



Vision Action Network

ANNUAL REPORT ENDING JUNE 30, 2021





Vision Action Network

Our Vision

Washington County is where all people have the opportunity to enjoy a rich and meaningful life.

Our Mission

Engage stakeholders across sectors to collaboratively address critical issues in Washington County.



values

WHAT GUIDES US

Equity

Quality of life depends largely upon the resources we draw from, and some of these resources exist simply because of our race, class, gender, orientation, or other inherited and/or unearned attributes. This reality

contributes to inherent disparities between people with respect to economic security, health, and well-being. In order to eliminate these disparities, the systems, structures, investments, and institutions that perpetuate them must be redesigned, so that everyone has the opportunity to achieve a rich and meaningful life.

Inclusion

Thriving communities acknowledge their interdependence, as well as the differences among people that serve to enrich social structures, planning, and decision-making for everyone's mutual benefit. By inviting all to participate, we create a sense of belonging and acceptance that encourages the highest potential of each contributing member. By centering those who are most vulnerable, we become ever more resilient.

Empathy

In our journey towards an inclusive society, some enjoy privilege - the experience of unearned freedoms, rights, benefits, advantages, access, and/or opportunities afforded to a particular group. Privilege can narrow the aperture of what people see with respect to others' experience, especially those who don't enjoy the same privilege. Thus, when we come together, we acknowledge the role of privilege and the exclusion that often occurs among those without it. We go further by attempting to look through the lens of another's experience with the goal of mutual understanding, a point of intersection that can change how we envision the world around us.

values

WHAT GUIDES US

Community

We are better together, and when we welcome the diverse perspectives and experience of all residents, we are more likely to take actions that benefit us all.

Collaboration

Nothing meaningful is created without a balance between conflict and compromise, and we approach problem solving with an appreciation for our interdependence. Through mutual understanding, aligned priorities, and shared goals, we can achieve the best possible outcomes.

Trust

We are rooted in the context of relationship, and our purpose is to center the community as it strives to confront challenges, solve problems, and achieve the best possible outcomes. As an impartial convener, our processes and practices are guided by equity to engage diverse perspectives and facilitate collaborative actions that benefit all.

Transparency

We strive for openness and accessibility in our operations and decision-making. We convene and communicate with all stakeholders, mindful of those who have been historically excluded or marginalized, so everyone enjoys access to information and is free to participate in our engagements.



“VAN is remarkable at convening. They have a legacy and have been able to continue to build relationships across sectors.”

a message

FROM VAN'S LEADERSHIP

The terms “unprecedented,” “pivot”, and “new normal” have become all too commonplace in our vocabulary, but I acknowledge them as part of the Covid lexicon and byproducts of history in the making. As this hundred-year pandemic disrupts the lives of billions on our planet; as wildfires, flooding, and rising sea levels and temperatures reveal the existential threat of climate change; and as ideological extremism tears apart the fabric of civic society, we are living in difficult and distressing times. During this past year, I have felt the weight of the challenges they present like no other time in my life.

In March 2021, Vision Action Network passed a 20-year milestone as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, but under the circumstances, we opted not to celebrate. Still, VAN has brought thousands of people together over the last two decades in its role as a trusted, impartial convener in Washington County. Whether the topic was aging, housing and homelessness, sustainability, or racial equity, VAN has invited people from all sectors to come to the table and envision the possible. We don't claim to have the answers, nor do we operate from a position of power, yet people consistently show up because they value the space we create to cultivate relationships and encourage collaboration.

Yet, sometimes people still have difficulty understanding exactly what we do. Admittedly, VAN is a unique organization. There are only a few others like us scattered across the country, but a simple metaphor I would offer is that VAN is a stage manager. We support the actors, director, sound and light technicians, props crew, and myriad others to ensure a successful performance. While often hidden behind the scenes, without the stage manager, there is no play. And yet, VAN's role is much more than this because sometimes we sit in the director's chair. Sometimes we even produce the play. During my 6+ years as Executive Director, we've done these things with no more than three staff. “Small, but mighty” is our mantra.

