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To Whom It May Concern:

The Juneau Economic Development Council fosters a healthy and sustainable economic climate in Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska. In collaboration with other organizations, JEDC implements initiatives to maintain, expand, and create jobs and economic opportunities. JEDC expresses its support to construct a new Juneau Arts and Cultural center in downtown Juneau.

Juneau is a community with concentrated employment in the arts. Our concentration in the arts is a source of future employment, attracts people to our community to experience and purchase our arts, and increases sales at restaurants and other merchants. The arts have consistently proven to be a principal source of economic activity in communities in Southeast Alaska, employing approximately 2000 people (full and part time) and contributing well in excess of \$50 million to the regional economy. JEDC supports the new JACC because it will contribute to the continuing development of Juneau as a statewide and regional arts and cultural campus, and will enhance Juneau's attractiveness as a meeting center and tourist destination.

Having a rich arts community is positively correlated with increased entrepreneurship. The capacity to innovate (fostered through quality arts education) is the primary driver of economic growth in the US Economy. Having a vibrant arts culture also increases the quality of life in our community, which makes Juneau a more attractive place to live, work and raise a family, which is good for the entire economy.

For these reasons, JEDC supports the construction of a new Juneau Arts and Cultural center in downtown Juneau.

Sincerely,

Brian Holst
Executive Director