

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Botanical Garden****Federal Tax ID: 92-0115504****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

# Alaska Botanical Garden - Horticultural Research and Propagation Site

**State Funding Requested: \$375,000****House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

This project will complete construction of the Alaska Botanical Garden's small-scale on-site building for Garden operations and horticultural research-propagation site. This project is the culmination of the Garden's Phase 1 Master Plan development, and is urgently needed to improve visitor services to the public and provide on-site supervision of the Garden assets.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$1,500,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$1,125,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$375,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:*

*Prior Phase I funding was from 2 U.S. Dept. of HUD grants, individual and business donations, grants from the Rasmuson and Atwood Foundations, and FY12 State capital funding for half of this first-ever request for state funding. We respectfully request the remaining \$375,000 to complete Phase I developments. ABG has a history of successful construction achieved to date, and strong support and investment by the local community, businesses, and Alaskan foundations.*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

As the Alaska Botanical Garden (ABG) concludes the first phase of Garden development, we continue to witness a growing demand from many sectors of the community to provide mission-related services and programs, including tourist visitation, adult and children's nature education, northern climate horticultural research, and horticultural work training for at-risk youth.

The capital improvements described here are urgently needed to complete Phase I developments, improve daily services to the Alaskan public and tourism visitors, and provide on-site supervision of assets constructed to date. This request for FY13 state funding will supplement the FY12 state funding received, to bring this project to completion. Since its founding in 1986, the Alaska Botanical Garden has developed gardens, nature trails, and turned forested land into a thriving, landscaped, world-class Botanical Garden for Alaskans and visitors. ABG has recently and successfully completed participation in The Foraker Group Pre-Development Program as we work to embark on the next phase of Master Plan-guided developments.

Completion of Horticultural Work Center Building & Construction of Paved Circulation Path

ABG's programs are currently conducted under temporary tents, in all types of weather. The Garden leases office space 1 mile from the Garden, which results in limited hours during which the garden is staffed. The construction of a small-scale

on-site building (begun in August 2011, with FY12 State funding received), with a paved circulation path, will greatly improve visitor services and increase staff availability for classes, events, youth work-training supervision, and tourists. Revenue from entrance and program fees, retail sales, and facility rentals will increase with the presence of on-site staff. Consolidation of operations to the Garden will improve overall organizational effectiveness and efficiency, and will improve supervision of Garden assets.

- Scope: Completion of on-site Horticultural Work Center building; paved circulation path

- Impact:

- o Improved / increased educational programming for community, families, children
- o Expanded horticultural and tourism job training opportunities for at-risk youth & adults
- o Improved tourism services & visitor experiences
- o Improved accessibility for visitors with strollers, wheelchairs, and walkers

#### Development of Horticultural Research and Propagation Site

A dedicated research and propagation area within the Garden will allow ABG to expand its capability to conduct plant research, collaborative studies, and educational programming. Cold frames and raised beds will facilitate plant propagation and breeding; larger nursery areas will allow hardiness trials and secure storage of unique and valuable plant collections.

- Scope: Clearing and leveling; soil and augmentations; raised bed and cold frame construction; secure plant-holding areas and shed; water source, fence, and electricity

- Impact:

- o Research, training, educational, and workforce development opportunities
- o Positions Alaska as a leader in Boreal / Sub-arctic horticulture & plant conservation
- o Research and development support for Alaskan horticultural & agricultural industries

#### Project Timeline:

Construction for this project began in August, 2011 with the first portion of FY 12 funding, and is expected to be fully completed by December 31, 2012 or earlier, weather permitting. Expenditures will occur during this same time frame, August 2011 - December 2012.

#### Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Alaska Botanical Garden

#### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Julianne McGuinness  
 Title: Executive Director  
 Address: P.O. Box 202202  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99520  
 Phone Number: (907)562-7010  
 Email: julianne@alaskabg.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



# Alaska Botanical Garden

## Sample List of Alaska Botanical Garden's Community, Education, & Research Partner Agencies

### **Education, Outreach:**

University of Alaska – Anchorage  
University of Alaska – Fairbanks  
University of Alaska Fairbanks – Georgeson  
Botanical Garden  
University of Alaska - College of Rural &  
Community Development, Kuskokwim Campus  
Alaska Pacific University  
Alaska Division of Agriculture – Alaska Grown  
Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Research &  
Education (AK – SARE)  
The Alaska Cooperative Extension Service  
Alaska Museum of Natural History  
Bird Treatment & Learning Center  
The Alaska Zoo  
The Campbell Creek Science Center  
Food Bank of Alaska  
Bean's Café – the Children's Lunchbox  
ALPAR  
Anchorage School District  
Alaska Children's Services  
Alaska Center for the Environment  
Campfire  
Boys & Girls Club  
Denali Family Services  
Ketchikan Early Learning Program - preschools  
Southcentral Foundation, Traditional Healing Clinic  
at the Alaska Native Medical Center  
Southcentral Foundation, Raise Healthy Kids  
Program  
Northstar Behavioral Health, Debarr Residential  
Treatment Center  
Aurora Waldorf School  
Get Outdoors Anchorage  
Spenard Farmer's Market  
AK On the Go  
Anchorage Garden Club

