

2023 Annual Report

Yakutat Nature Society
(YNS) & The Tern Festival

**Honoring the Natural & Cultural
Resources of Yakutat through
Connection, Innovation, and
Collaboration**



Photo: Mary Glaves



Photo: Nate Catterson



Art: Maka Monture

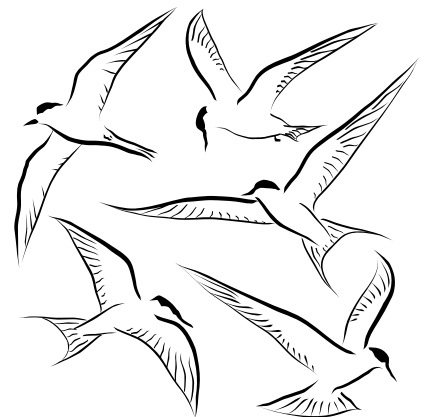
Prepared by
Mary Glaves
YNS Secretary



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About YNS

The Yakutat Nature Society was founded in 2020 by Susan Oehlers, Mary Graves, and a key community member, Samantha Lobdell, in an effort to advance the organizational operation and reach of the annual Yakutat Tern Festival, a migratory birding festival, started in 2011 in Yakutat, Alaska.

About YTF

The annual Yakutat Tern Festival's mission is to highlight the extraordinary natural and cultural resources of Yakutat by establishing a festival celebrating Aleutian terns. The Yakutat area boasts the southernmost known and one of the largest breeding colonies of Aleutian terns within its range. It is the intent of this festival to support, unify, and educate the community by promoting non-consumptive tourism and connect people with wildlife and the outdoors. The first annual festival launched in 2011 and featured special events and seminars, a local art show, field trips, and kids' programs all aimed at enriching the knowledge of the local area and immersing locals and visitors alike, in the natural and cultural resources of Yakutat.



Meet Our

YNS Board of Directors



SARAH ISRAELSON, BOARD MEMBER

907-410-7377

Sarah Israelson came to Yakutat in 2009 as an AmeriCorps volunteer for the school. After 2 years of service, she found a full time job at the school and met her future husband. She is the 5th and 6th grades teacher at Yakutat Elementary School. Sarah is originally from South Florida and attended Florida State University to earn her degree in Elementary Education. She has been a part of the Yakutat Tern Festival since the first year, when she designed the festival's program and was a tour driver. She has served on the YNS board since its formation in 2020.



HVALEH (HAVA) ROHLOFF, BOARD MEMBER

970-531-5971

Hava Rohloff was born in Dry Bay and her childhood experience included time in Yakutat. Hava earned her bachelor's degree from Utah State University in Environmental Sciences with a focus in Fisheries Science. After graduating, she returned to Yakutat where she worked with the U.S Forest Service. Hava became involved with the Yakutat Tern Festival through her work with the U.S. Forest Service, a YNS partner. Hava has since taken a job with the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe as their Fisheries Biologist, but takes any opportunity to support the local environmental professional community. Hava serves on the board of the Yakutat Nature Society to support environmental education in her community and to continue learning from her professional mentors.



ROSE MARY RYMAN, BOARD MEMBER

907-957-3718

Rose Mary Ryman has been a resident of Yakutat since 1975. She has 4 children, 7 grandchildren & 4 great grandchildren. She was adopted into the Kwashki'Kwaan of Yakutat. Raven Humpback Salmon Clan, Dis Hit, Moon house, and is a member of the Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp #13. She's volunteered with the Yakutat Tern Festival since its first year in 2011. Rose Mary is a retired Yakutat School District Administrative Assistant & Superintendent-School Board Secretary, serving from 1979-2014. She owns a local business, Ryman's Italo Sport Camp along with her spouse, Frank (Skip) Ryman. She has been a board member of YNS since its formation in 2020.



