

Alaska Native Heritage Center Expansion and Improvements

FY2007 Request: \$250,000
Reference No: 40498

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Development
Location: Anchorage Areawide
House District: Anchorage Areawide (HD 17-32)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2011

Project Type: Construction
Recipient: Alaska Native Heritage Center
Contact: Samuel Thomas
Contact Phone: (907)465-2506

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Grant to the Alaska Native Heritage Center for the repair and construction of Alaskan Native village exhibit sites. This request contributes to the Department's mission of promoting a healthy economy and strong communities by assisting the tourism industry and those businesses benefiting from the tourism industry.

Funding:	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	Total
Gen Fund	\$250,000						\$250,000
Total:	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Project Description/Justification:

Grant to the Alaska Native Heritage Center for the repair and construction of five Alaskan Native village exhibit sites. The Alaska Native Heritage Center is the only statewide Native educational and cultural center in Alaska that showcases the cultures of Alaska's Native peoples to visitors and our schoolchildren.

During the winter months, work focuses on the time sensitive and critical work of preserving Alaska Native cultures, traditions, languages, and values. In this way, the Center serves as significant venue for the presentation and practice of Alaska Native storytelling, fine arts, and cultural traditions. Schoolchildren from throughout our state have an opportunity to learn about the traditions of Alaska and to see artists practice their crafts.

During the summer months, the Center is a premier tourist destination in partnership with international and Alaska tour operators and offers over 100,000 visitors to the city of Anchorage a first-class facility in which to immerse themselves in the rich traditions of Native Alaskans. Since opening, the Center has hosted more than 650,000 visitors of all ages and ethnicities. It has become a very important part of building a positive image for our state and is a major reason why tourists travel to Alaska each year. As such, the Center is a valuable part of the State's tourism infrastructure.

Other important economic impacts include the 100 plus jobs it creates and a marketing outlet for rural handicrafts and cultural art items.

The Center is beginning a project to repair and construct five village sites representing dwellings from each of the State's five regions. Phase I will provide the infrastructure such as irrigation, electricity, and gas lines for three new sites and the reconstruction of the two sites that have been taken out of service. Phase II and III will consist of construction of museum-

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quality exhibit structures and design elements for all the village sites.

Total cost of the project is approximately \$2.3 million, most of which will be raised from private donors.