

**ANNUAL REPORT
2024/25**



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Mary Bradshaw

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Jeremy Dutcher

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Message from the CEO

As we look back on the 2024–2025 season, it's clear this was a year of meaningful connection and growth for the Yukon Arts Centre. We set out with a goal: to reach more people, in more places, with work that inspires, entertains, and reflects the North. What followed was a milestone—10 full weeks of touring, bringing us to every Yukon community. With performances by Rain City Improv, Norman Foote, Candy Bones Theatre, Edmonton Opera, and Gordie Tentrees, we shared laughter, music, and storytelling. It reminded us just how powerful live art can be—and how deeply it's valued in every corner of the Yukon.

This year also marked a major step forward in how we deliver on our mandate with the arrival of the Stageline SL100 mobile stage, thanks to the generous support of Lotteries Yukon. This game-changing investment dramatically improves our ability to serve rural Yukon communities and support outdoor events in Whitehorse. It gives us flexibility and capacity to bring professional, high-quality performances to more people in more places—removing barriers and expanding the arts in our territory.

We also took Yukon stories international. Last summer, we proudly presented *Honouring Our Futures* at Canada House Gallery in London, UK—a landmark exhibition that celebrates the artistry and cultural significance of First Nations regalia. It was a powerful moment of recognition for Northern Indigenous artists, and a reminder that our stories belong on global stages.

Thanks to new funding support, we grew opportunities for youth and emerging artists. This included a workshop of new operas in partnership with KIAM in Dawson, and the premiere of *Hadestown: Teen Edition* with Yukon Theatre for Young People. These initiatives reflect a deep investment in the future of performance in the Yukon and the beginning of an exciting multi-year relationship with Edmonton Opera. Through this partnership, emerging opera artists will come north to collaborate, workshop, and perform—building new pathways between Yukon and the national performing arts scene.

Casey Prescott
CEO



Our commitment to nurturing artistic practice in place-based and meaningful ways was also reflected in our visual arts residencies. This year, we proudly supported artists working at the Kluane Research Centre, Tombstone Territorial Park, and Swan Haven, each offering a unique environment for creative exploration, reflection, and connection to land. Our ongoing partnership with the Jenni House Residency continues to be a cornerstone of our support for Yukon-based and visiting artists alike, fostering creative development right in the heart of Whitehorse.

Looking ahead, we're excited to build on this momentum—growing our outreach, strengthening our programs, and creating meaningful opportunities for artists and audiences alike. In a world that can feel uncertain, the arts remain a source of connection, resilience, and joy. With your continued support, we can keep that spirit thriving across the Yukon. Thank you for believing in the power of the arts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Casey'.



The fire pit was created by Tlingit artist Ken Anderson. Titled Yisikoo goodax sa keeydzitee - "you know of where you came from/existed."

Message from the Chairs

Another year has gone by so quickly. Our role as the Yukon Arts Centre Board of Directors is to support the Yukon Arts Centre (YAC) staff in putting life into the YAC mandate. It is a team effort. We strive to reach all Yukoners through the arts. It is no small feat but one we carry in our hearts and try to obtain through our efforts.

YAC continues to grow and expand its reach not only in Whitehorse but in all the Yukon communities as well as on the international stage.

This year, YAC traveled and offered performances in every single Yukon community. We also unveiled our new portable stage making art and performances even more mobile. We hope to continue to offer opportunities to artists and community members alike. We believe that "we are more than a building in Whitehorse on the hill". We are a community—a diverse and rich community. By expanding our reach, we are creating an ever-growing circle of artists and patrons.

Art is a reflection of our society and the times. It is important that we view art as a way to explore and ponder what makes us joyous, what challenges us and makes us uncomfortable, mad or sad, and what inspires us. It is a mirror that helps us navigate and understand the world around us. As John Updike said, "What art offers is space – a certain breathing room for the spirit."

We, the Board of Directors, hope to continue to bring you art that will move and exhilarate you!

Line Gagnon
Genesee Keevil

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision Statement

An inclusive, vibrant, creative North.

Mission Statement

The Yukon Arts Centre Corporation engages the Yukon by supporting arts and culture through development, presentation and conversation.

