

JUNEAU LYRIC OPERA
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September 26, 2019

Re: Endorsement of New JACC

Dear Nancy,

The board and staff at Juneau Lyric Opera (JLO) have appreciated being included in the early planning discussions for the New JACC, and want to express our enthusiastic support and eagerness of the construction of the new complex. Juneau definitely needs this top flight, multi-purpose facility!

Juneau has an incredibly active and vibrant arts community that promotes commerce and drives a thriving economic avenue called the arts economy. The arts community brings heads in beds, and money in the pockets of the many artists in our community; not to mention the restaurants, and shops. What better way to promote this thriving economy than to build a beautiful facility that will not only enhance the experience for viewers and users but entice more.

The addition of a new, modern facility will not only significantly enhance the professional quality of events produced there, but also visually enhance the perceptibly tired and worn look of Juneau's current art district. The New JACC complex would be an anchor for arts groups and community gathering places, and a stunning compliment to a renovated Centennial Hall and the neighboring Alaska State Museum for both visitors and locals to enjoy year-round.

As a planned regular user of the proposed complex, JLO knows first-hand the challenges in securing adequate rehearsal and performance space in Juneau, and the New JACC's campus design concept with Centennial Hall would fulfill the needs of several groups simultaneously. We echo the sentiments expressed by Juneau Dance Theatre: "The Juneau Arts and Humanities Council has done wonders administering its many programs, and creating a welcoming space within the decaying walls of the armory for the past decade. But it's time to move forward with replacing the dilapidated building."

On a personal note, when my husband and I considered moving to Juneau in 2013, it was at the top of my "must have" list that we move to a community with a thriving arts scene. We had never been to Alaska, but learning this city, despite its size and location challenges, had an opera company, professional theatre company, a ballet, symphony, and several other well-established arts groups was what drove us to make the decision to make Juneau our new home. I have no doubt the construction of a quality performing arts and community event center would be an economic driver by attracting new residents and businesses to Juneau.

Sincerely,

Sara Radke Brown
Executive Director