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## SAY THANK YOU TO YOUR LEGISLATORS!

The grants distributed by the Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) are made possible by the State of Alaska's financial commitment to our agency. We strongly encourage you to contact your legislators and thank them for their support of the arts in Alaska.

### 1. Write a letter to your elected officials.

Here are some details to include:

- Tell them about the project that was funded by the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and how meaningful the support is to allow you to serve your community.
- If the ASCA grant allowed you to accentuate your program to include additional activities (such as a school outreach activity, working with at-risk youth, the elderly, etc.), talk about how the support made it possible for you to extend your reach into the community.
- Talk about how the state support allows you to leverage other grants.
- If you have any testimonials from audience members about the impact of your program on their lives, be sure to include it, with attribution.
- If your project involves children, set aside some time during the project for the children to write or draw thank you notes. When we visit with legislators, we repeatedly hear how impactful these letters are to them.
- If you have press coverage, include that with the letter.

**2. Who are your legislators?** Contact legislators from your residence, not your business. Legislators want to hear from their constituents. Be sure to contact both your Senator and your House Representative. To locate your legislators, go to: <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/misc/faq.php>. If you can't find your legislators, call our office at 907-269-6610 and we will help you.

### 3. Include a copy of your letter/s in your final report to ASCA.

The online final report form has a space for you to upload your letters.

**Advocacy Tips:** Every event you host is an advocacy and education opportunity. Invite a legislator, and when they attend, make sure you introduce them and publicly thank them! By attending an arts event, a politician is personally exposed to the importance of the arts and the value that arts organizations bring to their community.

Thank you – you are helping to make sure that our elected officials understand the value of public funding of the arts in Alaska!