

Cultural Festival opens

The first Annual Southeast Alaska Native Cultural Festival will open in Sitka on March 26 and run through March 28. The program includes a Fine Arts Competition and Show which is being judged by Ron Senungutuk, Chairman of the Art Department at the University of Alaska - Fairbanks. Other Festival highlights include history

sessions, traditional dedication of the new Native Community center, a reading by Native American novelist James Welch, a State-Federal Private Inter-agency session on Native cultural programs, and a meeting of the Institute of Alaskan Native Arts Committee. The program is partially funded by grants from the National Endowment for the

Arts and the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Meanwhile, more than 3,100 Anchorage school children got a chance to observe Native craftsmen and artists from many parts of Alaska during the week of March 5-9.

The Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum provided a stage for 15 craftsmen and artists and 36 student dancers from Hoona, Toosuk Bay, and Minto, who shared their knowledge, skills, and traditions with visiting elementary school classes.

The week closed with a potlatch at Fairview School, where 80 Native students are in attendance.