

Preparations for Annual Festival of Native Arts Under Way

FAIRBANKS — Preparations University of Alaska, Fairbanks. all corners of the state will share Organized by native students understanding and appreciation for the Second Annual Festival of For five days and nights, April with audiences the unique and faculty, the festival was for the wide range of artistic Native Arts are under way at the 1-5, artists and performers from heritage of Alaska's native peoples. initiated last year to broaden (Continued on Page 6)

Native Arts Festival . . .

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diversity among Alaskan native cultures. The festival this year will highlight all the major cultural groups: Aleut, Athabascan, Yupik and Inupiaq Eskimo, Haida, Tlingit, and Tsimshian.

The festival will feature dancers, singers and storytellers from many areas. Last year, dance teams from as widely separated points as Pilot Station, Juneau, Tanana, and Wainwright participated.

Artists and craftsmen will be on hand to demonstrate wood and ivory sculpture, skin sewing, sled making, and basket weaving. Noted speakers will explain the history and traditions of native cultures. Throughout the festival, art exhibits from the university and on loan from other institutions will be on display.

The festival is free to the public. All participants donate their time and talents, yet the expense of the festival itself is great. According to Alessandro Hill, a faculty organizer, last year's festival cost \$8,000. Airfare, meals and lodging for festival participants this year is going to cost about \$15,000.

So far, the festival has raised

slightly over \$3,000. Of that amount, \$1,000 has come from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Alaska International Air contributed an equal amount, while BP Alaska, Atlantic Richfield and Arctic Gas have given a total of \$1,100. Cook Inlet Regional Corporation donated \$50.

The festival welcomes contributions from individuals, groups, and businesses interested in promoting native arts.

The festival would also like to contact native artists and performers willing to donate their time and skills. Interested persons should write one of the following student coordinators: Aleut - Arline Moses, Unalaska; Athabascan - Violet Esmailka, Kaltag; Yupik Eskimo - Kay Thomas, Dillingham; Inupiaq Eskimo - Nancy Gray, Barrow; Haida, Tlingit and Tsimshian - Alessandro Hill, Hoonah.

All donations and correspondence should be addressed to Festival of Native Arts, Box 95551, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 997011.