CURT HEIKELL, BOARD MEMBER

206-391-2118

Curt started coming to Yakutat as a teenager, fishing with his dad. He loved it so much that in 2003 he started working on plans to create the Monti Bay Lodge, and in 2004 it officially opened. Curt has been a generous member of the Yakutat community throughout his residency in town and is excited to be a part of the vision of the Yakutat Nature Society.

Meet Our

YNS Officers & YTF Planners



SUSAN OEHLERS, PRESIDENT & TREASURER

907-410-7212

Susan Oehlers grew up in Minnesota, and has a bachelor's of science degree from the University of Minnesota and a Master's Degree in wildlife biology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Susan has worked with a wide variety of animals and birds, including wolves, moose, brown bears, small mammals, spotted owls, songbirds, Canada geese, and terns. Susan is currently the wildlife biologist for the Yakutat Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest, and is involved in the Yakutat-based Aleutian tern research. Susan enjoys learning more about birds and sharing her knowledge with local students.



TERESA SWANSON, VICE PRESIDENT

907-227-3145

Teresa Swanson has lived in Alaska most of her life, but grad school and a fisheries biology career drew her away to study fish in the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Park. While her earliest jobs were associated with the commercial fishing industry, most of her work experience has been studying fish in Wyoming, Arizona, and Alaska. Teresa's outdoor experiences and growing up in Alaska have shaped her recreational and biological points of view. She has worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a Fisheries Technician on the Chugach National and Forest and a Resource Assistant on the Tongass National Forest. Teresa is currently the Interior Alaska Data Collections Coordinator for Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA), where she works with crews to collect ecological data on forests across the nation. This program is often referred to as "The Nation's Forest Census", in which we provide information on Forest resources on all forested lands in the US, enabling us to evaluate whether current management practices are sustainable and will allow the next generation to enjoy American's forests as we do today. Teresa is busily expanding her skills and interests to include birding, and has been instrumental in coordinating festival youth activities.



MARY GLAVES, YNS SECRETARY & YTF COORDINATOR

607-349-1831

Mary grew up in upstate New York, and first came to Alaska at age seven on a trip with her grandmother. In the fall of 2016, over 20 years later, she returned to work in Yakutat as an SCA intern with the U.S. Forest Service. Since then, Mary has made Alaska her home. She took on the role as the Yakutat Tern Festival Coordinator in 2017 and is growing in her knowledge of birding and building a nonprofit. Being able to remain a part of the Yakutat community in this role has been immensely rewarding. Mary visits Yakutat as often as she can from Juneau, where she currently resides.



KRISTA MAHAN, YTF ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

907-715-9397

Krista has been working in Yakutat with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) since 2019 and is passionate about wildlife and the outdoors. She volunteered her time during the Yakutat Tern Festival in 2022 and fell in love with terns. Krista has a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Management and is excited to join the Tern Festival team as the Assistant Coordinator and apply her skills and knowledge to the planning and growth of the festival. Krista conducts outreach in and beyond the community of Yakutat.

Vision And Mission



Vision

The Yakutat Nature Society is a Yakutat, Alaska based non-profit organization committed to the conservation of wild birds, other wildlife and fish, and the ecosystems which sustain them.



Photo: Mary Glaves

Mission

The Mission of the Yakutat Nature Society (YNS) is to protect conserve, and enhance the populations and habitat of resident and migratory birds and other wildlife and fish throughout the Yakutat Region.

