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\$1,500 Arts & Culture Emergency Relief COVID-19 Grant For Alaska Artists

Press Release

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Alaska artists who have been financially burdened by the COVID-19 pandemic are invited to apply for a \$1,500 Alaska Arts and Culture Emergency Relief (ACERF) COVID-19 Grant before June 30, 2020.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts, the Alaska Arts and Culture Foundation, the Atwood Foundation, and Rasmuson Foundation have partnered to create the Alaska Arts and Culture Emergency Relief (ACERF) COVID-19 Grant Program.

ACERF will continue beyond the current crisis to provide emergency relief to Artists and Community Arts Organizations experiencing hardship due to extenuating circumstances, natural disasters, and any other unforeseen financial emergencies. The Alaska State Council on the Arts and the Arts and Culture Foundation are thrilled to continue providing this important resource to the community.

"The Arts and Culture Foundation is so pleased to be a part of this new effort to provide financial relief for Alaska's artists," added Norm Campbell, Alaska Arts & Culture Foundation President. "We all know the on-going severity of the problem facing our arts and culture communities. This collaborative effort is an important first step to bring aid and support to those in need.

Applications are competitive and will be evaluated by a selection committee. Alaska artists can apply for the ACERF COVID-19 grant starting June 10, 2020, and learn more about eligibility and criteria with the Submittable application found here:

<https://artsalaska.submittable.com/submit>.

"Artists are such an important part of what makes our state so great. They are the heart and soul of our communities, adding richness to our lives. We are glad to be able to provide a little assistance in their time of need." said Diane Kaplan, President, and CEO of Rasmuson Foundation.

"Right now, artists are out of work – completely out of work. There are no tourists to buy the work of artists. Actors, singers and dancers can't even wait tables. Until theatres, galleries, and other arts businesses fully open up, artists need this assistance to meet their basic economic needs." said Executive Director Ira Perman of the Atwood Foundation

"I am so grateful for the long-standing relationship between ASCA and the Rasmuson and Atwood Foundations, which allowed us to come up with this response to the pandemic in a relatively short timeframe," said Benjamin Brown, Chairman of the Alaska State Council on the Arts. "We are eager to get this relief and support out to Alaskans whose livelihoods are based in arts and culture activity, and we are committed to continuing this support in the future as robustly as possible. Alaskans are resilient, and we will get through this by helping one another and emerge stronger in the long run."