

OCTOBER 2021

The Catalyst

a periodic publication from
Vision Action Network

INSPIRING
COLLABORATION
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Take our
survey to help
us improve
The Catalyst!



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IMPATIENT FOR JUSTICE

Fall is definitely here! I'm grateful for the much-needed rain and the brilliant colors on display among vine maples, dogwoods, elms, and oaks. I'm grateful for hot tea, a reliable furnace, and a safe structure that I call home. I'm mindful of the thousands in our region who cannot say the same, and this reminds me of a message I read recently that was written by my choir director DeReau Farrar. During the pandemic, the ministers and staff of my church have been taking turns sharing a reflection with the community. Every Monday, I receive an email under the heading "Staying Connected." In DeReau's message, he said, "I am impatient for justice... I am impatient for people and systems that need to take time to weigh the pros and cons of pursuing justice when the cons relate to capital security. I am impatient for the people and systems that need to process the gains and losses when the potential losses are systemic gatekeepers and progress-blockers." I had to read these sentences several times to hold the weight of his words. DeReau identifies as a "youngish" queer, Black, Christian man in a predominantly White, older, albeit "liberal religious" Unitarian congregation. In 2017, during his first year on staff, he gave a testimony about White supremacy. It unsettled many and angered more than a few. Prophetic voices often do, even among those who consider themselves "woke."



Glenn Montgomery
Executive Director

The nature of VAN's work is to create space for people to collaborate on issues of equity and, therefore, justice. We don't often speak to it in this way, perhaps because it still makes some people uncomfortable. Regardless, we host events like [adVANce](#) (formerly Meet the Funders) that bring nonprofits and funders together each year to discover how their missions might align to serve the broader community. We convene [Washington County Thrives](#) each month to facilitate connections, exchange information, and consider ways to promote collective action on shared priorities like affordable housing, workforce training, early learning, and youth enrichment. We partner with others steeped in justice work, such as the [Racial Equity Collaborative](#), to provide consultation, training, and community engagement services for transformational initiatives like the [City of Beaverton's Downtown Equity Strategy](#). In each of these examples, as with all our work, VAN is neither the champion nor the owner of the outcomes, yet our role is vital. As an impartial convener, we help stakeholders clarify their vision and take collective action to make it a reality.

Among the greatest challenges we confront are the systems that DeReau alluded to in his message. It's easier to treat the symptoms rather than the source of our problems. Beyond the systems is the culture that fortifies them. Justice work requires uprooting some of the well-entrenched myths of rugged individualism, meritocracy, and scarcity – all part of a White-dominant culture – and shifting the narrative to embrace community, interdependence, and abundance – the bedrock of Indigenous culture. As November approaches and we commemorate Indigenous People's Month, I'm pleased to have David Harrelson and Stephanie Littlebird Fogel, both members of [The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde](#), contribute their stories on the next episode of [Finding Community](#), VAN's podcast on the people of Washington County. This is another way in which we promote connection while shining a light on those who work for justice.

In fact, this newsletter is yet another tool in in VAN's toolkit aimed to promote equity and justice. We want to make sure it's of value to you, and I'd be grateful if you shared your feedback by completing this [short survey](#).

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Montgomery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

VAN INITIATIVES AND CONVENINGS

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

As the school year began, members of [Thrives All-Collaborative](#) set aside time to take stock and consider how and where they can focus their collective energy. September and October meetings included discussion of how to support the many organizations in the county that are experiencing rapid growth due to an infusion of ARPA funding. Questions raised included: How can we support capacity building? How can we create more opportunities for collaboration? The conversation continues, and [Thrives invites your input and engagement.](#)



In addition to planning for the future, Thrives continues to make space for meaningful dialogue on the current state of Thrives' priorities which include workforce development, early learning/youth enrichment, and affordable housing/wraparound services in Washington County.

At our [September 15 meeting](#), Andrew McGough of [Worksystems, Inc.](#) shared information about the ongoing labor shortage, possible impact of vaccination mandates on the health care workforce, and the as-yet unknown consequences of 80,000 Oregonians losing extended unemployment benefits (12,000 people in Washington County). In addition, Katie Riley of [Washington County Kids](#) shared information on the expanded afterschool care in Hillsboro School District, and Alessandro Mastrococco from [Early Learning Washington County](#) provided an update on Preschool Promise which was at 77% enrollment at the time of his presentation.