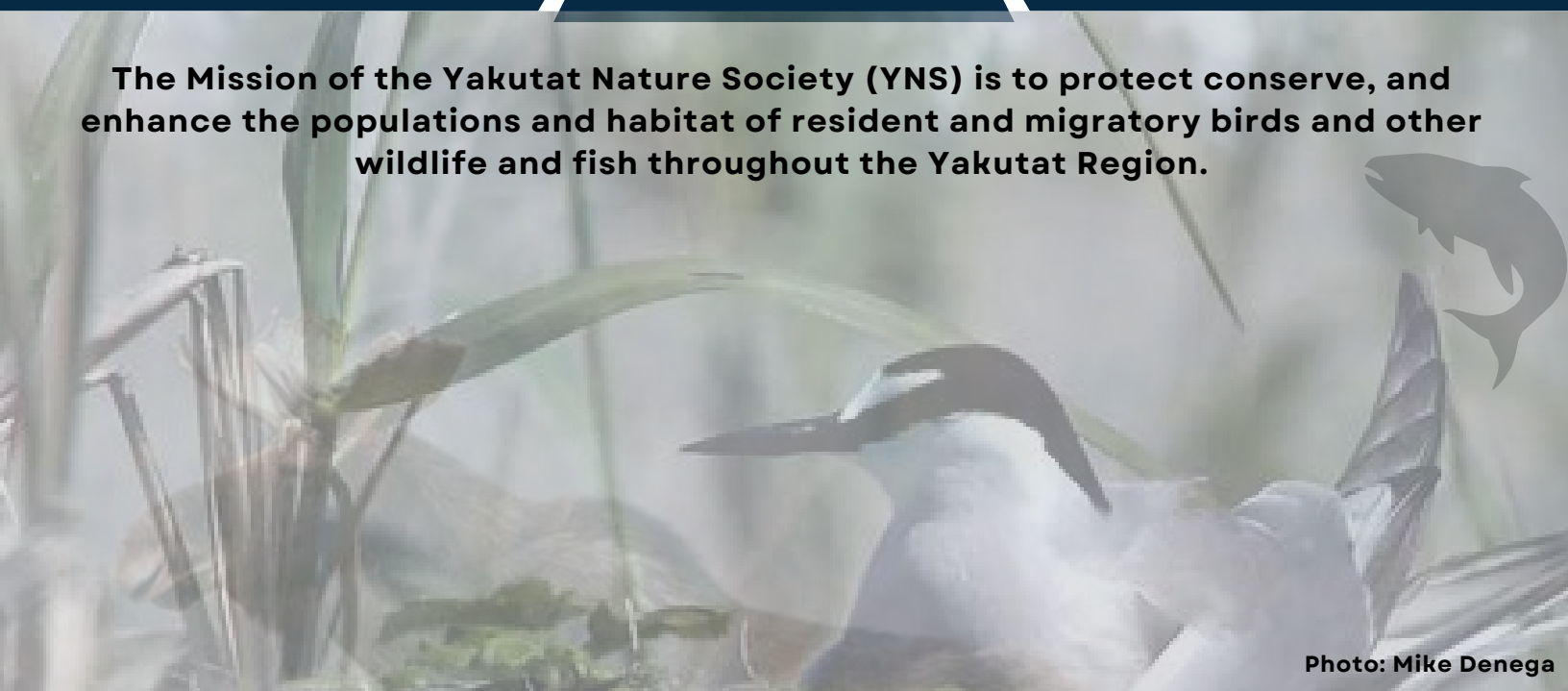
