



Svetlana Katynova's plans for ethnocultural villages/centers 2010-2015

Svetlana Katynova has been working with administrations in several regions of Altai to create different residential indigenous cultural centers in the form of ethnocultural villages. These range along a continuum from sacred, non-public sanctuaries to tourist-oriented sites.

One tourist-oriented village is part of a large commercial development planned for Maima, near the capital, Gorno-Altai. Funding for this project is rolled into funding for the whole project.

However, in Tyungur Village, close to Mt. Belukha, land has been procured for two centers, one of which will be open to the public, and a second that will not. There are 3 stages to realization of these centers:

Stage 1

To foster the resurgence of Altai throat-singing, which is not only oral history, but actually the spiritual glue of Altai culture, a private sanctuary/healing center is planned for the far end of Tyungur Village. A beautiful tract of land adjacent to the Katun River has been provided by the village administration. This center will be considered sacred space.

Two(2) all-season a'ïls \$36,000/house will be built (half of this will be provided in-kind by the village, so total outside funding needed is \$18,000/house. These will be fully insulated year-round traditional residences in which throat-singers/healers will provide sound-healing and therapy.

Construction: 2 years, 2010-11. Funding needed: \$18,000/year.

Stage 2

At the other end of Tyungur, where the road is, a publicly accessible Amuir Tyut ("Sacred Land" in Altai language) ethno-cultural "fertile settlement" – 13 buildings in a horse-shoe configuration that intrinsically fosters health – will be constructed according to sacred Altai technologies. Several hectares of land that fronts the river on one side and the road on the other, have been provided by Svetlana Katynova's extended family. Each of Altai's national groups will build their own summer a'ïls, where community members will live and do their traditional work in the summer. It will be organized so that each group features a different traditional Altai technology, and will be a hub for coordinated regional/national distribution of the resulting ethnic products, as well as a tourist attraction and training/research center. One of the buildings, which will serve as the office, will be an all-season a'ïl. Corollary projects such as a country hotel and public banya will be funded and built by investors.

Construction: 2 years, 2012-13. Funding needed: \$18,000/year.

Stage 3

Self-realization of the full program, including a summer camp for Altai orphans, in which they would be acculturated to enable them to be functional adults.

2 years 2014-15