I'm grateful for the support we've received over the years and proud of what we've been able to accomplish. Looking ahead, it's clear VAN needs to remain agile and responsive to serve the needs of our community, and it is my hope that 20 years from now, we will look back on this period and know we rose to the challenge and came out stronger together.





VAN'S STRATEGY

MOVING FORWARD

VAN brings together people and organizations to collaborate on the complex and seemingly intractable problems to improve the lives of all county residents. VAN plays a unique role by creating space for every sector to engage – government, nonprofits, healthcare institutions, schools, faith communities, businesses, and more – and seeking alignment of their priorities. As a convener, VAN does not advance its own agenda or aim for any particular outcome. Rather, we cultivate trusted relationships and empower the community to collaborate towards its desired ends.

In 2021, VAN approved a 3-year strategic plan with the following goals:

1. VAN is an essential communications hub for collaborative engagement in Washington County.
2. VAN is a trusted broker of collaborative relationships that reflect the diversity of Washington County.
3. VAN is the preferred convener to address complex issues affecting the residents of Washington County.



equity

JUST THE BEGINNING



In FY 20–21, VAN prioritized equity above all else. VAN staff participated in a DEI cohort led by the Center for Equity and Inclusion, along with Homeplate Youth Services, Bienestar, Community Partners for Affordable Housing, and Community Housing Fund. Topics addressed included using ally tools to engage others in a dialogue about systemic racism and white supremacy, developing an organizational equity statement, and creating a roadmap towards embodying an anti-racist culture, policies, and practices.

“ We credit VAN's work for setting us on a journey of big improvements in racial equity. Our equity program is now fully woven into our work. ”



The REC unveiled its Racial Equity Plan (see RACIAL EQUITY COLLABORATIVE, p. 5).

VAN's Board of Directors formed an EDI subcommittee, approved an official Statement on Equity, revised bylaws and crafted new policies using an equity lens.

VAN's Executive Director participated in the interview process for Washington County's first ever Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer.

collaboration

WHAT WE DO BEST: WASHINGTON COUNTY THRIVES

In FY 20-21, Thrives meetings increased to once per month due to increased demand for connection.

Thrives expanded the focus of one of its three strategic priorities:

- 1) Affordable housing,
- 2) Workforce development,
- 3) Early learning and youth enrichment.



At the request of Washington County Administration, VAN organized stakeholders and hired a consultant team to develop recommendations for permanent supportive housing (PSH) service delivery which were presented to the Washington County Board of County Commissioners on August 18, 2020, based on the publication "Improving PSH Service Delivery in Washington County."

Many Thrives members participated in the County's Local Implementation Plan which was approved by the Metro regional oversight committee on April 26, 2021.

Thrives submitted a letter to the Board of County Commissioners that recommends changes to current systems to include:

"... better alignment of housing, health, workforce, and human services providers in partnership with government agencies across jurisdictions; expanded navigational support to overcome existing barriers that prevent people from accessing vital services designed to keep them stably housed; consistent policies and investments among jurisdictions that deliver clear direction and effective support to providers."

collaboration

WHAT WE DO BEST:
RACIAL EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

VAN is a co-convener of the Racial Equity Collaborative, and in the summer of 2020, the REC successfully competed in an RFP process with Washington County to conduct six listening sessions on the topic of body-worn cameras and other community concerns, with a total of 244 community members participating from August through October.

In addition, the REC conducted four sessions on the County's community's investment priorities which attracted 276 participants.



