

Local Content and Services Report Data for 2021

1. Describe your overall goals and approach to address identified community issues, needs, and interests through your station's vital local services, such as multiplatform long and short-form content, digital and in-person engagement, education services, community information, partnership support, and other activities, and audiences you reached or new audiences you engaged.

Southeast Alaska and specifically, the Upper Lynn Canal, has been the home of the Tlingit before it was populated by people moving north seeking riches, space and adventure. KHNS is aware of the need to continue making progress and being sensitive to the wholeness of our communities by introducing more original and diverse programming in the Haines, Skagway and Klukwan towns. We are creating more areas of collaboration, programming and host opportunities for the Chilkoot Indian Association and Klukwan Village. We are facilitating this by constantly updating and fine-tuning our systems of delivery to ensure everyone has access. We recently applied for an antenna to bring better reception to the village of Klukwan.

We work closely with our Community Advisory Board to identify issues of interest in our communities and to brainstorm areas of programming we need to improve or expand. Often, as with the Tlingit culture, there may not be existing programs so we produce them ourselves or support independent production by providing letters of support for grants, helping with tech aspects of production and provide guidance in making the production broadcast quality.

We spent quite a bit of time this year focusing on the recovery efforts after a disastrous landslide. The news team hosted forums on the various aspects of need and resources available. We followed the process from the early hours of emergency response to putting out the call for emergency housing, medical help, food and clothing to new shelter, fundraising and then mental health as the months dragged on. We worked tirelessly with the Haines Borough and Mayor to make sure we could get their information widely disseminated thru broadcast, internet, website etc. to help listeners understand the many processes and programs that were under way and to navigate the politics of recovery with clear and unbiased reporting. In addition to the Haines Borough Emergency Operation Center, we liaised with Salvation Army, Southeast Alaska Independent Living, the SEARCH Health Clinic, the Haines Disaster Recovery and so many more. The local paper came out once a week so we would collaborate to get some longer form stories out in print as well as on the website. We put out messages from people trying to find each other or just say they were ok.

We went to meetings and set up remote capacity to broadcast updates, we utilized Zoom to an extent we hadn't previously, allowing us to bring in folks who had varying tech access - for instance, people 30-40 miles up the road may not have radio but might have internet, some might not have phone service but could work with zoom. It was a challenge to make sure we got information as far and wide as possible and often hosted programs with people on the phone, on zoom and in the studio.

Transportation options in the upper Lynn Canal have been diminishing in the last 3 years and this is affecting the economy and the potential health of the community. Our leaders are working together to address this issue hoping to keep the transportation system alive and serving our population. If the access continues to decline, we have no doubt there will be serious repercussions for our communities. People have only two travel options to get to the closest medical facility - small planes or the ferry. In winter, planes are unreliable and now the ferry schedules mean that often people must spend more money and time they likely don't have. It can make living here untenable.

Covid has been a constant source of attention, from broadcasting daily updates and medical information on vaccination clinics, community outbreaks, state statistics – often while working remotely to mitigate the spread within the radio station.

Elections for Assembly seats, Mayoral seat and school board seats came around and our team hosted candidate forums, published and broadcast candidate profiles and monitored election results on air in Skagway and Haines.

2. Describe key initiatives and the variety of partners with whom you collaborated, including other public media outlets, community nonprofits, government agencies, educational institutions, the business community, teachers and parents, etc. This will illustrate the many ways you're connected across the community and engaged with other important organizations in the area.

KHNS has a weekly morning roster of 15-min modules that cover various areas of interest: Mon. is non-profit spotlight, Tues. is history, Wed, safety, Thurs is garden talk alternating with snow safety depending on the season and Friday is library news. Each of these modules has a different contributor, alternate among our towns and help keep us informed, entertained & introduce us to local events and ideas. For instance, Monday nonprofit spotlight is underwritten by a local foundation. They have taken on the coordination of the non-profits and encourages them to take advantage of the spotlight to present their work. In addition, we provide public service announcements, job opportunities, weather and regional road updates, transportation schedules & more.

We particularly stayed in touch with the disaster recovery team, hosting the different state and national groups that came to offer assistance. One, Team Rubicon, is a group of veteran volunteers that go into disaster areas and help with cleanup and reconstruction - in this case, clearing out water damaged homes right down to the studs.

Covid has played a big part in our reporting and specialty reporting, working closely with the school board to monitor reactions to the mask mandate and present different sides of the debate in a considered way, moderated by our news host.

