

State council forms Native arts committee

ANCHORAGE--The Alaska State Council on the Arts is looking for money to hire a Native arts specialist, and has announced the formation of a Native Arts Committee.

The council is waiting for word from the legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts on what funds are available.

The move came at least partly in response to a recommendation of the cultural heritage task force, an ad hoc group of Native artists on the council. The task force disbanded when council chairperson Jean Mackin announced formation of the new Native Arts standing committee.

The task force also recommended that the council set aside a percentage of program funds for cultural heritage projects and that it seek new funding sources and coordinate efforts to increase funding for the

Native arts. It was also recommended that the council coordinate and integrate Native arts into its present programs and review existing Native arts programs in the state for assistance.