

LOOK UP.

We have come into the light.

adäka
Cultural Festival

JUNE 29 – JULY 5 2023

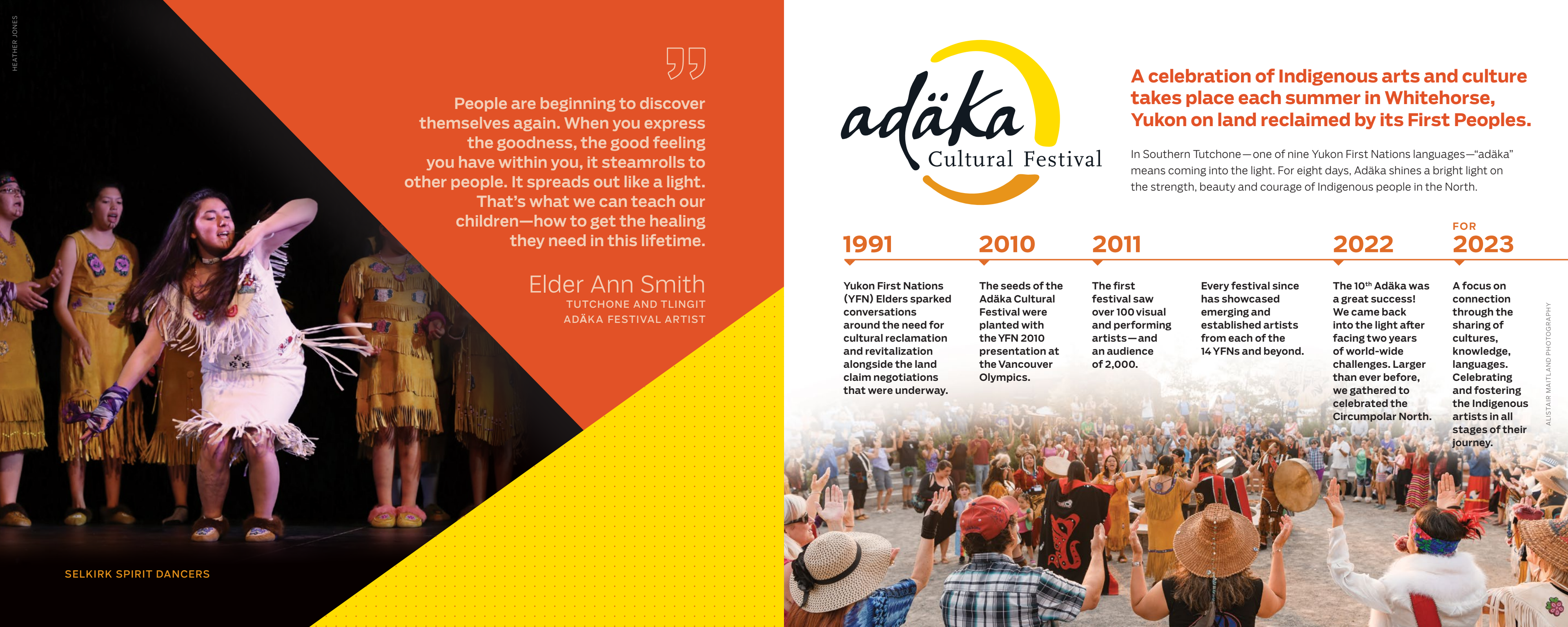
We invite your support of the
11th Adäka Cultural Festival



PROUDLY PRODUCED BY:
Yukon First Nations
**CULTURE &
TOURISM**
Association



PRESENTING PARTNER:
**KWANLIN DÜN
CULTURAL CENTRE**



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People are beginning to discover themselves again. When you express the goodness, the good feeling you have within you, it steamrolls to other people. It spreads out like a light. That’s what we can teach our children—how to get the healing they need in this lifetime.

Elder Ann Smith
TUTCHONE AND TLINGIT
ADÄKA FESTIVAL ARTIST

SELKIRK SPIRIT DANCERS



A celebration of Indigenous arts and culture takes place each summer in Whitehorse, Yukon on land reclaimed by its First Peoples.

In Southern Tutchone — one of nine Yukon First Nations languages — “adäka” means coming into the light. For eight days, Adäka shines a bright light on the strength, beauty and courage of Indigenous people in the North.

1991

Yukon First Nations (YFN) Elders sparked conversations around the need for cultural reclamation and revitalization alongside the land claim negotiations that were underway.

2010

The seeds of the Adäka Cultural Festival were planted with the YFN 2010 presentation at the Vancouver Olympics.

