



The City of Yakima invites applications for  
**Airport Director**

Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field (YKM)  
Yakima, WA

*EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH*

## The Airport

The airport, Yakima Air Terminal – McAllister Field (YKM), is owned by the City of Yakima and managed by a dedicated team of airport staff. Maintenance and operations of the airport are funded solely through revenue generated by the airport which serves over 70,000 passengers each year. Current projections expect the number of passengers served to double by 2030.

YKM has a high economic impact on the local economy and supports many aviation businesses that provide an estimated 1,000 jobs for the community. These businesses include companies such as McAllister Museum of Aviation, McCormick Air Center, JR Helicopter Service, Cub Crafters, Triumph Aero structures, Civil Air Patrol, Alaska Airlines, FedEx, Airlift NW, and Yakima Aerosport.

Commercial air service for Greater Yakima Valley is provided by Alaska Airlines with daily flights to Seattle. Many other services include air cargo service by FedEx and United Parcel Services, as well as emergency medical flights, aircraft manufacturing and testing, corporate aviation, and general aviation.

YKM has a variety of pilot services that include an Automated Weather Observation System, which provides critical weather information located at the airport. In conjunction with this service, the airport has an Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) operated by Serco under a contract with the FAA.

The existing airport terminal building was constructed in the 1950s. Since construction, the terminal building has undergone minor remodeling projects to maintain functionality with new tenants and to meet regulations set by the FAA and TSA. There are numerous capital projects in the works currently and planned into the future. See the [Yakima Air Terminal Capital Budget 2022](#).

## Fly Washington Passport Program

The Fly Washington Passport Program encourages pilots and aviation enthusiasts to explore Washington's public-use airports. Beyond motivating pilots to fly, this program supports general aviation airports, area businesses, tourism, and provides flight planning, safety, and educational opportunities. The program relies on the voluntary participating of Washington's public-use airports, pilots, and aviation enthusiasts.





## The Community

Yakima is a premiere place to live, work, and play. Strategically located in the drier climate of the Pacific Northwest, with easy access to Seattle and Portland, Yakima offers an exceptional quality of life with a relatively low cost of living, ample seasonal outdoor activities year-round, and strong sense of community.

Yakima has been the cultural, business, educational, health services, and governmental focal point of the Central Washington region since it was founded more than 125 years ago. Originally built along the new Northern Pacific Railway company line, Yakima has grown from its agricultural roots to become a vibrant, diverse metropolitan city. Yakima is the Heart of Central Washington, with a rich history and a bright future.

Community pride and economic strengths in Yakima have always revolved around agriculture and the success of a wide variety of crops grown in the irrigated valley. In fact, Yakima County leads the state in terms of the value of the fruits, vegetables, grains, and other agricultural products produced by the county's farmers.

The Yakima Valley has long been known as one of the world's leading producers of apples, but summer and fall are also filled with other wonderful tree fruits, like cherries, peaches, pears, nectarines, and apricots. These treasures, along with mint, asparagus, grapes, hay, berries, watermelon and eggplant are just some of the more than 30 varieties of fruits and vegetables harvested and shipped across the country. Notably, this region also produces about 75% of all of the hops (a key ingredient in beer) grown in the United States.

While agriculture is a driving and stabilizing force in Yakima's economy, over 250 manufacturing firms produce a variety of products including aircraft parts, wood products, plastic products, recreational vehicles, and communications technology. Additionally, tourism is the fastest growing and one of the most exciting industries supporting Yakima's economic growth. The Yakima Valley is home to multiple craft beverage makers (breweries, distilleries, and wineries) that regularly draw visitors to sample and buy unique and world-renowned products. Several great museums highlight the culturally rich history of this great valley, while outdoor recreation, including water and snow skiing, fishing, boating, hiking, horseback riding, and whitewater rafting, also makes Yakima a favorite destination for people from throughout the Northwest and around the world. Yakima also hosts many sporting events and tournaments at its premiere indoor/outdoor sports complex featuring 15 fields: 4 turf, plus a 13,500 sq ft indoor facility, and its state-of-the-art aquatics center.

## The Community *(continued)*

There really is something for everyone in Yakima. The Apple Tree Golf Course is one of the Pacific Northwest's premier golf experiences. Carved from the rolling terrain of 100-year-old orchards in Yakima, Washington, Apple Tree's prestigious resume includes a 4-star rating by Golf Digest. Visit the Arboretum for a nature walk, gardening class, to relax, study, get married, attend workshop, or a Fresh Science field trip, and you will see why Yakima's Arboretum is one of the most treasured and beautiful places in Central Washington. The Capitol Theatre stands as a testament to the community's heritage and its long-standing commitment to the arts. Top-quality touring Broadway musicals frequent its stage, which is also home to a variety of productions presented by numerous local organizations, such as Yakima Symphony Orchestra, Town Hall, Youthworks, the Follies and many local dance studios. Capitol Kids is an educational outreach program that enables school-age children to appreciate the arts by experiencing live productions with their peers.

