

Native arts institute meeting

A conference on the design of an Alaska Native arts institute will take place in Anchorage on May 18-19, according to Laura M. Bergt, chairman of the Institute of Alaska Native Arts Committee (INAC).

"The session will bring together a broadly representative group of people interested in contributing toward the objective of creating an institute for Native arts," said Ms. Bergt.

About 25 individuals will be invited to participate and observe at the conference, scheduled to be held at the Anchorage Westward Hilton. INAC has been engaged in a four-year effort to promote development of a Native arts institute.

The concept of such a program was advanced by the late Eskimo artist and Tundra Times publisher Howard Rock after a visit to the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Ms. Bergt is a member of the Board of Regents of the Santa Fe school.

After receiving initial financing from the Indian Arts and Crafts Board of the Department of the Interior, the project recently obtained aid in grant form from the State of Alaska.

Other than Ms. Bergt, Native Arts Institute Board members include Mary Jane Fate, past president of the North American Indian Womens' Association, former Alaska Federation of Natives President Roger Lang, Professor Ronald W. Senungetuk, University of Alaska, and Tundra Times President Thomas Richards, Jr.