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## Lend A Hand Supplemental Questions

1. Fairbanks Arts Association's mission is to promote contemporary and traditional arts in Alaska's Interior. Since 1966, Fairbanks Arts has provided service, information, and support to local artists, organizations, and audiences in addition to multi-generational programming in performing arts, literary arts, visual arts, and arts education. As a local arts organization, one of our most important roles in the community is to listen to and respond to what the community need is– which changes over time. In its' earlier days, Fairbanks Arts sponsored a wide variety of arts opportunities unavailable elsewhere; ballet, opera, musical theatre and more until area groups whose growth we assisted established nonprofit status. As other arts groups developed and increased the capacity of our arts community, we shifted our focus to offerings that were not available elsewhere, such as arts in education partnerships with our school district, professional development workshops, and a variety of opportunities for artists in all disciplines.
2. Fairbanks Arts is a service organization that truly believes that the arts are a *crucial* facet of community health. For over fifty years, we have provided programs and services in and through the arts to support the social, cultural, and economic health of our community. Our work is a matter of social responsibility– the arts serve as critical translators within communities as a space for dialogue, inquiry, and understanding. Artists, arts organizations, and arts participation are a social pillar and economic drivers within our community. Our organization is a point of connection; Fairbanks Arts is often the first stop for folks looking to connect with creative opportunities within the community.

Our arts education programs include artists-in-schools residencies, teaching artist professional development opportunities, and live performances for students of renowned artists, musicians, and actors offered by Fairbanks Concert Association, Fairbanks Drama Association, and Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra. We also provide education opportunities for the wider community that include workshops, craft talks, visiting presenters (from foundations or other organizations), trainings, meetings with community leaders, and more.

Making sure the arts are accessible to our community is at the forefront of our planning. Fairbanks Arts maintains a year-round gallery and gift shop that are free and open to the public, provides free nightly summer concerts, and offers venues with fee waivers to member dance groups, visual artists, quilters, and special arts events.

Our central location in Pioneer Park allows us to provide resources to a diversity of community members. As the official city and borough arts nonprofit, we strongly believe that everyone

rises when we combine efforts and support one another. Fairbanks Arts also conducts research for the mutual benefit of community organizations. In 2022-2023, we are partnering with Americans for the Arts to conduct Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6), the sixth national study of the economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture industry. Economic impact studies like these expand the conversation about how many people view the arts. While most appreciate the cultural benefit provided to our community, few realize that our local arts industry supports jobs, generates government revenue, and is a cornerstone of tourism. Our local nonprofit arts and culture organizations have been and will continue to be critical to our economic recovery. Projects such as the AEP6, which serve to enrich support for the arts within our community, are just one example of our organization's advocacy efforts to strengthen the artistic and cultural health of our community.

3. Funds earned from the Lend a Hand program will directly support the annual Up With Art K-12 FNSBSD Student Exhibition in the Bear Gallery. Every March, during National Youth Art Month, Fairbanks Arts is proud to host hundreds of artworks by students in the gallery. The show includes modest scholarships and prizes to students to support and encourage their continued artistic endeavors. We would be grateful for the Co-op Market's support of this important, annual celebration of youth creativity and talent.
4. Fairbanks Arts has not received funding from the Co-op Market before.
5. As a local arts agency, Fairbanks Arts works to provide access, connection, and opportunities in and through the arts for multi-generational audiences of interior Alaska. Through diverse programs and services, it seeks to create a healthier, more vibrant community where people are proud to work, live, visit, and thrive. Lend a Hand funds will support arts education through direct support of Fairbanks Arts' annual student art show, Up With Art. This celebration of young artist's talent and creativity takes place each March in the Bear Gallery during National Youth Art Month.