Racial Equity Plan

The REC unveiled its three-year Racial Equity Plan in December 2020, with an online session that included 89 community members and special guest speaker Commissioner-elect Nafisa Fai. The plan was developed with feedback from other BIPOC organizations and leaders.



collaboration

WHAT WE DO BEST: RACIAL EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

In March 2021, VAN was awarded the contract for the Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, and is serving as prime consultant on a multi-disciplinary project team, which includes the REC partners (Adelante Mujeres, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), Bienestar, and Coalition of Communities of Color) and the economic consulting firm ECONorthwest. This project will provide the City of Beaverton recommendations on how to prevent and mitigate involuntary displacement of residents and businesses, to create an inclusive downtown with amenities desired by communities of color, and to center racial equity in the City's decision-making processes and community engagement.

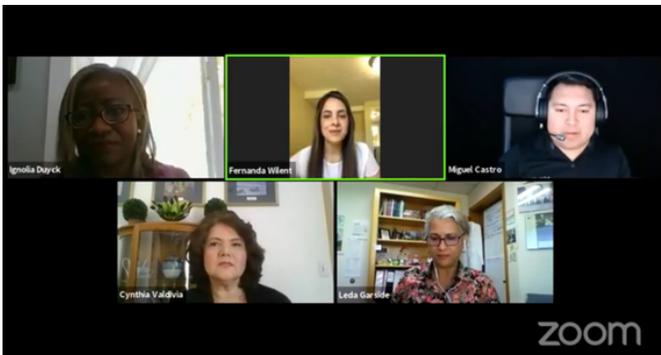


“ VAN brings people together. We see them as a connector. The events are incredibly valuable. It allows us to build relationships. Many governments have a transactional perspective, to really get things done we have to have good relationships. Looking at any big issue, relationships are what will make us succeed. ”

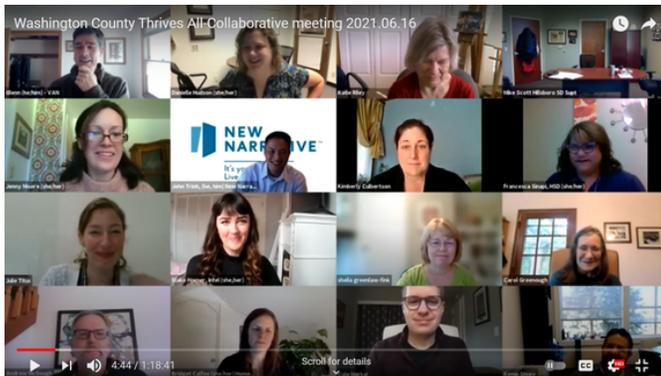
Virtual Impact

SERVING DURING CRISIS

In 2020, amidst the global pandemic and a social movement for racial justice, VAN transitioned to online convenings using digital technology to further our mission.



VAN played a key role in helping the community stay informed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. As part of Washington County's Emergency Operations Center, we provided daily briefings live streamed on social media that reached as many as **1,800 viewers**.



Thrives Zoom meeting attendance had an **average of 30 people each month**, representing a wide array of stakeholders across all sectors throughout the county.



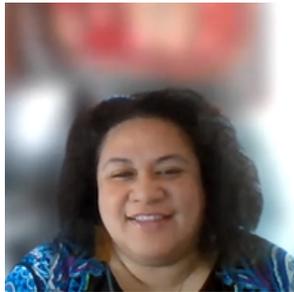
Continuing our annual programming, VAN convened a virtual "Meet the Funders," with over **75 attendees** across seven sessions in November 2020.