The Yakima Valley, located in the rain shadow of the Cascade Mountains, is often described as a semi-arid, high desert climate, and residents are proudly spoiled by its 300 days of annual sunshine and 4 distinct seasons. Spring is one of the most beautiful times of the year with the valley's fruit trees blossoming and daytime temperatures usually ranging in the upper 60s and 70s. Summers are warm and dry, with temperatures typically ranging from the mid-80s to mid-90s during the day and wonderful cool nights create great opportunities for long evening walks, summer concerts in the park, visiting with neighbors, or enjoying a Pippins baseball game. The end of summer and fall mark Yakima's harvest time which is celebrated with many great activities including the Moxee Hop Festival, and the Central Washington State Fair. The holiday season typically brings with it winter temperatures in the 20s and 30s and a white Christmas is pretty common. Overall, Yakima's climate is mild and mostly dry, with the area averaging only about 8 inches of precipitation each year.

Yakima is the largest city in Yakima County with a population of approximately 96,000. That makes it the 11th largest city in Washington State. Most of the people who founded Yakima were of European descent, although significant numbers of African-Americans and Asian-Americans homesteaded the area as well. Increasingly, the Yakima Valley has experienced a large influx of Latinx immigrants, many from the state of Michoacan in central Mexico. Today, the Yakima community enjoys a rich mixture of people from many cultural and ethnic backgrounds.





## The Community *(continued)*

Yakima is a well-rounded family-friendly community, where neighbors still help neighbors, businesses and volunteer organizations are invested and committed, and local community groups partner with City leaders to hold onto the quality of life Yakima has enjoyed for over a hundred years. That, mixed with a great location, perfect weather, delightful craft beverages, farm fresh produce and outdoor adventure make Yakima an outstanding place to live.

## The Position

The Director of Yakima Air Terminal is responsible for motivating and leading a team of professional employees engaged in a variety of airport development, planning, maintenance, operations, certification, management, community relations and administrative activities. Working under the direction of the City Manager, the Director interfaces with, and engages stakeholders, both internal and external, in order to advance the goals and objectives of the City of Yakima/Yakima City Council.

A highly visible position, the Air Terminal Director interfaces and maintains relationships with a variety of government agencies including the Transportation Security Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, as well as local and state authorities. The Director will also be responsible for developing and promoting airport master and capital improvement plans and presenting and promoting those plans to the City Council and neighboring community. He or she is the primary public relations spokesperson for the Airport and as such, represents it at governmental meetings, as well as seminars and conferences. The Director drafts, negotiates and approves new leases and approves lease renewals, including airport concessions and leased properties.

As YKM's Security Coordinator, the Director updates the Airport's Security Plan, inspects airport facilities, and enforces all safety and security rules and regulations. The Director also writes and implements Airport policies and procedures to include Airport and employee performance standards, the Wildlife Hazard Management Plan and Snow & Ice Control Plan. He or she will select and supervise staff, conduct performance evaluations, and investigate and resolve grievances.

The Director is responsible for the Airport's continued airport certification to include updating and gaining approval for YKM's Airport Security Plan. He or she inspects all Airport facilities for compliance with security and safety plans and standards. Additionally, the Director instructs staff on safety and security rules and regulations.





## The Ideal Candidate

The successful candidate will have a 4-year degree in Aviation, Public or Business Administration, Engineering, or a related field. He or she will have at least 7 years' experience in airport management and/or airport operations, including 3 years' supervisory experience at an airport, to include public relations experience. The candidate must possess or be able to obtain a Washington State Driver's License and be able to pass a 10-year Transportation Security Administration security background check. An Airport Security Coordinator (ASC) training certificate is required, or candidate must be able to obtain within 90 days of hire. Additionally, an American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) Certified Member (C.M.) or Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) certification is preferred.

The candidate will have thorough knowledge of airport management, industry standards, policies and practices, and FAA/TSA regulations governing airports. The candidate will have a firm understanding of regulations and procedures associated with the operation of an airport including, aircraft operations, emergency procedures, security procedures and wildlife management. He or she will also have experience in developing and presenting operating and capital improvement budgets and reviewing financial reports.

Yakima Air Terminal offers an excellent opportunity for an Airport Director with vision, dedication and drive to build and sustain outstanding professional relationships with an already strong team including but not limited to, YKM employees, the Advisory Board, City and County employees and officials, as well as State and Federal representatives. For a complete job description, [click here](#).

## Salary and Compensation

The salary range for the Director of the Yakima Air Terminal is \$116,438.40 - \$148,595.20. A starting salary above the mid-point is achievable for the exceptional candidate and will be dependent upon experience. YKM offers an attractive, comprehensive benefits package and will assist with relocation costs.

## How to Apply

To apply online, [click here](#).

**Deadline for applications: March 13, 2022**

Contact for this search is:  
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ADK will review and process applications as they are received, and we highly encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

**Please note:** After your application is complete, you will receive an important email from us. Please check your inbox and your junk/spam folder, and if you have not received our email, please notify us at: [admin@adkexecutivesearch.com](mailto:admin@adkexecutivesearch.com).