Alaska has a robust network of 28 public radio stations that serve the state. We all work together to trade information, share equipment if needed and generally have each other's backs. Coast Alaska, an umbrella of many Southeast Alaska public stations, provides a network of services and support. KHNS participates by contracting both their membership and engineering services as well as the news editorial service. This gives our less experienced news team the opportunity to have a news editor and a regional outlet to feed some of their stories to the greater Alaska network. Our news service is one of our most important services - We made the commitment a few years ago to hire a second reporter and since then, we have put more and more resources toward our news which the station hadn't been able to do for decades as a result of funding cuts. We initiated a one-day news drive in the fall to complement our annual summer drive and it has been consistently successful, despite the Covid economy. There is a hunger for local and relevant news in addition to regional and statewide to counter the world and the daily barrage of bad news. "Independent news is critical to providing accurate non-biased information to our communities. An educated public is a cornerstone of the democratic experiment. Which, in fact, makes disseminating accurate non-biased information even that much more important." Tom Faverty, listener, member, DJ.

KHNS hosts the streaming of the Haines Borough and the Skagway Municipality Assembly meeting and special meetings as well as providing weekly updates with our respective mayors and tribal councils when we are allowed.

Between the Pandemic which has severely affected our tourism economy and the Landslide (which resulted in loss of life and property), KHNS has had an extremely challenging time since March of 2020, often working remotely or with skeleton office crews to keep information delivery constant. The landslide was part of a huge weather event that affected KHNS equipment in a big way. Repeated electricity surges, heavy snow and wind meant that KHNS was briefly off the air and would have been for longer if not for our radio network. Engineers were on the phone with us, loaning us equipment from the around the state and helping to strategize both immediate and long-term solutions. AP&T, the local power company, did an emergency installation of internet at the transmitter site so we could broadcast via internet while the loaner equipment made its way to us. We worked with CPB for emergency aid to purchase new equipment (thanks, CPB!). Being in an isolated area of Alaska and in the midst of Covid supply chain challenges meant that it has taken us nearly a year to complete the project. We took the opportunity to incorporate technical upgrades as well as rethinking our back-up options in light of new technology and after having to takedown a damaged tower, reconfigured our remaining tower.

Two new offerings we are excited about: Takshanuk Watershed Council, working with KHNS is beginning production again on the weekly program, Watershed Weekly, a 5 minute program. We had to retire the previous series as it went out of date and we are fortunate that TWC has the funding and talent to take it on again. The second is the Chilkoot Indian Association's History Talk. This is a new addition to our History Talk Tuesday and we are excited to welcome them.

2022 is the year we are offering new scholarships for graduates at both Haines and Skagway schools to support education in broadcasting, engineering, podcasting and other related fields of study.

3. What impact did your key initiatives and partnerships have in your community? Describe any known measurable impact, such as increased awareness, learning or understanding about particular issues. Describe indicators of success, such as connecting people to needed resources or strengthening conversational ties across diverse neighborhoods. Did a partner see an increase in requests for related resources? Please include direct feedback from a partner(s) or from a person(s) served.

It may seem like we are focusing on the disaster but it really did take up a year and is still ongoing. The impact on a small community has been felt throughout with people in need, people trying to recover and then people leaving the community as the only way to further their recovery. KHNS has been the glue, bringing in organizations to talk about how they can help, where to find masks, clothes, hot meals, showers, volunteers to help with paperwork, childcare, counseling...as the needs of the community change we are keeping up with the information and making it available. The Chilkoot Indian Association partnered with the Tlingit Haida Council to barge in emergency supplies as well as assessors and contractors to help with winter security and rebuilding. KHNS helped to spread the word so that anyone could take advantage of this opportunity.

Erik Stevens, Haines Avalanche Center, said, "When flooding and landslides struck our community in December 2020, KHNS (staff and) DJ's stayed on the air tirelessly (even as some of their own homes were evacuated), to keep us up-to-date on critical public safety information. Equally important, the radio station served as a source of calm and normalcy that week, which helped to bring down the level of anxiety in the town and keep us grounded in community support".

Sierra Jimenez, Assistant Director at Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL), "Public Radio is literally a lifeline for so many of the vulnerable residents (seniors and people with disabilities) in our community. While many people rely on the internet and technology to stay up to date on community news and local safety concerns, a large percent of the folks we serve do not have access to such technology. We get phone calls on a daily basis from folks who are calling about a story or piece of vital information they heard on the radio that pertains to them such as how to access rides to the local clinic for COVID-19 vaccines or that school is closed or that local public safety is advising people to stay off the roads due to icy conditions. It is hard for people who don't live in rural Alaska to understand the true value of public radio and the important role it plays in our communities health and safety."