Connection

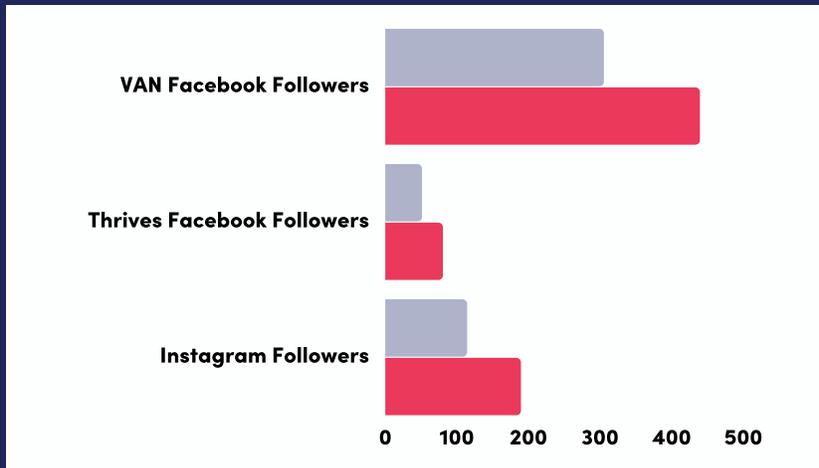
BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



VAN launched a podcast in early 2021 called Finding Community: A podcast about the diverse people of Washington County.



VAN Social Media Highlights FY20-21 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)