2011

The first festival saw over 100 visual and performing artists — and an audience of 2,000.

2022

The 10th Adäka was a great success! We came back into the light after facing two years of world-wide challenges. Larger than ever before, we gathered to celebrate the Circumpolar North.

FOR
2023

A focus on connection through the sharing of cultures, knowledge, languages. Celebrating and fostering the Indigenous artists in all stages of their journey.

Supporters, like you, position Adäka as a critical engine of building pride, skills and employment for northern First Nations.

Your investment will help Indigenous people look up to the positive community impact that is possible when youth are inspired to learn from Elders, when traditional practices are used, and sustainable livelihoods and self-determination are realized.

Your gift will plant seeds for artists to grow and bring light into northern First Nations — today and into the future.



The economic impact of Indigenous culture and tourism organizations is evident through Yukon's individual Indigenous practitioners, who generated \$4.7M in revenue in 2019.

SOURCE: YUKON FIRST NATIONS CULTURE & TOURISM ASSOCIATION SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT, 2020.



The ripple effects of Adäka are far-reaching.

Year-round programming

The festival's success has spun-off with these successful initiatives:

ARCHBOULD PHOTOGRAPHY



YFN Arts Brand Program



YFN Arts Artist Spotlight series on social media



Yük'e Arts Market (Christmas)

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Dreaming Roots — YFN performing arts development project



Bead, Hide & Fur Symposium



FRITZ MUELLER

Pop-up galleries and performances at national/international conferences

FRITZ MUELLER



Cross-border artistic collaborations and exchanges

ALISTAIR MATLAND PHOTOGRAPHY



Co-presentations with partners such as Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Yukon Arts Centre, Yukon Film Society, Gwaandak Theatre and Music Yukon



RUTH BORGJORD

Yukon fashion designers taking part in Indigenous Fashion Week Toronto

By re-connecting Indigenous people with their culture and community, your support has the power to give life.

Our team had the honour of attending the 2019 Adäka Cultural Festival, which was a truly inspiring experience. We discovered what an Indigenous festival could look like. Adäka showcased how we could provide our own community members with an opportunity to rediscover lost traditions, while also sharing our culture with non-Indigenous people. We especially enjoyed how Adäka encouraged attendees to be active participants in experiencing cultural teachings first-hand; it was this example that really ignited our team to create a cultural festival for our own region.

We hosted the inaugural ATC Cultural Festival over three days in September, 2019. Attendance from Indigenous and non-Indigenous people far exceeded our expectations. We really believe that it showed that our communities and the public are keen on interactive ways to learn about our history, heritage and culture.

The success of the ATC Cultural Festival has resulted in other cultural collaboration projects with our local municipal government and other organizations allowing for further meaningful impact. We sincerely believe that the standards set by Adäka have been instrumental in designing a framework for cultivating cultural literacy for our region.

Karla Buffalo

CEO OF ATHABASCA TRIBAL COUNCIL
ATC CULTURAL FESTIVAL



ALISTAIR MITLAND PHOTOGRAPHY

Now, having experienced the Adäka Cultural Festival first-hand ... I can vouch for what proved to be a dynamic and heart-warming experience.”

Kim Gray

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, TOQUE &
CANOE CANADIAN TRAVEL
CULTURE BLOG.



FRITZ MUELLER

When I first came to Pelly, I noticed that nobody was dancing or drumming. And the answers that I got was that this community was affected by the Residential School. It just wowed me and I knew that I had to do something. 80 per cent of the kids were taken out of this community ... a lot of families went through hardship. A lot of the singing, drumming and language got lost for a while. It's really good to see these festivals [like Adäka] because it's working. People want to be a part of it.

... [At one of our rehearsals] I sat [the children] all into a big circle and said we need to hold our hands together and pray that we can bring this culture back—the songs, the dancing... [I told them:] 'you're going to bring back healing to your parents and your grandparent. It's going to be really powerful' ... [When] you find out who you are—your identity—you bring your culture back to your life. It will change your life and I've seen it happen with this group [Selkirk Spirit Dancers]. I know it changed my life.

Carmen Baker

NORTHERN TUTCHONE & TLINGIT
LEADER OF SELKIRK SPIRIT DANCERS,
PERFORMERS AT ADÄKA FESTIVAL



We invite you to put a spotlight on the sparkling brilliance of northern Indigenous artists at Adäka's 11th festival in 2023.

From June 29 to July 5, 2023 Adäka will welcome over 200 Indigenous knowledge keepers, performing and visual artists from across Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Alaska for seven days of stellar programming shared with local, national and international audiences. The festival will generate new connections across these vast lands and will provide Indigenous artists an exceptional opportunity for skill development and mentorship while shining a light on Indigenous art and culture.



