

# Cultural facilities plan unveiled

Twelve community representatives unveiled their building plans for cultural facilities recently in the State Capitol. These official spokesmen met for a House hearing of the Community and Regional Affairs Committee to seek support for the passage of House Bill 781 and 782 which provides for a \$30 million bond issue to build these facilities. This is projected as Phase I of a statewide effort to build cultural facilities that may eventually exceed \$80 million.

These 12 communities, all members of the Cultural Facilities Development Committee, Inc., include: Angoon, Anchorage, Cordova, Dillingham, Haines, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Naknek, Petersburg, Sitka, and Skagway. Cultural facilities as defined by the committee is a facility which principal function is a theatre, concert hall, museum, with additional compatible uses, such as conventions, community meetings, and library services, as determined by each community.

Allen Gregg, president of the Cultural Facilities Development, Inc., stated, "The plans being presented today are the results of over three years of planning and work by these communities, and will affect 64 percent of the residents in Alaska who live in these 12 communities. The comprehensive need assessment conducted in each city or village has isolated these facilities as a high pri-

ordinator of the office, stated, "Alaska is a state with awesome natural beauty and with such pleasing aesthetics as a backdrop, it is not surprising to see the growth in the arts. Alaska is now No. 1 in the nation in its per capita spending for the arts, New York is second. This growth is a positive economic stimulus, especially in communities such as Skagway, Kodiak and Ketchikan with active growth in tourism and conventions industries.

These proposed cultural facilities plans are as diverse as the communities they represent. Angoon, a village of 400, is building a "Living Museum;" its primary purpose will be to serve as a museum for the artifacts owned by the community. Without a fireproof "high security" building many valuable Indian artifacts risk being lost.

In contrast the Anchorage facility developed by the Anchorage Bi-Centennial Commission in consultation with theater consultant S. Leonard Auerback, is a complex which includes a 2,200 seat music hall, a 800 seat drama theater and a 250 seat studio theater. There are over 250 performing groups in Anchorage. Representatives from Anchorage stated the present facilities can not meet the demand for space.

Naknek, like Angoon, is building a museum. Dillingham's multi-purpose building will have many functions including performing arts, nursery

chives for the city.

Juneau's Performing Art Center has a proposed 750 seat theater, a smaller meeting room, crafts shops and some radio and future television studios.

Sitka Intercultural Arts Center has a proposed 750 seat theater, space for the visual arts, and a 250 seat arena area.

The impetus for planning these facilities was generated in part from an appropriation of \$68,000 from the Alaska Legislature, \$10,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts. Contributions from each participating community made the total funds spent on this statewide planning at \$136,000. The funds allowed communities to hire consultants and technicians to implement the planning process. Theater consultants used in the planning were Eldon Elder of New York, and S. Leonard Auerback of San Francisco, and Fred Bureki Associates of Madison, Wisc.

Each community has developed a comprehensive report from these consultants, schematics or blueprints, cost breakdowns of construction as well as the maintenance and operating costs.

Official resolutions from each community certify the local government's willingness to administer funds for construction and local management of the facility.