Alaska Master Gardeners Association (Anchorage,  
Kenai Peninsula, Mat-Su Chapters)  
Wildflower Garden Club  
Alaska Orchid Society  
Alaska Native Plant Society  
Alaska Peony Growers Association  
Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers  
Alaska Rare Plant Forum  
Alaska Permaculture Guild  
The Kenai Peninsula Mycological Society  
Municipality of Anchorage Parks & Recreation  
Jensen-Olson Arboretum, Juneau  
Anchorage Bear Education Committee  
Valley Garden Club  
Big Lake Garden Club

### **Research & Plant Preservation:**

U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
State & Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection  
Program  
University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska Cooperative  
Extension Service  
American Public Gardens Association (APGA)  
APGA Sentinel Plant Network  
Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)  
The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

### **Workforce Development / Job Training / Work Therapy:**

Nine Star Enterprises  
King Career Center  
Benny Benson Secondary School  
Anchorage School District School Business  
Partnership  
Hiland Mountain Correctional Center  
McLaughlin Youth Center

February 1, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Visit Anchorage Board of Directors, I am writing to express support for the Alaska Botanical Garden's (ABG) capital funds request for project continuation and improvements for the gardens.

ABG is in need of improvements for greater accessibility for strollers, wheelchairs and walkers as well as an indoor space to expand their already present educational opportunities to visitors and local community members year-round.

Botanical gardens are fast becoming an important and popular attraction and visitors/travelers seek destinations for new and unusual gardens with state of the art design elements and functional space to provide these attractions. ABG's Master Plan and design supports Anchorage and this rising horticultural enthusiast trend with an opportunity to observe and experience beauty in natural environment without having to travel outside the city limits. In addition, ABG hosts a myriad of experiences for visitor and local community members through education, preservation, research and recreation opportunities.

The mission of Visit Anchorage is to attract visitors and conventioners to Anchorage. Our mission is greatly enhanced through partnerships with our member businesses such as the Alaska Botanical Gardens (ABG) who provides opportunities to view the unique, natural beauty of our state through the northern landscape and gardening at ABG.

Your consideration and support is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Julie Saupe  
President & CEO



**YOUTH EDUCATION  
AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

**Nine Star Enterprises, Inc.**  
"Just say...YE<sup>ES</sup>"

**YES**

**730 I St  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 743-6074; Fax: 743-6037**

To Whom It May Concern:

Nine Star Enterprise's Board of Directors is writing to express their strong support for the Alaska Botanical Garden's state capital requests.

Nine Star's mission is to help Alaskan's get a job, keep a job, and advance on the job. Through a holistic educational and vocational program our success rates are very high. The Alaska Botanical Garden is a valued partner who assists us in reaching our goals through the summer youth employment program. Nine Star places many low income, at-risk youth with the ABG for the purposes of vocational development and career exploration.

The Alaska Botanical Garden's 375,000 capital fund request will allow for the conclusion of Phase 1 of a horticultural work center. This proposal allows for a paved main path through the Garden, vastly improved visitor access, and creation of a research plot which improves the educational aspect of the facility.

Alaska Botanical Gardens is a positive member of the community; they provide an oasis of tranquility within the confines of the city, they are willing to assist at risk youth in becoming positive members of society and they are good stewards of the environment. For these reasons, the Board of Nine Star Enterprise's is a strong supporter of the ABG and the capital request for building.

Sincerely,

David Alexander  
Nine Star Enterprises  
President  
730 I St  
Anch, AK 99501  
(907) 279-7827

# ALASKA CHANNEL

February 3, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that the Alaska Botanical Garden is requesting state legislative support this year for two capital projects, which will create paved walkways, adequate parking, and a visitor and educational facility. Alaska Channel has worked closely with the Alaska Botanical Garden for several years. On behalf of our organization, I am writing to say that we strongly support this request.

The Alaska Botanical Garden is a key tourist destination in Southcentral Alaska. ABG offers easily-accessible opportunities to enjoy Alaska's natural beauty, landscape, and wildlife. ABG represents a significant educational, family, business, and special event resource for the state.

ABG's educational programs are ever-growing in popularity, and provide an accessible destination for tourists and others interested in Alaska's unique outdoor world. These activities generate thousands of dollars in visitor revenue for the state, boost employment through its workforce development and internship programs, and address a growing demand. Proper paving, a research plot, and a true Visitor and Education Center are much-needed to properly serve these various needs, and will help ABG get beyond the "tent-and-porta-potty" system currently in place.