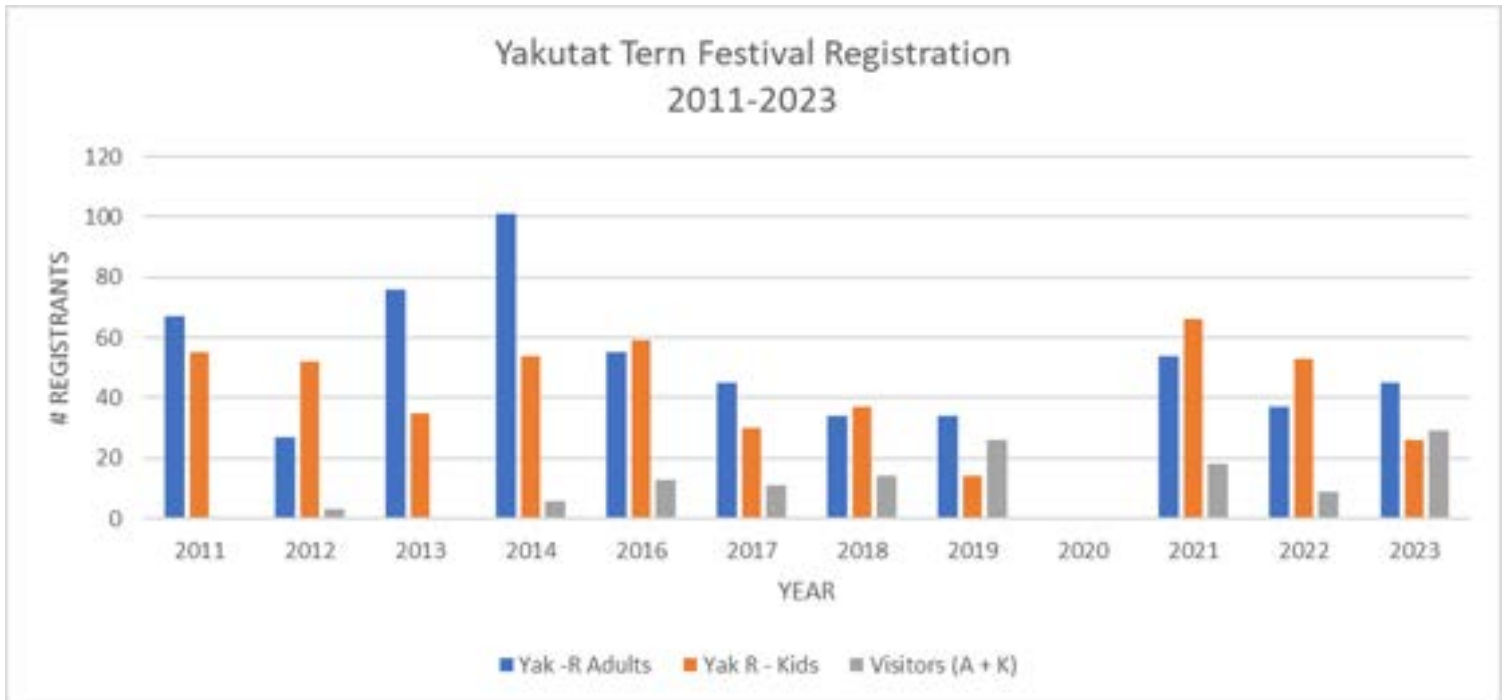