Values

We recognize and embrace the beautiful reality that all the communities we serve are diverse and unique.

We work continuously to be inclusive, supportive and respectful of the vibrant diversity of communities and cultures in the territory.

We know that collaboration with all of our stakeholders will always be the foundation of our success.

We seek out and support every opportunity to create relationships between artists, audiences and every community in the Yukon, and we work to strengthen and empower those connections.

We are fiercely committed to supporting and demonstrating open, humble and accountable leadership.

We lead by example, with courage, integrity, wisdom, adaptability and open minds, and we empower others to do the same.

We have fun and celebrate generosity of spirit.

We are always welcoming, and we engage with joy and humility to support innovative and creative spirits. We know laughter comes from a deep place.



A child participates in a Kids Kreate art workshop.

We seek out and support every opportunity to create relationships between artists, audiences and every community in the Yukon, and we work to strengthen and empower those connections.

Message from the Indigenous Advisor



Lisa Dewhurst
Indigenous Advisor

Hello everyone! I was very honoured to spend another year with the Yukon Arts Centre as their Indigenous Advisor. 2023 was a year of planning and looking towards launching the *Honouring our Future* exhibit in London, England, which opened at Canada House in June 2024.

As the curator and wearing the hat of Indigenous advisor, it was easy to recognize and incorporate the inclusion of an elder and youth to accompany us for the launch. Having the guidance of an elder and valuing and honouring our youth is such an important part of cultural practice.

I also want to, again, take this opportunity to recognize the huge request we have made on families on having them part with pieces of their treasured regalia. Many of these pieces have taken a year or more to make, and their value is immeasurable as input into some of the work was done by multi-generations of the family. I also want to acknowledge the expertise of the Yukon Arts Centre staff in building special crates for the regalia to travel in. Each piece was handled and packed with the upmost respect and care, cradled in their own unique travelling wardrobe for their long journey.

In February, the YAC staff and I had the pleasure of spending the day with Jenny and Dennis Shorty, who led a workshop where we all got to make beautiful pieces of copper jewellery. I was able to share a pot of moose stew for lunch, which I think filled everyone up on that winter day! It was a great day to spend together, and learn more about Dennis's Kaska traditions and community.

It was late summer that the photo gallery was installed on the two large walls of the stairwells leading to the mezzanine. This gallery features photos from each Yukon First Nation in their regalia and in celebration. This gallery is a part of the lobby re-design, where the large scale photos have brought this space to life with colour and the richness of the regalia. It is a beautiful acknowledgement of the Yukon First Nations vibrant and beautiful cultures.

As an advisor and friend to the staff, there are many times throughout the year that we connect, through casual lunches, moments in the gallery or phone calls. I feel that these are equally important as the "big" projects that we produce together. Relationships, friendships, awareness and truth and reconciliation find success in micro moments and they contribute to our growth together. It is a pleasure and honour to continue to support the Yukon Arts Centre work and vision!

Gùnáłchish for another great year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Dewhurst".

Partnerships

Partnerships between the Yukon Arts Centre and other cultural groups are vital for fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and diverse arts community across the territory. By collaborating with Indigenous organizations, community groups, and regional arts initiatives, YAC helps amplify underrepresented voices, share resources, and bring a broader range of programming to audiences. These partnerships create meaningful cultural exchange, support local talent, and ensure that the arts remain accessible and relevant to all Yukoners.

The annual Queer Prom at the Yukon Arts Centre is a partnership with Queer Yukon.



Nakai Theatre
Parks Canada Yukon
Yukon Parks
Friends of Dempster Country
Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre
The Guild Hall
Klondike Institute of Arts and Culture
Jazz Yukon
Artsnet
Music Yukon
Canadian Filipino Association of Yukon
Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council
Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle

Dawson City Music Festival
Yukon Theatre for Young People
Queer Yukon
Open Pit Theatre
Yukon University
City of Whitehorse
Yukon Wildlife Viewing
Arctic Institute of North America
Kluane Lake Research Station
Yukon Film Society
Edmonton Opera
Teegatha'Oh Zheh
New Works Dance Company



Lianne Cranfield performs at one of the City of Whitehorse's Friday's in the Park summer program.



