

It's Rather Desperate—

Native Arts Festival In Need of Money

Few artists have ever been known as moneybags, and Native artists at the University of Alaska are no exception. More than 20 faculty and student organizers of the 2nd Annual Alaska Native Arts Festival met last Friday to discuss their financial situation.

According to Al Hill, one of the faculty organizers, last year's festival cost about \$8,000. This year, to put on the same show for the same length of time, it's going to cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Expenses include lodging, meals and transportation for festival participants who come from as far away as Barrow and Southeastern Alaska, and the cost of posters and programs.

So far the group has only been able to raise \$2,100, of which \$1,000 has come from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. A total of \$1,100 has come from BP Alaska, Arco, and Arctic Gas Co.

One student quipped that the amount raised so far would "get about one person from the Aleutians up here."

At Friday's meeting, representatives were appointed to meet with the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Alaska to seek assistance. Last year ASUA put up money for food and lodging. Festival representatives will also begin soliciting contributions from Fairbanks area businesses.

"We're still looking forward to raising \$15,000 if we can," said Theresa Tomczak, festival coordinator. However, when asked to characterize the festival's financial plight she said, "We would say it's rather desperate."