Photo: Mike Denega

Annual Registration Trends



Registration numbers from 2011-2023. Registration is documented with completion of forms and releases, and e-tickets for visitors. Locally, registration is not the same as attendance, as many residents are not in the habit of completing the registration paperwork.

The Yakutat Tern Festival was slowly gaining momentum from visitors to the area before COVID, and it has rebounded and gained popularity again afterwards. YNS is working to continue that trend. The numbers of registrants are over the entire four days of the festival, total, and do not represent daily numbers of attendance.*

*Attendance is typically higher than registration, as well. One change we are making next year is keeping daily tallies in addition to continue to encourage local residents to register.



Financial Statements



	2022	2023
Revenue	\$700	\$800
Expenses	\$200	\$250
Profit	\$800	\$900

Notes on monetary figures: 2022 was a community/youth focused festival with minimal programming, in-kind partner support. Yakutat Cultural Association (YCA) also paid coordination salary in 2022.

The 2023 Yakutat Tern Festival was the first full program after COVID-19. The planning committee was actively marketing/promoting to non-Yakutat residents, developing YNS to better support our mission/festival goals and the community.

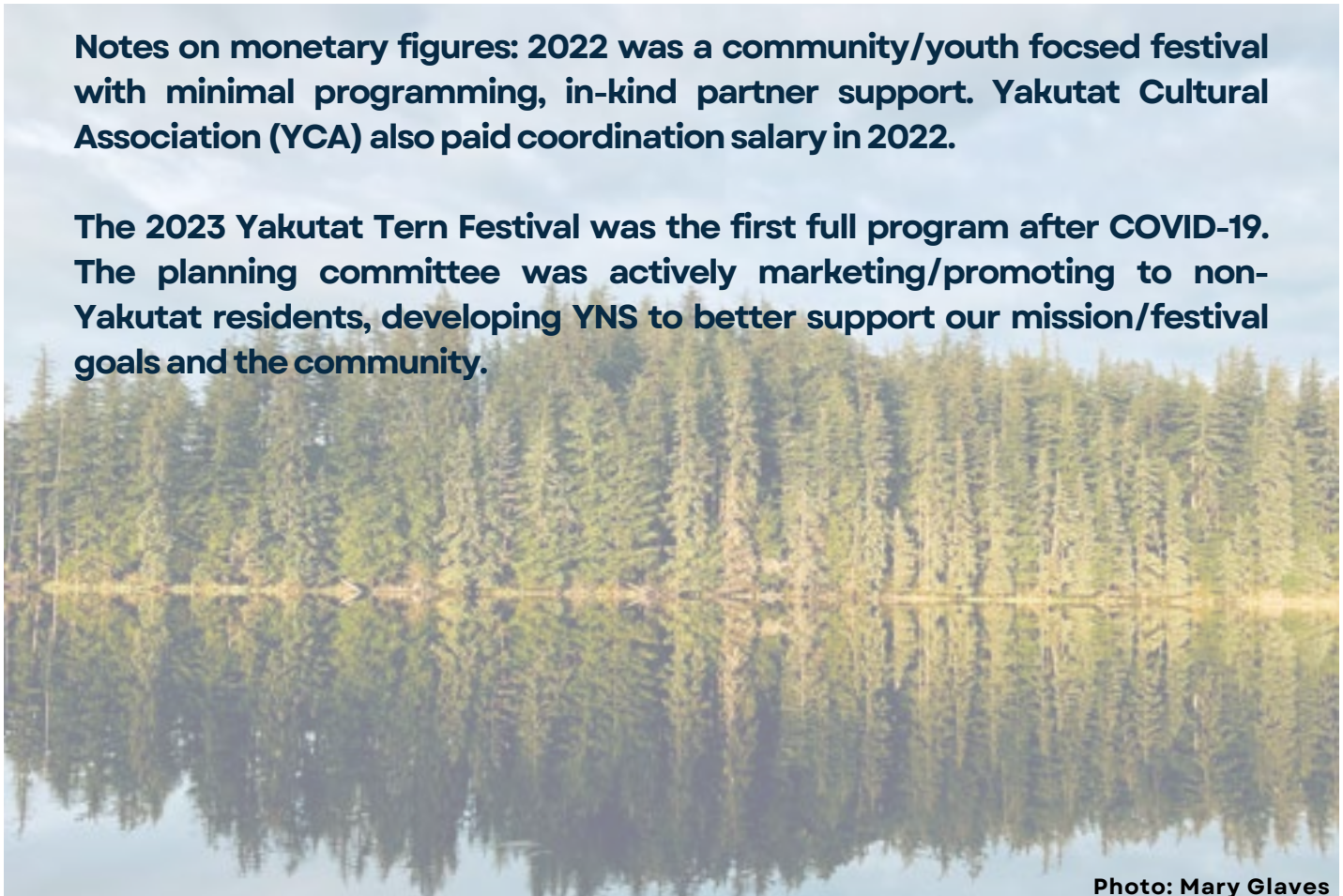


Photo: Mary Glaves

Financial Statements



YNS 2022 Income Statement

Income Statement

Yakutat Nature Society
Jan. 1, 2022-December 31, 2022

Financial Statements in U.S. Dollars

Revenue		
Gross Income-donations, festival proceeds/fundraising	\$4,891	
Less: Sales Returns and Allowances	\$0	