Said The Whale

“

This was a year of firsts – first time we had artists in every rural school community; first time owning and presenting on our own mobile stage; first time presenting a band like Our Lady Peace and I think we might have set a record for number of tickets sold for local productions. What an incredible year for Yukon arts groups and our communities!

Michele Emslie
Director of Programming



Author Tanya Talaga in conversation with Ivan



Presto! The Great Lambrusco magic show.



Nightswimming Theatre's Sad Songs.



Chantal Kr

25

Performances

Diverse musical lineup
Yukon performers
Theatre
Children's shows
Indigenous artists
Modern dance
Comedy



Jim Cuddy

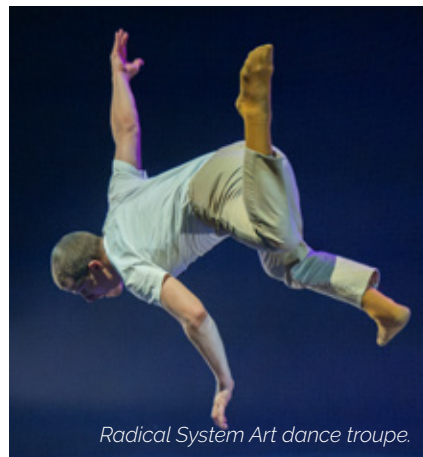


Lazy Syrup Orchestra

Programming



Alex Cuba. Chris Colbourne photo



Radical System Art dance troupe.



Leela Gilday. Chris Colbourne photo



Hawksley Workman.



Norman Foote with school choirs.



Little Miss Higgins



Brigitte Jardin



Matt Andersen

Touring Community Schools

With funding from the Northwest Hanging Sky Tour YAC was able to bring programming to schools in every Yukon community. Singer Gordie Tentrees spent a week in Old Crow teaching music to students, while entertainers Rain City Improv and Candy Bones Theatre thrilled the kids with their wacky antics.



Gordie Tentrees gave a community performance in Old Crow after spending a week working with students.



Rain City Improv entertain kids at Kluane Lake School in Destruction Bay.



Candy Bones Theatre during a show at Eliza Van Bibber School in Pelly Crossing.



Community Outreach

The Yukon Arts Centre offers a diverse array of programming that helps maintain a strong and meaningful presence in the Yukon community and plays a vital role in enriching cultural life in the territory. It engages with youth, rural communities, and underrepresented groups through outreach initiatives and partnerships, ensuring that the arts are accessible and inclusive for all Yukoners.



Music in Motion with Babies.



Midnight Sun Moppets Children's Festival.



YAC



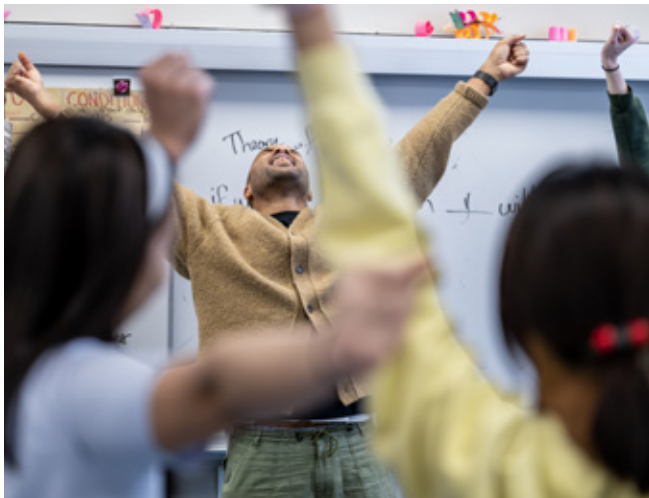
Our annual snow sculpture.



float in the Santa Parade.



Two different dance workshops were held for Teegatha'Oh Zheh, a non-profit that provides essential support services for Yukon residents with intellectual disabilities.



Storyteller/musician Kahri McClelland gives a workshop at a high school as part of Black History Month.

Other outreach projects were Red Dress Day, singing workshops for youth, and Yukoner Appreciation Day concert.



Jackie Olson's Yuhke, Baby Strap - a permanent LED installation.