VAN Facebook Followers

↑ 69%

Thrives Facebook Followers

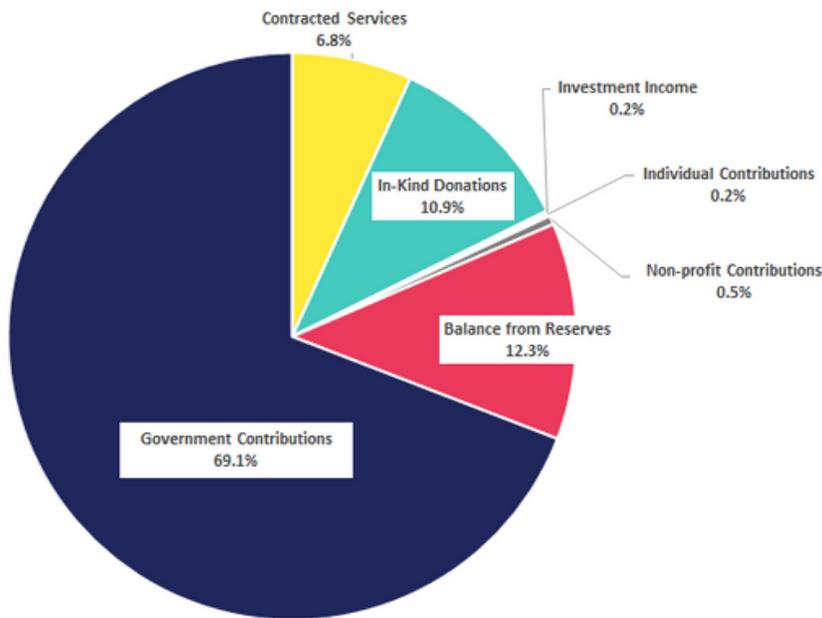
↑ 64%

Instagram Followers

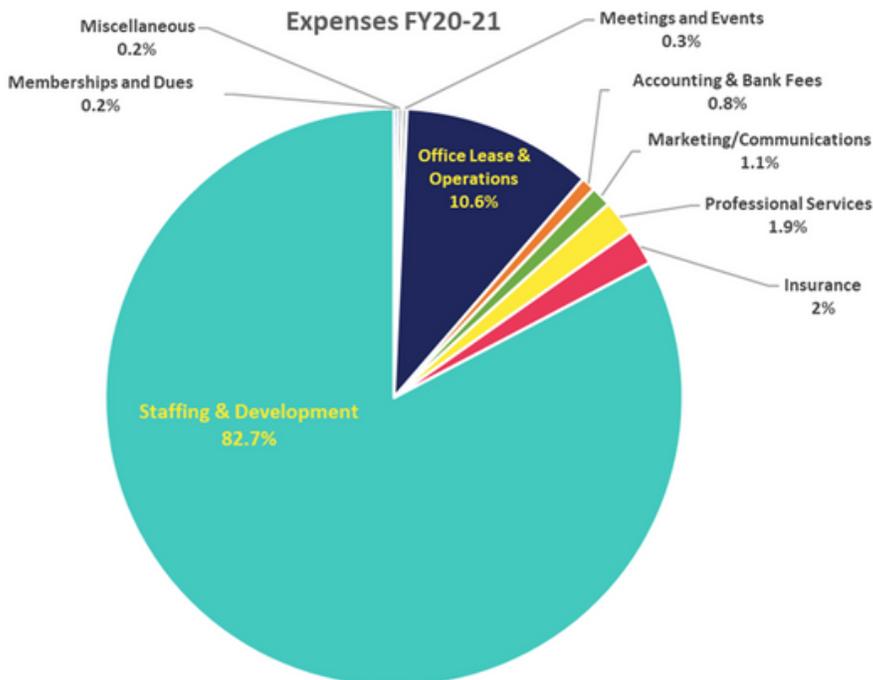
↑ 60%

Financials

Revenue Sources FY20-21



Expenses FY20-21



VAN's financial performance for fiscal year 2020-21 was stronger than anticipated with cash revenues of approximately \$231,000 (95% of budget), even as the pandemic required cancellation of events and potential sponsorships that adversely impacted revenue. We incurred a net loss with total cash expenses of nearly \$239,000, exceeding revenues by about \$7,900. However, this was nearly \$21,000 below what was budgeted. VAN's total equity at year-end was approximately \$214,000.

donors

BACKING THE MISSION

VAN's work is made possible by the generosity of donors who believe in our role as an impartial convener in Washington County. These contributors deserve special recognition for their support during the 2020-21 fiscal year.



City of Tualatin



Annie Herbert
City of Sherwood
Community Action
Glenn Montgomery
Hillsboro School District
Intel Corporation

Kaiser Foundation
Commissioner Pam Treece
Reedville Presbyterian
Sisters of St. Mary's of Oregon
Tualatin Valley Water District
Worksystems, Inc.

leadership

BOARD TRANSITIONS

Exiting Board Members



Roy Kim
Central Bethany
Development
2002 - 2020



Mike Duyck
Tualatin Valley Fire &
Rescue
2014 - 2020



Tara Pedersen
Columbia Bank
2019 - 2020



Mary Monnat
Lifeworks NW
2002 - 2021

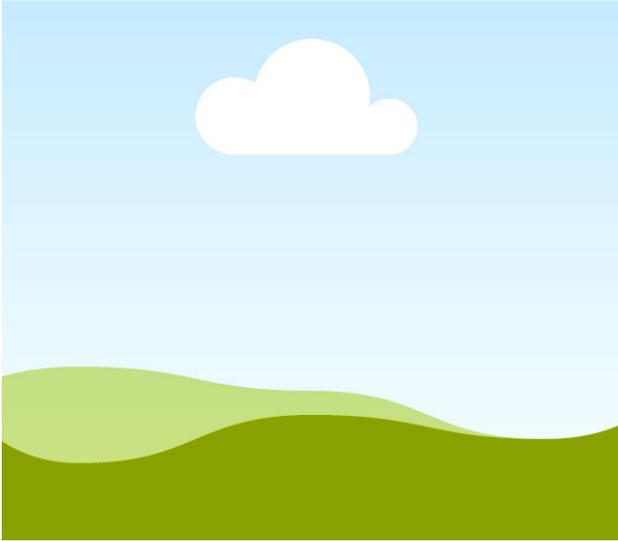
Incoming Board Members



Latricia Tillman, MPH
CEO, Washington
County



Dr. Raymond Moreno
CMO, Providence



leadership

BOARD & STAFF
FY END JUNE '21

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Andrew McGough
(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

Ed Guzman
City of Hillsboro

Insil Kang
Village Church

Dr. Raymond Moreno
Providence St. Vincent's

Narcedalia (Narce) Rodriguez
Pacific University

Kemp Shuey
Community Action

Dick Stenson
(retired advocate)

Latricia Tillman
Washington County Admin

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