

Art in School Takes Its Place

The arts are taking their place in the school curriculum alongside the sciences and the spelling bee.

Artists-in-Schools, the program initiated by the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., a federal agency, is catching fire in Alaska.

The results of the recent meeting of the Alaska State Council on the Arts show plans for a \$115,090.00 statewide program of state money, Endowment funds, and grants from the U.S. Office of Education to be matched by money from the local school districts participating in the projects.

The projects are conditional on local monetary participation.

In Bethel, for example, the Bethel Middle School is planning to provide \$8,000.00 to match Alaska State Arts Council grants for a program in Actors-in-School, Dance Movement Teacher, Visual Arts/Crafts Program, and a Film Program.

The intent of the program is not only to have the artist per-

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form a teaching function for the students and other teachers but for the students to have the opportunity to see an artist at work on his or her own project.

"Last year, schools in the state put up a total of only \$4,000.00 for pilot projects in film, dance, poetry and visual arts programs," says Melinda Godshalk, A.I.S. coordinator for the Alaska State Council on the arts.

"As a result of the successful residencies in Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Nome, Juneau, Barrow and Dillingham, the artists-in-the-schools concept is catching fire. Next year is the local school boards budget the \$42,500.00 the administrations have pledged, we will be able to expand the program dramatically."