Net Sales		\$4,891
Cost of Goods Sold		
Beginning Inventory	\$0	
Add: Purchases	\$0	
Freight-in	\$0	
Direct Labor	\$0	
Indirect Expenses	\$0	
Inventory Available	\$0	
Less: Ending Inventory		
Cost of Goods Sold		\$0
Gross Profit (Loss)		\$4,891
Expenses		
Administrative costs (website fees, business licenses)	\$644	
Event support (Family Fishing Day)	\$230	
Facility fee	\$400	
Food	\$977	
Insurance	\$253	
Salary	\$270	
Travel and local transportation	\$158	
Logo art fee	\$100	
Total Expenses		\$3,032
Net Operating Income		\$1,859
Other Income		
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets	\$0	
Interest Income	\$0	
Total Other Income		\$0
Net Income (Loss)		\$1,859

Financial Statements



YNS 2023 Profit/Loss Statement

Jan. 1, 2023-December 31, 2023

Financial Statements in U.S. Dollars

Revenue		
Gross Income-donations, festival proceeds/fundraising	\$23,229	
Less: Sales Returns and Allowances	\$0	
Net Sales		\$23,229
Cost of Goods Sold		
Beginning Inventory	\$0	
Add: Purchases	\$0	
Freight-in	\$0	
Direct Labor	\$0	
Indirect Expenses	\$0	
Inventory Available	\$0	
Less: Ending Inventory		
Cost of Goods Sold		\$0
Gross Profit (Loss)		\$23,229
Expenses		
Administrative fees	\$71	
Travel (airfare)	\$2,366	
Art workshop supplies	\$1,200	
Contest prizes	\$125	
Equipment	\$210	
Food	\$1,173	
Event Insurance	\$500	
Local transportation	\$1,760	
Lodging	\$863	
Volunteer Per Diem	\$800	
Program fees	\$700	
Promotional materials	\$2,133	
Salary	\$6,041	
Supplies	\$261	
Total Expenses		\$18,202
Net Operating Income		\$5,027
Other Income		
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets	\$0	
Interest Income	\$0	
Total Other Income		\$0
Net Income (Loss)		\$5,027