“

In the Yukon, art is not separate from daily life. It's how artists tell stories, assert identities, and stay connected to land and language. This past year reminded us that creative expression continues to be one of the most powerful ways to bring people together, honour diverse voices, and learn more about our own home.

Mary Bradshaw
Director of Visual Arts

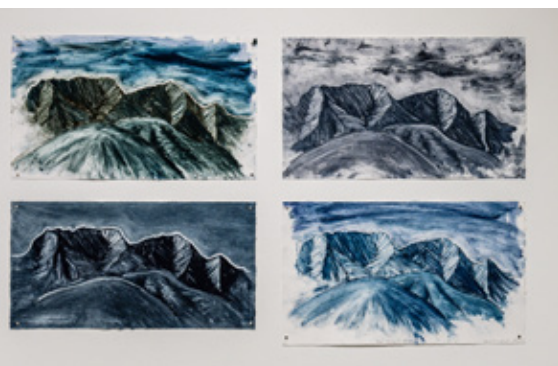
Visual arts



A young artist during one of our art workshops.



Members with the Northern Cultural Expressions Society during a carving demonstration.



Field Notes from Kluane by Christine Koch.



CAMP by Couzyn Van Heuvelen.



A piece by Sho Sho Esquiro in the Stories Within exhibit.

Gallery Exhibitions

February 29 - May 24, 2024

Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé: Shi'itsüh | Crying in the Heart

Having found herself in deep internal conflict following the loss of a family member to substance use, Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé (WRFN) invites audiences to wind their way through *Worms Shower Among Us* and enter *Nee' Shah | Our House* to witness the importance of awakening sleeping materials as a method of navigating loss.

Violet Gatensby: Where the Waters Narrow

"Passing through the narrows in Carcross always felt like leaving one world behind for another. Another world filled with hunting, fishing, gathering and stories." Solo exhibition by C/TFN artist inspired by growing up on the land here in the Yukon.

June 6 - August 30

Stories Within

Through a diverse array of mediums such as beading, formline, collage, and fashion, eight Yukon First Nations artists intricately layer narratives within their works. The exhibition explores storytelling as a cornerstone of Indigenous identity, a tradition passed down through generations.

CAMP by Couzyn Van Heuvelen

Born in Iqaluit, Nunavut, but living predominantly in Southern Ontario, Couzyn van Heuvelen's artistic practice explores Inuit cultural sovereignty and the tools and technologies of living on the land. Known for his large-scale sculptural works, van Heuvelen's playful approach seamlessly blends traditional practices with contemporary materials and fabrication processes, asserting the resiliency and adaptability of Inuit culture. *In partnership with the Robert McLaughlin Gallery*

September 12 - November 15

Kwändü nùchù n-zhà – Early September Stories

Kwändü nùchù n-zhà – Early September Stories celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Northern Cultural Expressions Society, emphasizing the healing, transformation, and sense of family nurtured through art. Grounded in cultural reconnection and a commitment to doing things in a good way, these artists have sparked profound personal growth, embracing hope, purpose, and cultural pride.

November 28 - February 20

Land Mass by David Curtis

Dawson City-based artist David Curtis presents a compelling series of film and multimedia sculpture installations in his latest solo exhibition. This immersive showcase delves into themes that explore the intricate relationships between human and non-human organisms, particularly in the context of the climate crisis.



Aleocharinae: An Entomologist and an Artist exhibit.



The Land Speaks to Me by Jackie Olson.



Lillian Lopenon poses with one of her paintings in the Yukon Energy Community Gallery.

The Land Speaks to Me by Jackie Olson

Olson (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in) harvests willow and other natural material from the land, breaks the material down to its fibres, and turns it into a paper pulp which she uses to cast and recast paper forms. Countering the organic, bits of industrial refuse recovered by Olson show up in her paper works as imprints, reliefs, and stains, representing the power of the land to adapt, recover, and reclaim.

March 6 -May 23

Field Notes from Kluane

Field Notes from Kluane showcases new works by Christine Koch, the 2023 Kluane National Park Artist in Residence. Newfoundland-based printmaker, Koch is known for linking Arctic research with art-making. This exhibition features a series of large-scale drypoint monoprints inspired by her time in Kluane, immersing viewers in the vast landscapes of the Yukon.