In [October](#), Thrives hosted Alex Devin, Services Network Administrator with [Washington County Supportive Housing Services \(SHS\)](#), who gave a comprehensive update on the progress and challenges associated with SHS implementation in Washington County, as well as sharing plans and strategies for the future which will include a significant emphasis on tri-county collaboration.

In November, we return to the important topic of child care by highlighting successful partnerships to confront the child care challenge.

If you missed any of our Thrives convenings, catch up now by viewing the meetings on [Vision Action Network's YouTube channel](#). And be sure to join us as we continue to convene community leaders in our monthly All-Collaborative sessions to explore issues critical to Washington County residents. Register to attend our next meeting, [November 17, 8:30-10:15am on Zoom](#), and be a part of the solution!

[Join the list!](#)

Join the mailing list to receive updates and grab a seat at the table (on Zoom) - 3rd Wednesdays each month from 8:30-10am!

VAN INITIATIVES AND CONVENINGS

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

The Racial Equity Collaborative continues to engage with the City of Beaverton on its [Downtown Equity Strategy](#), and it reached a significant milestone with the completion of training for staff and elected leaders. In October, Patricia Alvarado from [Adelante Mujeres](#) conducted “Authentic Community Engagement” and REC partner Dr. Jade Aguilar of [ECONorthwest](#) delivered “Cultural Competence - Understanding the Concepts: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Intersectionality” to City of Beaverton staff. Earlier in the project, Jade teamed up with Dr. Andres Lopez of [Coalition of Communities of Color](#) to facilitate a dialogue on anti-racism and multi-culturalism with the [Beaverton Urban Redevelopment Agency \(BURA\)](#) board composed of Beaverton’s City Council and a few community leaders. Andres leads the community engagement efforts for the team.

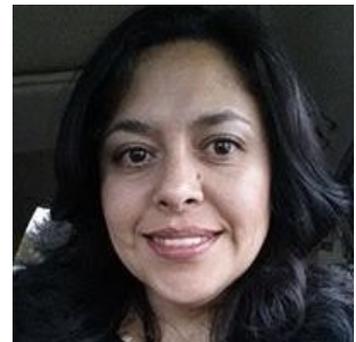
The consulting team is working collaboratively with City staff to lay the groundwork for strategic urban development. The goal is to invest in downtown improvements that:

1. retain existing business owners, renters, and homeowners who work and live in the downtown area (avoiding the typical impacts of gentrification); and
2. create a more welcoming, inclusive downtown that attracts even more diverse businesses and residents

Outreach to BIPOC businesses and residents will begin in November with wider community events are planned for December. The dates will soon be set!

Learn more and follow the project updates at

[REC | Vision Action Network](#)
or
[Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy](#)



Patricia Alvarado



Andres Lopez



Jade Aguilar

VAN INITIATIVES AND CONVENINGS

"OPENING DOORS, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS"

On October 19, 2021, Vision Action Network was thrilled to host **adVANce** (formerly "Meet the Funders"), gathering 13 area funders on Zoom with over 40 local nonprofits to cultivate deeper partnerships.



This year's event was generously sponsored by **Columbia Bank**, and included a special opening

presentation by **Jessica Hartung**, entitled "The Developmental Edge of the Conscious Professional" followed by the ever-popular round-robin with funders.

The event was a big success! Here is what some of our participants shared:

"Today was outstanding. We learned so much, including insights that we'd never be able to get from a funder's website. Having that opportunity to hear from them and to ask them questions was golden." - Nonprofit

"It was a great experience, and I will definitely go again. You and your team did an amazing job!" - Nonprofit

"Great event, it was an honor to participate!" - Funder



FINDING COMMUNITY PODCAST



Don't Miss the October and November Episodes!

Episode 6 celebrates National Hispanic or Latinx Heritage Month

Guest host Ed Guzman, a member of VAN's board of directors, speaks with Petrona Dominguez Francisco, a DACA recipient, Washington County resident, and Leadership & Advocacy Program Coordinator with [Adelante Mujeres](#) in Forest Grove. [The recording](#) is in Spanish, and an English transcript of the conversation is also available.