Strategic Planning

What Sets YNS Apart

Adaptive Management in Planning

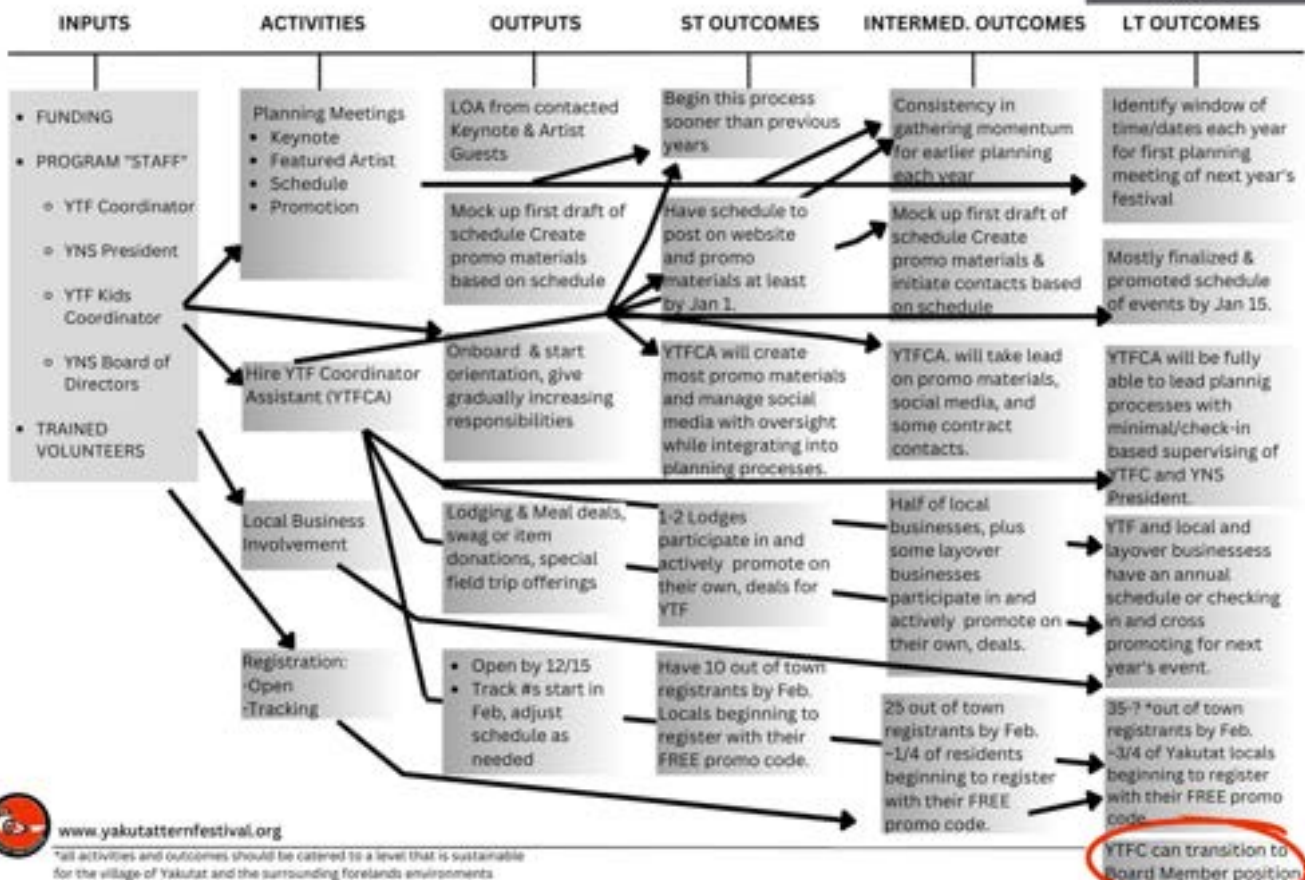
The world is changing at a rate for rapid than any other time in history, that should be underscored. YNS, being a very locally focused nonprofit, has had the advantage to plan for adaptive growth contingencies from inception and intends to capitalize in that realm. Using a logic model for the annual Yakutat Tern Festival, YNS has set short and longer term goals for the festival with built-in evaluation strategies to pivot based on outputs (and external factors affecting those). The first step in the short-term process was to hire an assistant coordinator (1099 independent contractor), which was done in November of 2023. Training, onboarding, and work has begun in the planning and development of the 2024 Yakutat Tern Festival.



LOGIC MODEL: YAKUTAT TERN FESTIVAL



GOAL: INCREASE FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE AND SUPPORT*



Planning for Tomorrow



What Sets YNS Apart

Investment in Community Values

YNS was created to support the annual Yakutat Tern Festival, which highlights the cultural and natural resources of Yakutat, Alaska. The festival always contains a cultural component and collaborates with local tribal entities as much as possible to bring together elements necessary for education and empowering local youth and residents in cultural practices as relates to natural resources. YNS aims to underscore the values of the community and enhance opportunities for the community from the inside out with the tern festival, and future endeavors of the organization.

Each year YNS offers free local registration to the festival for all local residents. We also offer a photo contest that is geared more towards locals, as the photos must have been taken in Yakutat, though visitors are invited to enter as well.

Inspiration of Local Youth

One of the most important elements of the community is its youth. This is why YNS focuses heavily on youth education and connection with the community and the surrounding natural environment that the community and local culture was built upon. To inspire youth is to plant seeds of longevity with the hope of growing the YNS mission and vision into a practice that is integrated into a community support webbing; that will offer more than our annual festival, and will foster reciprocal efforts in conservation through the Yakutat Region.