New facilities to replace obsolete systems, build a true education and visitor center, and provide the first running water at the Garden will enhance ABG's ability to generate revenue, supervise its assets, and be an even greater economic impact for Southcentral Alaska.

This is truly an idea whose time has come. Please support this request and help ABG become a facility of which we can all be proud.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have questions or need further information. I can be reached at 777-7700 and [yael@alaska.org](mailto:yael@alaska.org).

Thank you,



Yael Kaufman  
President, Alaska Channel





We feed hungry kids in a safe community environment!

January 23, 2012

Dear Sir,

On behalf of The Children's Lunchbox, I strongly support Botanical Garden's \$375,000 capital fund request to allow the conclusion of Phase 1 development of a horticultural work-center within the Garden. This proposal allows for paving a main path through the Garden, for greatly improved visitor access, as well as creation of a research plot, improving the facility's educational aspect.

The mission of The Children's Lunchbox is to improve the lives of children in our communities. Primarily we provide day to day nutritional support but our consistent presence and positive impressions allow us the opportunities to impact the youth of our communities in many other ways-every day. Our ability to achieve that mission is greatly enhanced through partnerships with member businesses such as the Alaska Botanical Garden. They actively seek out opportunities to assist other non-profit organizations, like mine, and work to make a real difference in our communities! I believe this program has a unique niche in meeting the needs of young people and is critical to education and building the self-esteem of youth in our community.

The Children's Lunchbox also supports ABG's \$6,672,328 capital request for construction of a much-needed Visitor and Education Center. As one of the area's major travel destinations, ABG currently serves thousands of school children and hundreds of visitors per year, with a system of tents, portable toilets, and temporary sinks! The new facility replaces these obsolete systems, builds a true education and visitor center, and provides the first running water at the Garden.

Both projects will enhance ABG's ability to generate revenue, supervise its assets on site, provide adequate parking, enhance workforce development programs, and be a positive economic impact for South-central Alaska.

If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lynette Ortolano  
Program Director

Your donation is tax deductible under identification #92-0072522

P.O. Box 101297 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510 • 3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 104-B • Anchorage,  
Alaska 99501

(907) 297-5625 • Fax (907) 569-8501 • [www.thechildrenslunchbox.org](http://www.thechildrenslunchbox.org) •  
[thechildrenslunchbox@alaska.net](mailto:thechildrenslunchbox@alaska.net)



Retired Senior & Volunteer Program

1675 C Street Suite 201  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 907-274-7787  
Fax: 907-274-7781

January 26, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

We wish to acknowledge our strong support of the visitor, education, and work force development services the Alaska Botanical Garden provides to the residents of Alaska and the thousands of travellers each year. As a federal volunteer program, we rely on non-profit organizations that welcome volunteers to provide their knowledge and skills to the community. We are grateful to have the Alaska Botanical Garden as a volunteer station where our volunteers have been serving since 1998.

The Alaska Botanical Garden has been on the forefront of the sustainability movement in Alaska. Tapping into the resurgence of interest in the community on vital sustainability practices, the Alaska Botanical Garden reaches every age group through its multifaceted services.

The Alaska Botanical Garden is a valuable resource and contributor to the communities in Alaska. We look forward to our continued working relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Zhao".

Stephanie Zhao  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program



# Scenic Foothills Community Council

**Get Involved!**

Make a Difference through Grass Roots Participation

*President*

Mark Hill  
333-9935

*Vice President*

Catherine Carte  
337-3643

*Secretary*

Brynn Moe  
301-9435

*Treasurer*

Harry Crawford  
333-3659

*Publicity Chairman*

Jerrienne Lowther  
337-2738

*Volunteer Coordinators*

Michele Pamer  
952-2324

Jerrienne Lowther  
volunteers@  
scenicfoothillsc.org

Visit us on Facebook 

February 2, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Scenic Foothills Community Council, at its February 2, 2012, meeting, voted to support Alaska Botanical Garden's state capital request, below.

Alaska Botanical Garden, just outside the southwest corner of Scenic Foothills, offers residents and visitors excellent opportunities for learning about and enjoying Alaska's beautiful northern landscape. The popular gardens are used and much appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

ABG's \$375,000 capital fund request will allow the conclusion of Phase 1 development of a horticultural work-center within the Garden. This proposal allows for paving a main path through the Garden, for greatly improved visitor access, as well as creation of a research plot, improving the facility's educational aspect.

This project will enhance ABG's ability to generate revenue and be a positive economic impact for East Anchorage, the entire Municipality and all of Southcentral Alaska.



Mark Hill  
President  
Scenic Foothills Community  
Council



Cathy Carte  
Vice President  
Scenic Foothills Community  
Council