We have no doubt that KHNS played and continues to play a vital role in the health and well being of our community.

4. Please describe any efforts (e.g. programming, production, engagement activities) you have made to investigate and/or meet the needs of minority and other diverse audiences (including, but not limited to, new immigrants, people for whom English is a second language and illiterate adults) during Fiscal Year 2021, and any plans you have made to meet the needs of these audiences during Fiscal Year 2022. If you regularly broadcast in a language other than English, please note the language broadcast.

KHNS has been encouraging Klukwan and the Chilkoot Indian Association to update our language program, Tlingit Time. KHNS submitted a letter in support of CIA receiving a new grant to provide funding in a number of educational areas, one of them to create a new, updated language program. The money was funded and we are now working to support their efforts and plan to broadcast the language program regularly when finished. Another component of the grant we supported was to create a weekly 15-minute history talk. That is also in production but with a more immediate start date of January 2022. Our work on History Talk coordinates with the local Sheldon Museum, the Chilkat Valley Historical Society, The Skagway National Park Service & Skagway Traditional Council and the Chilkoot Indian Association.

Klukwan Village has their own school district serving the upper Chilkat Valley. Unfortunately, this area is experiencing lower enrollment and as a result, they are facing the closure of their school. Our news team has been and is continuing to cover this very closely. In addition, we have lost important elders in the last year and made sure to represent this in a respectful manner. We don't generally do obituaries on the news but this is historic recognition of their lives and contributions to the Chilkat Valley where we have settled.

5. Please assess the impact that your CPB funding had on your ability to serve your community. What were you able to do with your grant that you wouldn't be able to do if you didn't receive it?

CPB funding, especially in small, isolated communities such as the ones we live in here, is essential to our wellbeing. We don't have the population numbers that many urban and larger towns do so it provides a base for us to parlay matching funds from other grants; it gives us a reliable base of income that we build onto. Apart from the funding we receive from CPB, the solidarity of being part of a nationwide network and the resources that come with that is reassuring. This past year we had to ask for an emergency broadcasting loan to replace a big part of the equipment that was lost in the disaster. The grant of \$34k plus allowed us to get a jump on the ordering and installation that otherwise might have taken months.

The public service and safety component of having a public radio station, as you can see from our comments, is worth its weight in gold and is available when other tech modalities are not. You can have no electricity and still listen to radio. Ann Myren, resident, "Our cluster of homes on Lutak Road, 10 miles from Haines was cut off from the road and without electricity. We had a battery-operated radio and had to conserve battery power - for three days, we turned on every hour knowing we would be getting the updates. It saved us, knowing we could access up to date information".

Without the CPB funding, we would be dependent for our total funding on our small demographic and with our tourism economy in tatters as a result of Covid, we might not have been as efficient and ready to serve. We certainly wouldn't have been able to meet our community needs as we did during the disaster.

Skagway Assembly Member Deb Potter, "KHNS community radio served as a particularly invaluable resource during the 2020/2021 series of extreme weather events. We woke up early to the news of multiple road washouts in Haines. The day progressed with everyone tuned to the radio for live "as it happens" updates about the various disasters that were unfolding- quite literally the only way to get that news as many had also lost cell service. Once aware of the deadly landslide in Haines, and as the rain continued to come down, Skagway residents became extremely concerned about our own hillside stability and safety. Comfort came from knowing that if anything were to happen, we would hear about it on KHNS. Winters here are tough, extreme weather happens and changes quickly. Skagway is a remote environment bordered by the ocean on one side, and Canada on the other. There is one road out. KHNS is the critical lynchpin that keeps us informed as to current road conditions as well as closures. During the early stages of the pandemic, Skagway's Mayor and the head of our Emergency Operations Control teamed up to broadcast weekly safety announcements on air. It still functions as the means to provide current information in this world of everchanging conditions and protocols. As I write this, Skagway and Haines are once again under an extreme flood warning issued by The National Weather Service. The Governor has just officially included the Municipality of Skagway in a disaster declaration. And as always, I have my radio tuned to local KHNS radio; The only place I know I can get up to date, possibly life-saving information about the coming storm."