KYUK is dedicated to serving the rural Alaska and Alaska Native communities of our region and responding to issues that affect the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Our mission is to educate, stimulate and inform as well as provide cultural enrichment, entertainment, and opportunity for public access and language maintenance for cultural survival.

KYUK is a valuable part of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

Since 1971, KYUK has proudly delivered news, information, and culturally relevant programming and coverage in English and Yup’ik, while connecting residents across the 48 villages of Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. We continue to build partnerships to better serve our local audience and provide a voice for the unique and vibrant communities located in Western rural Alaska.

In 2022, KYUK provided these vital local services:

We provide free over the air public television and radio service while sharing the stories of our region with the world through our website and social media platforms.

We continually look for new ways to amplify local voices and better serve our audience. In 2022, we focused on building community and honoring, celebrating, and preserving Yup’ik culture.

KYUK helps to build well-informed, stronger, healthier, and safer communities.

We continue to look ahead by investing in educating and mentoring local youth. While we continue to work with talented youth interns through the LKSD Media Ready program, we also work on building our newly launched endowment fund to ensure longevity and prosperity of public broadcasting in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

It’s local. It’s helpful. It fits into a community and region where the motto of local people, local production is best delivered by local people. Yup’ik and other local dialects can be heard and understood. Thanks for still working to deliver LOCAL broadcasting.

- Angeline Walter, KYUK supporter
In 2022, KYUK focused on continuing to share local stories to help build community while spreading awareness for the issues that matter most to the residents of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. Our commitment to reporting fact-based news in English and Yup’ik helped lead our processes and projects throughout the year. As communities across the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta saw Covid-19 numbers decline, residents became more comfortable with gathering, and we saw annual events coming together after the long, uncertain hiatus caused by the pandemic. We worked with local, statewide, and national partners ranging from the Lower Kuskokwim School District and the Alaska Public Radio Network to the PBS News Hour and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As new information rolled out, we continued to collaborate with organizations to ensure our audience received this new information as it happened. We partnered with the local, regional hospital, the Yukon Kuskokwim Healthcare Corporation on call-in shows to answer residents’ questions to support community health and safety, and produced shows that highlighted how residents, nonprofits, and organizations could utilize CARES Act funds. After two years of cancellations community members once again gathered for Bethel’s annual Cama-i Dance Festival, a local event bringing together residents from all over the region. Through strong partnerships we were able to deliver news and critical information so residents could confidently maneuver and adapt with the changing times.

In addition to reporting the news of the day and staying abreast of the happenings of the 48 villages we serve across the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, our commitment to Yup’ik language celebration and continuance remained a strong value in 2022, leading many successful projects throughout the year. KYUK owns and maintains the largest audio visual collection of Yup’ik and Cup’ik videos in the world, and the efforts to digitize and further distribute these historical accounts of life in a remote part of Alaska first began in 2014 with funding from the American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB). In 2022, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded KYUK a $350,000 grant to continue our digitization efforts, resulting in an additional 1,200 hours of digitized content and granting access to the material through the American Archive of Public Broadcasting.
KYUK was also awarded a $15,000 grant from the Alaska Humanities Forum to create a website featuring KYUK’s “Waves of Wisdom” series, featuring nearly 100 digitized video interviews with Yup’ik and Cup’ik Elders. Yup’ik software developers are creating an interactive site that allows users to engage with the interviews more deeply, by providing the meaning to segments of the Yup’ik transcriptions. The website is still in development.

In 2022, we were finally able to roll out in person screenings of the KYUK short film, To Keep As One.

To Keep As One is the story of one family’s relocation. The residents of Newtok have been referred to as America’s first climate refugees. Due to melting permafrost and flooding, the village of Newtok, home to 350 Yup’ik Alaska Natives, has been forced to build a new village 9 miles away, Metarvik. The film premiered locally at Bethel’s Camai Dance Festival, an annual community gathering. It was also shown at the Suurvik movie theater in Bethel. The screenings were paired with an on air marketing campaign that included promotional messaging and interviews in English and Yugtun with residents featured in the film. It was also a key feature at the online Environmental Film Festival Australia.
Kuskokwim 300 Sled Dog Race
The local sled dog racing scene is a vibrant and thriving part of the Yukon Kuskokwim region that brings people together to reflect upon and celebrate an Alaskan tradition. KYUK provided live coverage of Bethel’s premier mid distance sled dog race, and produced shorts for the 2022 Kuskokwim 300. It marked a return to normalcy for the race compared to the previous year’s event, that had been altered due to COVID-19 precautions.

Yup’ik Word of the Week - Birds
We worked with Bethel Regional High School students to produce KYUK’s ongoing animated series, Yup’ik Word of the Week. The 2022 series featured birds, and was paired with relevant programming highlights throughout the year including a bilingual Bird Talk show with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service highlighting the detections of HPAI (bird flu), safety precautions for hunters and anyone who handled wild birds.

Keeping Voters Informed
Following Rep. Don Young’s death, the 2022 special primary election to replace the longest serving Republican in congressional history, was also Alaska’s first ranked choice special election. The ballot included a total of 48 candidates. Leading up to the election, KYUK increased coverage about the newly adopted voting process as well as the large field of candidates vying for this critical position. Bethel’s Mary Peltola claimed the win for the special election as well as the regular primary election, making her the first Alaska Native to serve in Congress, and the first woman to serve as Alaska’s U.S. Representative.
Broadband Finally Hits the Y-K Delta

We produced a news story about broadband internet in Akiak, a Yup’ik village with about 460 residents in Western Alaska. This video aired statewide on Alaska Insight and was picked up by PBS News Hour and aired nationally. The focus was on the lack of broadband access and the challenges it causes in rural areas like Alaska.

When the U.S. went into lockdown, many people moved most of their lives online. That wasn’t always possible in the Y-K Delta, where residents still don’t have access to high-speed internet at home. Since the pandemic hit, the federal government has made billions of dollars available to expand broadband. A good chunk went to rural tribal lands, like Akiak, some of the least connected areas in the country.

But money was only a piece of the puzzle. The tribe is also relying on satellite technology that just became available this year in Alaska. Low Earth orbit satellites, can deliver high-speed internet to rural areas that cables can’t reach.

For decades, the Y-K Delta has been left behind in the digital revolution. Residents are excited to catch up.

“Internet will open my eyes, I think. I know it will.”

- Lena Foss / Akiak, AK

At least 16 tribes in the region have followed Akiak’s blueprint to install broadband in their villages.
KYUK is the lifeblood of the YK Delta. It keeps us connected.

– Joseph Klejka/ Bethel, AK (KYUK supporter)

In 2022, KYUK remains committed in sustaining the culture, traditions, and values of the region while providing critical news, information, and culturally relevant programming. We continue to support the residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and strive to help build and maintain well-informed, connected, and healthy communities for the future.

KYUK SERVICES & VALUES
- Promoting the use and familiarity of Alaska Native languages
- Providing educational and developmental opportunities
- Disseminating critical health & safety messaging in English & Yup’ik
- Coordinating with community, statewide, and national partners to address issues and interests impacting the region
- Providing a platform for residents to connect and engage in valuable community events and conversations.