

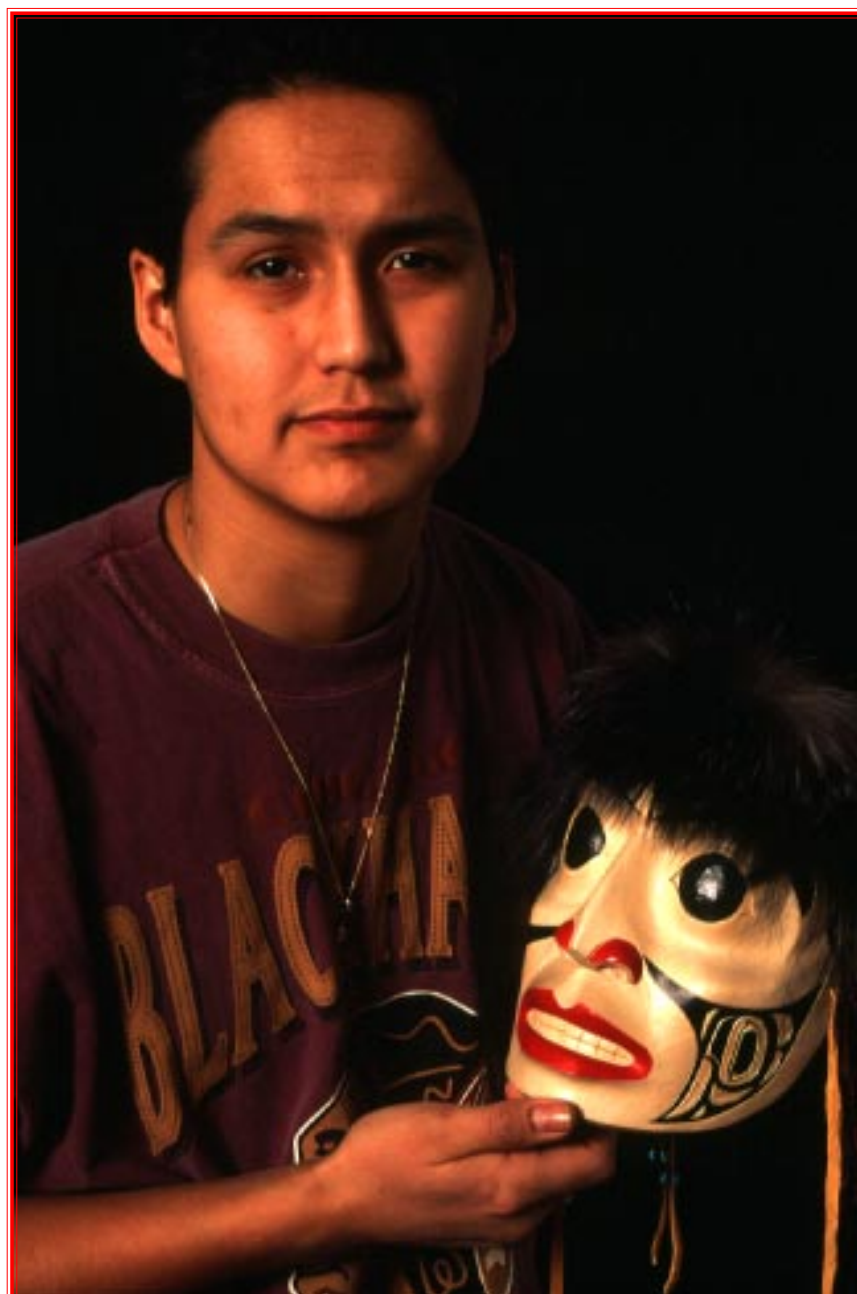
Society of Yukon Artists of Native Ancestry (SYANA)

Based in Whitehorse, the organization serves Yukon First Nations artists throughout the Yukon.

Started: 1989

Contact: Linda Polyck

SYANA is a non-profit society that promotes a greater knowledge and appreciation of Native art and artists, works on the development of Native arts, and encourages Native and public participation in the arts. It achieves this by organizing a variety of art courses and programs such as marketing and portfolio development. SYANA also provides ideas and names of possible performers or artists for events and commissions. It helps First Nation artists access training and market their work and regularly showcases Yukon First Nation art and performances.



Community benefits: SYANA helps increase awareness of First Nation art, increasing self-esteem of individual artists and First Nation people. SYANA also provides education in the schools and acts as a referral service for Yukon First Nation artists. Many individual artists have benefited from SYANA's support and services.

Lessons learned: Low respect for the arts has set up barriers to receiving support. SYANA staff feels it is important to sell what you are doing through one on one contact with funders. There also needs to be a good working relationship with the people you are serving and it is important that people involved in running the organization have an understanding of the field they are working in.

Future of the project: In addition to continued work on regular programs and workshops, SYANA is working on developing a First Nation theatre company and getting an arts program going at Yukon College.