Help the light shine brightly by joining one of Adäka's Intentional Giving Circles.

Your support will build on the festival's ten-year foundation to nurture the intended directions of the coming years.

We invite your partnership with Adäka by giving, with intention, to strengthen the circle that is most meaningful for you:



FRITZ MUELLER

Giving with INTENTION

Support the resurgence and revitalization of Indigenous arts and culture by becoming a donor or a sponsor.



Set your INTENTION

Adäka's Intentional Giving Circles represent opportunities for you to contribute with purpose as the festival continues to evolve and grow, while enhancing experiences for artists and audiences alike.



Determine how much you can CONTRIBUTE

\$100 to \$20,000+



NEXT, the festival team will work with you to bring your support to life and reciprocate your gift with valuable recognition and meaningful thanks.



Reciprocal Giving Opportunities

Reciprocity is an important principle that guides Indigenous ways of being and doing. It is an acknowledgement of being in relationship. Adäka will be pleased to thank you for supporting the festival's Intentional Giving Circles by reciprocating positive actions back to you.

Community CIRCLE

Being a part of the community circle is about supporting Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together in celebration because you believe that together, we are stronger.

By giving to this circle, you can support the festival volunteer programs, community workshops, hospitality, and other areas that bring people together in community.



ALISTAIR MAITLAND PHOTOGRAPHY



At AFN Yukon, we join together around the message of 'A Yukon that Leads.' We are honoured to be lifting up the leadership and excellence that organizers at YFNCT have demonstrated over the last ten years to bring so many Yukon First Nation artists 'into the light' of this world-class event.

In supporting this year's volunteer program, we encourage Yukoners to emulate the spirit of 'A Yukon that Leads' and show up and be present to volunteer and support the festival. Let's all show artists and visitors from across the North what Yukon hospitality looks like by helping the 2022 Adäka Festival shine as brightly as possible.

Regional Chief
Kluane Adamek

AFN YUKON
2022 ADÄKA CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Connection CIRCLE

Being a part of the connection circle is about building pride in people and place for Indigenous people by fostering a strong sense of belonging and identity.

By giving to this circle, you can support the Traditional Knowledge series, youth empowerment programming, the Immersive North Stage, and other areas that strengthen mental health and overall wellbeing through powerful cultural connections.



ALISTAIR MAITLAND PHOTOGRAPHY



Northwestel is proud to sponsor the Festival and the rich experiences it provides. Through the Community and Connection Intentional Giving Circles, we're honoured to support Adäka's volunteers, workshops, and programming. At Northwestel, we know strong connections build stronger communities, and this year's festival theme Northern Connections is especially close to our hearts.

Curtis Shaw
NORTHWESTEL PRESIDENT
2022 ADÄKA CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Lift CIRCLE

Being a part of the lift circle is about showcasing the brave spirit of Yukon First Nations and lifting the confidence and careers of Indigenous artists.

By giving to this circle, you can support the artist studio village, the exhibition and gallery, the fashion show, emerging artists-in-residence, and other areas that help Indigenous artists to rise to their potential.



ALISTAIR MAITLAND PHOTOGRAPHY



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Kwanlin Dün First Nation is proud to help lift up this vibrant cultural festival. Connecting with culture and tradition is vital for Yukon First Nations people, especially when we're going through hard times. Now that we can gather together again safely, Adäka provides a much-needed opportunity for all Yukoners and visitors to experience and find connection through our many forms of art, music, dance and more.

Chief Doris Bill

KWANLIN DÜN FIRST NATION
2022 ADÄKA CULTURAL FESTIVAL



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Grow CIRCLE

Being a part of the grow circle is about strengthening Adäka's impact through new opportunities for extraordinary festival experiences for artists and audiences alike.

By giving to this circle, you can sustain the festival into the future through the stability of multi-year support.



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When youth connect with their culture, it can give them hope, it can save their life. This was the vision for Adäka — to re-claim and build capacity. Ten years in with Adäka, we are seeing the ripple effects, with youth empowered with pride and strength.

Katie Johnson
KLUANE FIRST NATION
ADÄKA CO-FOUNDER



Máhsin cho • Shä`w níthän • Gùnèrchīsh
Màhsi' choo • Sógá sēnlá'
Gunatchīsh • Tsin'ij choh • Mä`hsi' cho



Join us to dance like a warrior and shine a light on the creative spirit and resilience of Indigenous people in the Yukon, and beyond.

We will be honoured to showcase your commitment to building vibrant, thriving northern First Nations.

For more information, contact:

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