Coming soon – Special Episode for Indigenous People's Month

Glenn talks with [Steph Littlebird Fogel](#), an artist, a member of [Grand Ronde Confederated Tribes](#), and a descendant of the Kalapuyan and Chinook people; and David Harrelson, Grand Ronde tribal member and Cultural Resources Manager of [The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde](#).

Find and subscribe on your favorite podcast app, or at [spreaker.com/show/finding-community](https://www.spreaker.com/show/finding-community).

Need a convener or value-added facilitator?

Our mission is to bring people together across sectors to address complex issues for the benefit of the Washington County community.



Contact Glenn Montgomery, Executive Director
glenn@visionactionnetwork.org or 503-846-5792

Follow VAN



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EVENTS & CONVENINGS

Dia De Los Muertos Day of the Dead Celebration

Join the [City of Hillsboro](#) and [Centro Cultural](#) for performances, food, activities, and more in celebration of Dia De Los Muertos. Vaccinations will also be available. Free to the community and fun for the whole family. November 1, 5:30 – 8 pm at Hidden Creek Community Center. More info: Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/Events or www.centrocultural.org/events.



Day of the Dead! / Día de los Muertos

This November 1st, celebrate those loved ones that aren't with us anymore. [Cornelius Public Library](#) will host Day of the Dead activities virtually on Monday, November 1/Lunes 1 de Noviembre: 6:30pm-7:30pm. Register at: wclls.bibliocommons.com/events/6148b50229050241008b4501.

Day of the Dead Festival - FREE Family Event

Join Mitotiliztli Tezkatlipoka and [RISE](#) in this space of ceremony, dance, and revolution in celebration of Día de los Muertos. It is a time to remember our loved ones while enjoying food, dance, traditions, and connection with the community. [THPRD Garden Home Recreation Center](#) (7475 SW Oleson Rd Portland, OR 97223), Saturday, November 6 from 2 -9 pm. For more information: thprd.org/events/.

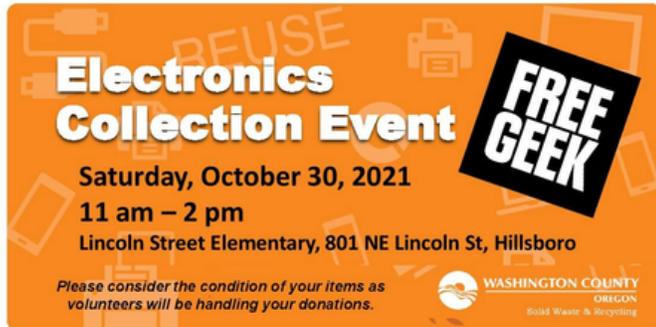


Day of the Dead Community Altar

[Tualatin Public Library](#) will have a community altar in the library in remembrance of loved ones who have passed away, from October 22 – November 5. Learn how to participate at www.tualatinoregon.gov/library/d%C3%ADa-de-los-muertos-community-altar.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EVENTS & CONVENINGS



Electronics Collection Event

Washington County, Hillsboro School District and Free Geek invite you to an electronics collection event in Hillsboro! Free Geek will accept electronics for reuse and recycling on Saturday, October 30th from 11am to 2pm at Lincoln Street Elementary School. visit the Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling Facebook page where

they are sharing information on the impact of our tech, tips on how to better manage electronics and details about the event. Learn more at www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/SWR/hot-topics.cfm

HomePlate Presents Front Porch Sessions

HomePlate is hosting a virtual Front Porch Sessions event inspired by the power of sharing stories to build community. With Front Porch Sessions founder Chris Williams as the emcee, two youth and one staff member will guide audiences through their stories and share the ways in which we can foster community with strangers! Thu, November 4, 2021, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM. To register, visit www.homeplateyouth.org/get-involved.



DEI Problem-Solving Panel

Washington County Kids is offering a free DEI panel session on November 10 from 6-8 pm. Join in a conversation about race. Participants are invited to bring examples of issues, disputes, and obstacles, and moderator will facilitate a discussion with panelists to help brainstorm solution strategies. This session is open to the public and there is no cost. Space is limited, so sign up today!

