FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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$480,000 to Alaska Organizations through the Supporting the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP)

Anchorage, AK – As Alaska’s state humanities council, the Alaska Humanities Forum is honored to distribute and administer funds allocated by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as a means of Supporting the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP).

Through SHARP, the NEH provides funding opportunities to rapidly distribute American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funding to cultural organizations and educational institutions adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. This initiative aims to help the humanities community recover from the economic burdens of the pandemic, enable the reopening of humanities institutions and programs, and support the retention of the humanities workforce.

“As it has been for most of the country, this past year has been an extremely difficult one for our nation’s cultural institutions,” said NEH Acting Chairman Adam Wolfson. “Through both direct grants and support for grantmaking organizations in the humanities, NEH will work quickly to distribute this much-needed American Rescue Plan relief funding to help restore the health of our cultural and educational institutions and bring economic recovery to the thousands of Americans they employ.”

Alaska Veterans Museum Board member Mercedes Angerman commented, “We rely heavily on summer tourism revenue, and due to the pandemic, there was none. We also anticipated a drop in membership revenue both with current members unable to afford renewals and potential members not choosing to join due to limited discretionary funds.”

New SHARP grants totaling $480K will build upon NEH’s distribution of CARES Act funding in 2020, when the Alaska Humanities Forum distributed nearly $450,000 in NEH CARES grants to 76 nonprofit and tribal organizations across the state. Like the CARES Act grants, the new SHARP funding will allow museums, historic sites, archives, and other organizations to retain humanities jobs, continue operations, and build online programs and resources.

“This operational funding will support Qizhjah Heritage Institute administrative, facility, and utility costs, and the salary of a key staff member undertaking work on childcare across Alaska,” said QHI Executive Director Ventura Samaniego. “It will make a significant difference in QHI’s capacity to work on COVID recovery in a sector that is at the base of the economy and that families desperately need.”

Congratulations to the following awardees of operational funding:
Affinityfilms, Inc.
Alaska Aviation Museum
Alaska Historical Society
Alaska Jewish Campus
Alaska Native Heritage Center
Alaska Veterans Museum
Alaska World Affairs Council
Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository
Anchorage International Film Festival (AIFF)
Anchorage Museum
About the Alaska Humanities Forum: The mission of the Alaska Humanities Forum is to connect Alaskans through stories, ideas, and experiences that positively change lives and empower communities. Our vision is a culturally rich, economically vibrant, and equitable Alaska where people are engaged, informed, and connected. Since 1972, The Forum has been Alaska’s state Humanities Council under the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is one of 56 state and territorial groups supported by the NEH and the Federation of State Humanities Councils.