Community Impacts & Resilience in Yakutat



Impacts

The First Annual Yakutat Tern Festival took place in 2011. Missing the year of the height of COVID in 2020, the tern festival planning committee took the opportunity to form a nonprofit to elevate the Tern Festival, which is now in its 13th year. The event is very community focused, with efforts made to bring in visitors during the slow time between steelhead and sockeye fisheries which draw sport fisherman to town each year. In collaboration with our partners, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and numerous other sponsors and volunteers, each year the Yakutat Tern Festival offers new and expansive cultural, kids, science, nature, art, and conservation programming to enrich local knowledge and experiences as well as draw in visitors to Yakutat to enhance the local economy. With continued support and collaboration from our partners, sponsors and volunteers, we will the Yakutat Nature Society will continue to elevate the Tern Festival and the experiences and economy of Yakutat.

Photo: Mary Glaves

Resilience

The community of Yakutat is a small rural community of about 600 people situated on the northern reaches of the Tongass National Forest, nestled between the Wrangell St. Elias Mountain Range and the Gulf of Alaska, on the forelands. Yakutat is categorized as a Justice40 disadvantaged community by the EPA's Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool.

Together, we face the challenge of meeting our community's needs. The Tlingit people have preserved and protected their culture and land for millennia and maintain an intimate connection to their land and way of life. The Tern Festival aims to highlight local culture and cultural resources as well as bring in culture bearers, artists, and facilitate other forms of cultural exchange through workshops, presentations and field trips with visiting artists. The community of Yakutat also faces challenges from the effects of climate change. Fish runs are declining and coastal landscapes are quickly eroding with stronger storms. The economy, built on fishing and fish tourism, continues to struggle. The Tern Festival offers a form of non-consumptive tourism to augment other forms of economic influx. YNS aims to augment and build on the once annual festival event with other draws throughout the year.

Thank you to our Donors



Thank you for your donation Businesses, Organizations, Foundations and Partners*

- Alaska State Council on the Arts
- Alaska Native Brotherhood
- Alaska Native Sisterhood
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game*
- Angler's Rest
- Audubon Alaska
- Big Year Coffee
- Bird Collective
- Bird TLC
- Blue Heron Inn
- City and Borough of Yakutat
- Cordova Telecom Corporation
- Cordova Wireless Communications
- Economy Auto Leasing
- First Alaskans Institute
- Glacier Bear Lodge
- Hubbard Glacier Gear & Icy Waves Surf Shop
- Juneau Audubon Society
- Leo's Vehicles
- Leonard's Landing Lodge
- Mallott's General Store
- Monti Bay Lodge



- Mooring Lodge
- Mt. St. Elias Dancers
- Ocean Conservancy
- Susitna Bike School
- Tappan Foundation
- The AC
- U.S. Forest Service*
- Village Coffee Company
- Wrangell St. Elias National Park*
- Yakutat Bay Foundation
- Yakutat Charter Boat Company
- Yakutat Lodge
- Yakutat Schools
- Yakutat Tlingit Tribe*
- YCC/Glass Door



Yakutat Nature Society

Thank you to our Donors



Thank you for your donation Individuals

- Rueben & Mary Graves
- Lisa Byers
- Krista Mahan
- Wendy Mahan
- Alexander Moriarty
- Nicole Hebel
- Sarah Israelson
- LaDonna James
- John & Fran Latham
- Samantha Lobdell
- Maka Monture
- Dustin Newman
- Susan Oehlers
- Martin Perrow
- Teresa Swanson
- Nicole Tierny
- Kristie Traver
- Russel Wicka



Contact Us



907-410-7212



yakutatnaturesociety@gmail.com



www.yakutatternfestival.org

The Yakutat Nature Society is a nonprofit organization born from a community passion and to fill a holistic niche encompassing rural community culture and nature in Alaska. YNS is committed to transparency in their work.

Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

