11/06/2020

Lend A Hand Committee
Co-op Market Grocery & Deli
526 Gaffney Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
marketing@coopmarket.org

Dear Awards Committee Chair and members:

The Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center offers free access to family friendly, educational, authentic experiences of Interior Alaska. Visitors to our center can interact with park rangers and Explore Fairbanks visitor services staff; explore our world-class exhibit of Alaska’s seasons, subsistence and economic activities, recreational opportunities, and cultural traditions; and experience Alaska Native culture through programming led by Tanana Chiefs Conference and the elders’ organization Denakkanaga. Through our own programming and our partners’ services to the public, the center fills its role as an economic driver, a community gathering place, and an organizational support to Alaska Native culture-bearers. Approximately 150,000 people visit the building each year under normal conditions.

As a self-sustaining 501(c)3 support organization for the non-profit partners it houses, the main purpose of the MTCVC is to be the “place” where their work can best be done. Our lean operating budget comes from lease fees paid by the partners. We seek additional funding for events and activities programming, capital improvements, and special projects. In the past two years we have sought and used grants and sponsorships to do energy efficiency upgrades, create a Native Language exhibit, conduct workshops on collections care for Interior Alaska museums, and offer online workshops in traditional Athabascan beadwork.

If selected for the Lend a Hand program, the MTCVC would use the funds in support of our non-operating costs in 2021, which will include live-streamed Alaska Native cultural programming, solar sensors to improve energy efficiency in our facility, and capacity building for seeking federal grants for cultural programs. We would tell the story of the support received in our newsletter, the blog on our website, and on our Face Book page.

Thank you for considering our application. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (907) 750-5239 if I may provide further information.

Sincerely,

Sara Harriger
2021 LEND A HAND APPLICATION
Deadline: November 30, 2020

OUR MISSION
Co-op Market Grocery & Deli works for health and sustainability by providing healthful foods and products, promoting local suppliers, and offering consumer education in an open, community-centered environment, through a viable business.

OUR VALUES
• Service – We are committed to the joy of true service, putting the needs of others first in a way that touches lives and hearts. Our service is an honor and a privilege.
• Sustainability – We seek to sustain our co-op’s financial health and growth while working toward solutions to economic development that consider the health our community and planet.
• Social Responsibility – We believe that our actions must benefit the global community at large. This means that we promote justice and equity in all of our relationships and are committed to the people who use and work for our business.

Name of Organization: Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center
Mailing Address: 101 Dunkel St, Ste 210
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Contact Name: Sara Harriger
Contact Email: Sara@MorrisThompsonCenter.org
Phone: 750-5239
Website: www.MorrisThompsoncenter.org
Facebook: @morristhomsoncenter

Name and address for check remittance (if it differs from above):
Name: Morris Thompson Center
Mailing Address:
City, State, Zip:

Is this a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization? Yes No If yes, please include certification with application.

Has your organization been a Lend a Hand recipient in the past? Yes No If so, when? 

Which month would you prefer us to fundraise for your organization? April

Note: December is not available. We cannot guarantee your month of choice.
INSTRUCTIONS
Please include a cover letter on your organization’s official letterhead with this form.
Attach a separate sheet with answers to the following questions.

1. Please provide your mission statement and a brief summary of your organization’s work.
2. How does your work align with Co-op Market’s mission and values?
3. How will the Lend a Hand funds be used?
4. If your organization has received funding from Co-op Market in the past, please describe how this funding supported your organization and mission.
5. What is your elevator pitch? Cashiers usually have about 10 seconds to describe our monthly recipient to a shopper. Please describe your organization and how the funds will be used in 100 words or less.

Applications will be published on our website. For this reason, please include no more than one piece of supplemental information (brochure, flyer, annual report, etc.) with your application.

In December, our Owners will vote to select our 2021 Lend a Hand recipients. If your organization is selected, we will require the following:
- 2 or 3 high resolution photos representing your work. Please include a photo release for any people appearing in your photos.
- A high resolution, printable jpg of your organization’s logo.
- Promotion of the Lend a Hand program via your website, newsletter and/or social media pages.
- Brochures or flyers about your organization if available.

Important Note
We do not donate to individuals, national charities, political candidates or organizations, organizations that advance a particular religious belief, or organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability or status in any other protected group.

Submit applications to the attention of Kristin Summerlin, Marketing & Owner Services Manager:
- via email to marketing@coopmarket.org (preferred). Be sure to include scans of supporting materials.
- by hand delivery to the Customer Service Desk.
- by mail to the following address: Co-op Market Grocery & Deli, 526 Gaffney Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

Mission Statement: "A Place for Gathering, Discovery, Education, and Celebration."

Organization background/summary: The Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center (MTCVC) is a 501(c)3 organization supporting an innovative partnership of synergistic, but not similar, organizations and serving over 150,000 visitors a year in Fairbanks, Alaska. The partner organizations include Fairbanks' destination marketing agency, Explore Fairbanks; the National Park Service's Fairbanks Alaska Public Lands Information Center; Tanana Chiefs Conference's Cultural Programs department; and Denakkanaaga, an organization serving as the voice for Athabaskan elders in Interior Alaska. Together, we provide to visitors and Interior Alaska residents a unique, beautiful place filled with opportunities to learn about the people, ways of life, and lands of Interior Alaska. In addition to serving tourists, student groups, and locals at the facility, Interior Alaska residents benefit from MTCVC-based "Cultural Traditions" workshops conducted in villages. Rural artists sell their wares directly to the Alaska Native Gift Shop at the Center for resale to visitors there. And businesses in rural areas promote themselves at the MTCVC visitor center, where visitors seek information on how to plan their trip into the Interior.

How funding will be used: If selected for Lend a Hand funding, we will put it to use where the need is greatest in support of our non-operating programs which will include live-streamed Alaska Native cultural programming, solar sensors to improve energy efficiency in our facility, and capacity building for seeking federal grants for cultural programs. This type of support allows us to keep operating costs low for our partners while we continue offering free, open access to our exhibits, cultural programs, and in-person services at the Morris Thompson Center.

Elevator Pitch: The Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center is your first stop in Fairbanks and your gateway to Interior Alaska. Whether you are a long time resident or a first-time visitor the Morris Thompson Center is the place to go to learn about local peoples, cultures, lifeways, lands, and history. We have beautiful educational exhibits that are great for families, and helpful expert staff to give you advice on local services, activities, and public lands. And admission is 100% free, with great parking!
Date: APR 15 2005

MORRIS THOMPSON CULTURAL & VISITORS CENTER
C/O CINDY SCHUMAKER
122 FIRST AVE STE 600
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701

Employer Identification Number:
20-1113317
DLN:
17053210013024
Contact Person:
RONALD BENJAMIN
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:
September 30
Public Charity Status:
509(a)(3)
Form 990 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
February 26, 2004
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Information for Exempt Organizations Under Section 501(c)(3) for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Lois G. Lerner
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Enclosures: Information for Organizations Exempt Under Section 501(c)(3)