



ALASKA
NATIVE
HERITAGE
CENTER

8800 Heritage Center Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504

NEWS RELEASE

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Alaska Native Heritage Center Receives ArtPlace Grant

Alaska Native Heritage Center is one of 47 organizations nationwide that have been selected by ArtPlace as a 2012 grant recipient in the amount of \$295,000. ArtPlace is a multi-agency organization supported by public and private funders to foster community development and growth through the arts.

ArtPlace received almost 2200 letters of inquiry from organizations seeking a portion of the \$15.4 million available for grants in this cycle. Inquiries came from 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

“We are honored to be one of the 47 organizations to receive this prestigious award. The generous investment from ArtPlace will be used to expand the reach of the Alaska Native Heritage Center to embrace and reinforce Anchorage as the gateway to the strong, vibrant cultures of Alaska’s indigenous people,” Annette Evans Smith, President & CEO, Alaska Native Heritage Center.

The Heritage Center will implement the “Meet Alaska’s First People” initiative which will build community through Native arts, both by creating an important resource for members of all Alaska Native cultures to develop artistic practices and by establishing a city-wide embracing of Native arts and culture.

“The ArtPlace grant will allow the Center to build community through the sharing of great Alaska Native art, both with Anchorage residents and our visitors from around the world. We look forward to the work ahead: investing in creativity, strengthening collaborations and forging a new sense of community through the transformational power of art,” Ed Bourgeois, Project Director, Alaska Native Heritage Center.

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By dispersing Native art, resources and cultural material throughout the city, a single vibrant hub is created that will serve artists and residents, attract visitors and help us achieve our mission of sharing, perpetuating and preserving the unique Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions and values through celebration and education.

Participating foundations include Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Ford Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, The Robina Foundation, The William Penn Foundation and an anonymous donor. In addition to the NEA, federal partners are the departments of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Education and Transportation, along with leadership from the White House Office of Management and Budget and the Domestic Policy Council. ArtPlace is also supported by a \$12 million loan fund capitalized by six major financial institutions and managed by the Nonprofit Finance Fund. Participating institutions are Bank of America, Citi, Deutsche Bank, Chase, MetLife and Morgan Stanley.

A complete list of this year's ArtPlace awards can be found at artplaceamerica.org.

*The Alaska Native Heritage Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to sharing, perpetuating, and preserving Alaska Native cultures, languages, traditions and values through celebration and education. It is located at **8800 Heritage Center Drive in northeast Anchorage, just off Muldoon Road North near Bartlett High School**. For more information about other events and programs, visit www.alaskanative.net*