Aleocharinae: An Entomologist and an Artist

Aleocharinae: An Entomologist and an Artist showcases the extraordinary collaboration between Benoit Godin and Luann Baker-Johnson. This unique exhibition bridges art and science through stunning blown glass sculptures inspired by the intricate genitalia of obscure rove beetles (Aleocharinae). These unexpected creations reveal the hidden wonders of the forest floor, encouraging us to see the natural world in a new and thought-provoking way.



Early September Stories by Northern Cultural Expressions Society.



An exhibit in the ATCO Electric Yukon Youth Gallery.



Honouring Our Future: Yukon First Nations Graduation Regalia

A touring version of the *Honouring Our Future: Yukon First Nations Graduation Regalia* exhibition, developed in collaboration with the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, travelled to the United Kingdom from June 13 to October 6, 2024. Hosted at Canada House in London, it featured 15 sets of graduation regalia created by Yukon First Nations families and artists. The exhibition was accompanied by cultural programming, including a Yukon First Nations beadwork workshop led by Shirlee Frost at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford.

Supported by Canada Council for the Arts and the Yukon Government, this international tour celebrated the cultural richness, intergenerational knowledge, and artistic excellence of Yukon First Nations communities.





Yukon Theatre for Young People's production of Hadestown: The Teen Edition.



Northern Fibres Guild - Jenni House residency.

Residencies

YAC offers a wide variety of residencies for visual and performing artists:

- @YAC Residency
- Jenni House Artist Residency
- Tombstone Park Artist Residency
- Kluane Park Artist Residency
- Swan Haven Artist Residency

Our partners:

Yukon Film Society, Jazz Yukon, Music Yukon, City of Whitehorse, Yukon Parks, Friends of Dempster Country, Parks Canada Yukon, Arctic Institute of North America, Yukon Wildlife Viewing.



Misha Donohoe - Kluane Park residency.



Guild Hall's production of Spamalot.



Martha Ritchie - Swan Haven residency.



Out Innerspace Dance Theatre.

Old Fire Hall

The historical building is a cultural and community hall in downtown Whitehorse, that caters to a wide variety of community groups, including commercial renters.

Events and users during 2024-25:

- Gwaandak Theatre
- Music Yukon
- Yukon Fiddleheads
- Volunteer Benevoles Yukon
- Emily Farrell
- Yukon Legislative Assembly
- Jazz Yukon
- Canada FASD Research
- NSERC PermafrostNet
- Yukon Film Society
- Nakai Theatre
- Camp Engies
- Wedding event
- National Film Board
- FASSY
- Status of Women
- Hendrika concert
- Northern Council for Global Cooperation
- Erica Dee Mah concert
- Yukon Artist Relief Fund
- Hannah Scholz
- Open Pit Theatre
- Association franco-yukonnaise
- Shauna Devlin
- Council of Yukon First Nations
- Craft Fair
- Yukon Words Society
- Government of Yukon
- Community Services
- Yukon Swing Dance
- Klondike Karaoke competition
- Yukon Latin Dance
- YAC art workshops



Erica Dee Mah concert.



Gwaandak Theatre's production of Art of War.



Yukon Opera Development Program

The Yukon Opera Development Program has made significant strides in building a sustainable opera community in the North. This program is the only dedicated support for opera in Canada's North, and it is a vital initiative that continues to foster connections between Yukon First Nations, young students, emerging artists, and the national opera community. Partnering with Edmonton Opera we sent a group of emerging opera artists to perform at schools throughout the territory, including a residency and performance at KIAC in Dawson City. They also gave singing workshops.



Edmonton Opera singers perform in Dawson City.



Hendrika album release.

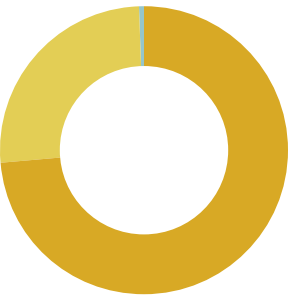


Edmonton Opera gives a singing workshop for Takhini Elementary students.



