



Grand Camp Resolution #16-02

Title: Respect and urge support for the designation of Northwest Coast art as a rare and valuable national treasure

WHEREAS, Northwest coast Art has achieved preeminence throughout the world as an indigenous American art form, bringing to this country and the world a uniquely indigenous art synthesis and culture through the Northwest Coast Native American experience;

(1) makes evident to the world an outstanding artistic art form of indigenous expression and democratic cooperation within the creative process, thus fulfilling the highest ideals and aspirations of our republic, and

(2) is a unifying force, bridging cultural, religious, ethnic, and age differences in our diverse society,

(3) is a true art form of the Northwest Coast indigenous peoples that scientific evidence reveals evolved over a four thousand year period, finding its inspiration in the ancient cultures dating back to at least 10,000 years ago and is enjoyed and appreciated by diverse peoples that constitute our Nation,

(4) has evolved into a multifaceted and complex art form based on defined formline designs and protocols governing the spatial interrelationships between the formline design component that is not replicated among any other society and that continues to give birth to and to nurture new stylistic formline designs,

(5) continues to be highly sought after by museums, art collectors and the general public and is exhibited in all major national and international museums, but yet remains significant to the Northwest Coast indigenous societies for its cultural and spiritual values,

(6) has had a historic, pervasive, and continuing influence on other genres of art both here and abroad,

(7) has become a true international language appreciated around the world as a unique art form able to convey contemporary realities from a personal and cultural perspective,

(8) has provided a creative paradigm broadly influential on other contemporary and visual art forms, and;

WHEREAS, this great American indigenous art form has not yet been properly recognized nor accorded the institutional status commensurate with its value and importance; and

WHEREAS, it is important for the youth of America to recognize and understand Northwest Coast Art as a significant part of their cultural and intellectual heritage; and

WHEREAS, there exists no effective national infrastructure to support and preserve Northwest Coast Art; and

WHEREAS, documentation and archival support required by such a great art form has yet to be systematically applied to Northwest Coast Art; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the national welfare and all of our citizens to preserve and celebrate this unique art form; and

WHEREAS, the continuing development of new technologies and revenues of communication offer formidable possibilities as well as challenges to artists and audiences; and

WHEREAS, recent research has proven the positive cognitive impact of Northwest Coast Art in educational development and achievement; and

WHEREAS, there is an increasing emphasis on public-private partnerships at the cutting edge of support for cultural institutions and the arts; and

WHEREAS, the last decade has seen the passing of significant Master Artists who made definitive contributions to its survival and the further development and evolution of traditional Northwest Coast Art.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand Camp meeting in Juneau, Alaska, October 5-8, 2016, respectfully urge the Alaska Congressional Delegation and the Governor of Alaska to support federal legislation that designates Northwest Coast Art as a rare and valuable national American treasure to which we should devote our attention, support, and resources to make certain it is preserved, understood, and promulgated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such legislation shall also recognize that Northwest Coast Art remains a major cultural force in Northwest Coast Art indigenous societies and supports their continued cultural survival and further contributes to the rich heritage and cultural diversity of this Nation and should be protected under the laws of the United States.

/s/ Sasha Soboleff

Grand President
Alaska Native Brotherhood

/s/ Devlin Anderstrom

Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Brotherhood

/s/ Cecelia Tavoleiro

Grand President
Alaska Native Sisterhood

/s/ Carol Duis

Grand Secretary
Alaska Native Sisterhood