



Engineering & Public Works Department

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DATE: July 1, 2019

TO: Michelle Hale, Chair
Public Works and Facilities Committee

FROM: Mike Vigue, Director
Engineering & Public Works

SUBJECT: Grant Appropriations for Downtown Wayfinding

The CBJ has been successful, through the Rasmuson Foundation and the Alaska Humanities Forum, for grant awards to further the Downtown Wayfinding project. The Rasmuson Foundation awarded CBJ \$25,000 and the Alaska Humanities Forum awarded CBJ \$10,000 to create and install the Community Voices Audio Wayfinding project as part of the Downtown Wayfinding project.

The CBJ will collaborate with internationally recognized arts and community engagement company Ping Chong + Company (PCC), Southeast Alaskan musicians, and media producers to create a set of site-specific audio installations that will guide Juneau visitors and locals on a journey through downtown Juneau. The installations will be linked to the wayfinding and interpretive system to be installed throughout downtown in spring of 2020. PCC artists Ryan Conarro and Lillian Petershoare (Tlingit), both of whom bring artistic and research expertise as well as deep connections to Juneau, will produce the wayfinding installation series featuring the real voices and stories of diverse Juneauites. They will share historical and contemporary stories that reveal the complex, 3-dimensional history of Alaska's Capital City, tethered specifically to key sites around downtown. This project will illuminate the lesser-known histories of Juneau: its original and ongoing Tlingit community, gold rush era, fisheries, political histories, and geographical features, awakening Juneau residents and visitors to a deeper understanding of place and community.

Conarro and Petershoare met as collaborators on PCC's recent theatrical production of community stories "Aan Yátx'u Sáani: Noble People of the Land," in collaboration with the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council. To create the installations, community members will participate in story circles, dialogues, and interviews.

At the August 6, 2018 PWFC meeting the Committee approved staff to pursue the grants for this aspect of the Downtown Wayfinding project with matching funds identified, \$15,000 from Downtown Streets project CIP R72-116 and \$5,000 from the Downtown Wayfinding project CIP D12-097.

CBJ staff requests that the PWFC recommend to the full Assembly the approval of the appropriation of these two grants and the transfer of \$15,000 from R72-116 to D12-097.