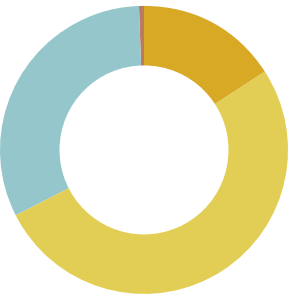
Rachael McAuley of the Edmonton Opera performs at Tantalus Community School in Carmacks.

Revenue Sources for 2024/25



Public Funding: \$1,521,933

- Government of Yukon: \$1,121,233
- Government of Canada: \$393,700
- City of Whitehorse: \$7,000



Project Funding: \$157,196

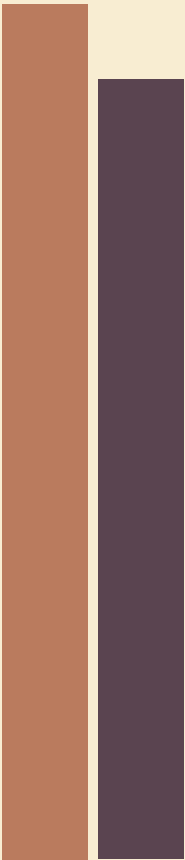
- Government of Yukon: \$25,000
- Government of Canada: \$81,500
- RBC Foundation: \$50,000
- Other: \$696



Earned Revenue: \$718,397

- Ticket sales and concession: \$237,148
- Facility rentals: \$353,839
- Deferred and other sources: \$127,411

Sponsorships & Donations: \$135,942



- Corporate: \$71,096
- Individual: \$64,846

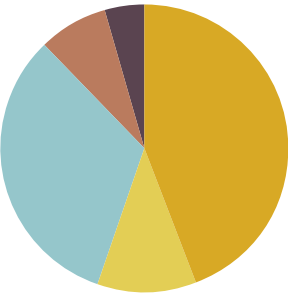
Percentage of Total Revenues:



- Public Funding: 60%
- Project Funding: 6%
- Earned Revenues: 26%
- Donations and sponsorships: 5%
- Deferred Revenues: 3%

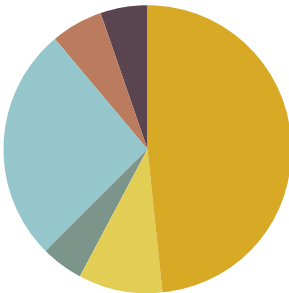
Summary of Operations

Revenues: \$2,533,469



- Administration: \$1,120,373
- Gallery: \$285,068
- Programming: \$820,184
- Old Firehall: \$198,707
- Special Projects: \$109,136

Expenditures: \$2,554,094



- Administration: \$1,239,759
- Gallery: \$242,811
- Marketing: \$118,230
- Programming: \$671,857
- Old Firehall: \$147,977
- Special Projects: \$133,460

Statement of Financial Position

Assets: \$3,014,284



- Cash: \$1,270,729
- GST Receivable: \$24,216
- Prepaid Expenses: \$127,264
- Art Collection: \$635,672
- Accounts Receivable: \$121,472
- Inventories: \$1,510
- Capital Assets: \$833,421

Liabilities: \$1,012,721



- Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities: \$236,638
- Unearned Revenue & Deferred Contributions: \$254,602
- Deferred Capital Contributions (Grants): \$521,481

Net Assets: \$2,001,563



- Invested in capital assets: \$891,916
- Board Restricted Reserves: \$794,000
- Unrestricted: \$315,647

General Statistics

Ticket Sales –
Renters/Residencies
23,478
\$933,662

Ticket Sales – YAC
Presentations
7,449
\$174,628



Total Galleries Attendance
26,127

Total in-kind donations
for 10 organizations
\$97,258

Visitors to
Honouring Our Future
Exhibit – London, England
4579 over
80 days



Sponsors



Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Canada Council
for the Arts



Northwestel



RBC
Foundation™



Stantec



kobayashi+zedda



graphics Ltd.



ATCO Electric
YUKON

WHITEHORSE
MOTORS



yukon
energy



YUKON
BREWING



Yukon Nissan

And a big thanks to all the individual patrons who donated.



YAC's fire pit created by Tlingit artist Ken Anderson. Titled yisikóo goodáx sá keeydzitee: you know where you came from/existed

Yukon Arts Centre

Box 16
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 5X9

yukonartscentre.com



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