.

Mayor

Attest:

James R. Dall

Clerk