For more information and to register, visit washingtoncountykids.org/event/dei-panel/

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EVENTS & CONVENINGS



Hillsboro Mediation Program Workshops

The [Hillsboro Mediation Program](#) continually works to provide community members with the skills and tools necessary to move through conflict and improve relationships. Join them for these FREE virtual training opportunities!

Communication Habits That Establish Healthy Boundaries

Tuesday, November 2, 9:00 am - 11:30 am. Register for the class by [November 1](#) at www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/99149/

Understanding the Language of Emotions

Tuesday, November 9, 9:00 am - 11:30 am. Register for the class by November 8 at www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/99151/

Skilled Facilitation Integrating Diverse Viewpoints

Tuesday, November 16, 9:00 am - 11:30 am. Register for the class by November 15 at www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/99153/

Conversation Project: Relationships for Resilience with Christina deVillier

In a time of intensifying social and ecological crises, in a cultural context of individualism, the pressure to practice "self-care," build "personal resilience," and "transform oneself" is pervasive. While "doing your own work" is important, we overemphasize the individual to the detriment of our human communities and the rest of the living world. The deep transformations we need will be co-created, and the deep resilience we must develop will be relational. In this session of the [Conversation Project presented by Oregon Humanities](#), participants will explore the dynamics of our strongest relationships, seeking to name the qualities and practices that underpin resilience. How can we bring our insights more intentionally and broadly to bear in our human relationships and in our relationships with our home—lands, waters, and ecosystems? This free virtual event is November 16, 2021, 6:00 p.m. Learn more at oregonhumanities.org/events/conversation-project-relationships-for-resilience/

Oregon Humanities

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EVENTS & CONVENINGS



Family Caregiver Conference

This [Washington County Disability, Aging and Veteran Services](#) event aims to provide a safe and welcoming space for caregivers to come together to connect with one another, learn new skills and find valuable community resources. This year's theme is "Building a Community for Caregivers." Workshop presentations will be held virtually on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays during the month of

November. Find out more and register online here:

www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/DAVS/Caregivers/family-caregiver-conference.cfm.

4th Annual Green Business Virtual Symposium

Join [Washington County Green Business Leaders](#), the [Washington County Chamber of Commerce](#), and the [City of Beaverton](#) for an engaging discussion about food and climate and how Washington County communities and the region are responding. Symposium presenters will focus on the climate impacts of food waste, share food waste prevention tools, food donation resources and information on [Metro's upcoming regional food](#)

[scraps mandate](#). This FREE virtual event will be held Thursday, December 2, 2021 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM. Register here: web.washingtoncountychamberor.com/events/4th-Annual-Green-Business-Virtual-Symposium-7440/register



Join us Wednesdays Oct 27-Nov 17
7 PM LIVE on Facebook



Special guest interviews
Open Q&A
Everyone is welcome!

Questions? Contact PublicAffairs@co.washington.or.us

Sheriff's Office Virtual Community Academy

Join and engage with the [Washington County Sheriff's Office](#) during the upcoming Sheriff's Showcase, live on Facebook. They will interview different subject matter experts, and explore how the Sheriff's Office promotes public safety. Use this opportunity to ask YOUR questions! Live on Facebook, Wednesday evenings at 7 pm, from October 27-November 17. No registration required.

www.facebook.com/WCSOOregon/events

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ROUNDOABOUT THE COUNTY



Winter Shelters

Winter Shelters are set to open in November and run through March to provide life-saving emergency shelter. Over the winter of 2021 and 2022, Washington County will fund 5 winter shelter sites throughout the County for youth, individuals, and families. All referrals are coordinated through [Community Connect](#).

Learn more at www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/community-connect.cfm

Washington County transitions to new emergency alert system

On October 25, [Washington County](#) transitioned to a new emergency alert system called [Everbridge](#). To ensure community members are informed during emergencies, Washington County encourages individuals to sign up for emergency alerts through the new alerting system. When signing up, individuals can select how they would like to receive time-sensitive information including on a landline phone, cell phone, email address, by text message and more. Sign up for emergency alerts at www.publicalerts.org/signup



Help Washington County redesign their website!

