

THE PARTNERSHIP

SUPPORTING JUNEAU'S
CAPITAL CIVIC CENTER

May 6, 2024

Christine Woll, Chair
Assembly Finance Committee
City and Borough of Juneau
155 Heritage Way
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chairwoman Woll:

I write this letter in support of Deputy Mayor Hale's sponsorship of funding for the Capital Civic Center from marine passenger fees.

As you know, The Partnership, Inc. has been working towards the construction of an arts and culture center to replace the aging National Guard Armory Building for more than a decade. While the configurations have changed over that period, the core elements have not. They have all included a 299 seat theater, a versatile event space, conference areas, and a community main hall as well as a café, visual arts gallery, gift shop, office spaces, conference halls and small meeting rooms.

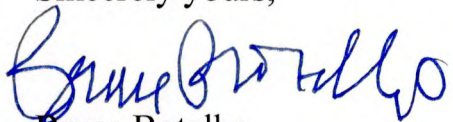
What has changed is our aspiration that the arts and culture center be an integrated part of a **Capital Civic Center** that consists of the newly renovated Centennial Hall, the arts and culture center and a fully-enclosed commons that joins the two buildings. Internally, we have treated the recently completed renovations of Centennial Hall as "Phase I", the arts and culture center as "Phase II" and the commons as "Phase III". Ideally, phases II and III would be completed simultaneously to avoid multiple mobilization and demobilization efforts with the attendant additional costs.

We have been actively, though quietly, accelerating our fund-raising efforts and expect to announce several gift and grant awards in the coming weeks. Other prospective donors are awaiting signals that the project is materially moving forward. In addition, we have retained lobbyists to work alongside Katie Kachel to secure Congressionally Designated Spending in the FY25 federal budget. We also have a pending grant application before the Economic Development Administration.

Our goal in calendar year 2025 is to complete all project design and construction documents and to break ground. We need to have between \$22 and \$24 million in hand or committed before we begin actual construction. We have a high level of confidence that funders will quickly join the project once it is actually underway.

As in the past, federal funding remains a linchpin to advancing this course of action. Appropriating the requested \$4 million of marine passenger fees will reinforce to our Congressional delegation the city's commitment to the project. It will simultaneously spur other donors to action. Further appropriations from the marine passenger fees will coincide with the on-going construction/payment schedule in 2026 and 2027.

Sincerely yours,



Bruce Botelho
Co-Chair