Visit the current website at www.co.washington.or.us to see a prompt for a survey to give YOUR input on how the website can be improved!

For more info: www.co.washington.or.us/CAO/website-re-do.cfm

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

COVID-19 CORNER

Updates on Rental Assistance

Current protections for [renters in Washington County](#) include:

- Grace period until February 2022 to pay back rent owed from April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021,
- Extending protections for 90 days for anyone who has applied for rent assistance who lives in unincorporated Washington County (otherwise remains 60 days). [Note: On October 5, Beaverton voted to extend to 90 days]

Find out more here: www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/COVID-19/index.cfm



Apply for rent assistance with [Washington County Community Action](#) by one of the following three options:

- Call 503-615-0770 on Mondays at 9:00 am or the following business day if Monday falls on a Holiday.
- Fill out the online prescreening request, so that they may call you back to schedule a phone appointment: caowash.org/programs/housing-stability/rent-assistance-prescreen-alternate.html
- Complete the online application for assistance through the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program (OERAP): www.oregonrentalassistance.org/

COVID-19 Child Care Reopening Grant

Child care providers who stopped providing services between March 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, and reopened after June 30, 2021, or are interested in reopening, are invited to apply for a grant. The application period for this grant is **open until November 30, 2021**. Applicants must complete a brief

application online and meet eligibility criteria to be considered for a grant. An instructional video is provided to walk through the application process with closed captioning available in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese and Chinese at oregonearlylearning.com/COVID-19-Resources/Grants.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

COVID-19 CORNER



Washington County's Mobile Vaccine Clinic

A **mobile team** is traveling the county to make it easier for people to get the vaccine close to where they live, shop or hang out. New locations added regularly. The priority is first and second doses for those who have not been vaccinated. They will also provide booster doses after November 2, but encourage you to schedule boosters at a pharmacy or from your health care provider. Find more info on the Mobile Vaccine Team and other opportunities

to get the vaccine at: www.co.washington.or.us/HHS/CommunicableDiseases/COVID-19/vaccine.cfm

Boosters – What you need to know

The **CDC recommends COVID-19 booster shots** for the following groups who received their second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least six months ago. This includes people:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work in high-risk settings
- Age 18+ who live in high-risk settings

It also recommends that everyone 18 and older who received the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine get a booster dose two months after their shot.

Get answers to your vaccine questions

- Check out OHA's website: covidvaccine.oregon.gov
- Dive deeper into the data with [Oregon Health Authority's data dashboard](#)
- Text ORCOVID to 898211 to get text/SMS updates (English and Spanish)
- Email ORCOVID@211info.org (All languages)



For more information about **vaccines** and continued COVID-19 **testing** in Washington County, please refer to Washington County's Health & Human Services website at

www.co.washington.or.us/covid-19.



Vision Action Network

Mission: VAN engages stakeholders across sectors to collaboratively address critical issues in Washington County.

Board Transitions



Ed Guzman
City of Hillsboro
2019 - 2021

Ed Guzman Exits Board

Ed Guzman joined VAN's board in the fall of 2019 as a relative newcomer to the metro area, but he proved adept at making strong connections with members of the Latinx community and was hired by City of Hillsboro in their Communications Department just prior to the pandemic. Like so many others during this tumultuous time, Ed was presented an opportunity to pivot in his career which led to his decision to step down from VAN's board. We will miss his thoughtful insights and enthusiasm for VAN's mission, but he left us with a parting gift as guest host of the latest Finding Community podcast episode. Thank you, Ed!



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Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Kemp Shuey (Chair)
Community Action

**Andrew McGough
(Immediate Past-Chair)**
WorkSystems, Inc.

**Sr. Adele-Marie Altenhofen
(Vice-Chair)**
Sisters of St. Mary's of Oregon

Annie Herbert (Secretary)
Kaiser Permanente

Albert (Al) Roque (Treasurer)
Washington County Sheriff's Office

Directors

Rania Ayoub
City of Hillsboro

Alexis Ball
City of Beaverton

Insil Kang
Village Church

Dr. Raymond Moreno
Providence St. Vincent's

Narcedalia (Narce) Rodriguez
Pacific University

Dick Stenson
(retired advocate)

Latricia Tillman
Washington County Admin

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