

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**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.

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.

values

WHAT GUIDES US



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 has continued to provide a forum to talk about 'what can be' and 'how we can become even better at being a civil society' and caring about each person with whom we share our county. As human beings, we quickly forget what is really important. VAN always takes us back to the right start through forums, readings, writings and being together for the right reasons!"

Rob Drake

City Manager of Cornelius and Former Mayor of Beaverton



a message

FROM VAN'S
LEADERSHIP

VAN is a connector, communicator, and catalyst. We help people align goals and objectives to create new ideas and take purposeful action for the benefit of the wider community. We make space for stakeholders to step outside of their day-to-day silos, be in relationship with others, and act together towards a common purpose. It sounds great, right? But it's easier said than done, and it's for this very reason VAN was created. We were one year into the pandemic when VAN celebrated its 20th anniversary as an independent nonprofit, born out of [VisionWest](#), a months-long community effort led by Washington County.

So much has changed in our community since that time, but the need is greater still for connection, collaboration, and a sense that we're all rowing in the same direction. VAN exists to satisfy this need. We host regular gatherings like Washington County Thrives to keep people focused on shared priorities, such as housing, workforce, and care for our children and youth. We help strengthen relationships between funders and nonprofits each year at the ever-popular event known as adVANce. We partner with others to promote racial equity on inspiring initiatives like the [City of Beaverton's Downtown Equity Strategy](#).

While VAN's efforts aim for sustained, long-term results, we are nimble enough to respond to the urgent needs of today. A perfect example is the Behavioral Health Workforce Summit we hosted in March 2022. It began with a single conversation with LifeWorks NW about the critical worker shortage in the behavioral health sector. VAN then brought several providers together, followed by a diverse group of community stakeholders who had a vested interest in solving the problem, and their input helped shape the summit itself. Actions continue to flow from that pivotal event, and VAN hopes to play a vital coordinating role to achieve something great together.



collaboration

WHAT WE DO BEST:
WASHINGTON COUNTY THRIVES

Washington County Thrives is a collaborative of roughly three dozen organizations that works collectively to remove barriers that prevent people from getting ahead. Thrives is about creating opportunity and increasing access to essential resources, such as affordable housing, career-track jobs, and early learning & youth enrichment so children and adults have a solid foundation to create a good life and give back to their community.

After its impactful work on housing and homelessness throughout 2018-2020, Thrives spent much of 2021 exploring the myriad ways in which the ongoing pandemic affected the collaborative's priorities. We engaged representatives from local school districts, child care

agencies and organizations, the local workforce development board, and elected officials, while continuing to receive updates on the Local Implementation Plan and Supportive Housing Services. Thrives meetings focused on deep listening, learning, and understanding, which helped us identify the areas of connection and barriers we could address next.



"It's really important to hear the work you're doing and to make sure that we're supporting it."

Senator Akasha Laurence Spence
Thrives Meeting, January 2022

collaboration

WHAT WE DO BEST:
WASHINGTON COUNTY THRIVES

In 2022, Thrives stepped back into action by agreeing to take on the Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative, when our region's behavioral health providers reached out to VAN directly imploring us to shine a light on the workforce crisis they are experiencing.



VAN assembled a core group of providers and hosted a Behavioral Health Workforce Summit, with funding support from Washington County. This event engaged nearly 90 stakeholders in Washington County to consider creative responses to combat this critical challenge.

The summit served as a primer and forum to connect stakeholders who may be working in and outside of the traditional behavioral health system. It also served as a valuable way to explore other opportunities and provide insight into how we can best strengthen our behavioral health workforce and address the unfolding crisis across our community.

"This is an incredibly important and impactful group."

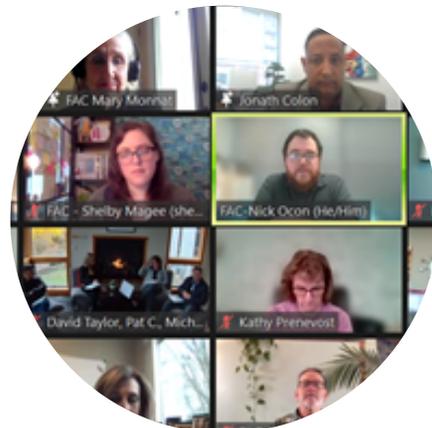
Representative Maxine Dexter
Thrives Meeting, January 2022



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WHAT WE DO BEST:
WASHINGTON COUNTY THRIVES

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE SUMMIT BY THE NUMBERS



88

People attended

75

Views on YouTube (as of year end)

34

People completed sign-up form to help with initiative

\$25K

Awarded from The Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation

In the weeks following the summit, The Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative began to coalesce, and VAN secured \$25,000 in funding from The Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation to guide collaborative work on the first phase of the initiative with LifeWorks NW, New Narrative, Sequoia Mental Health Services, and Worksystems, Inc. Phase One aims to develop a universal recruitment and training plan for residential support staff, which providers identified as the most urgent workforce need. This will serve as the model for a broader behavioral health workforce recruitment and training plan to be developed in Phase Two of the initiative.

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WHAT WE DO BEST:
WASHINGTON COUNTY THRIVES



THRIVES BY THE NUMBERS FY 21-22

6

All-Collaborative gatherings

26

People average per gathering

57

People attended January All-Collaborative w/Oregon Legislators

92

Total unique participants

153

Total YouTube views (as of year end)

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WHAT WE DO BEST:
RACIAL EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

BEAVERTON DOWNTOWN EQUITY STRATEGY (BDES)



Throughout FY 2021/22, the Racial Equity Collaborative (REC) focused its time and energy on the Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy (BDES). VAN served as prime consultant on the multi-disciplinary project team for the BDES project, which began in March 2021 and 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.



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WHAT WE DO BEST:
RACIAL EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

BEAVERTON DOWNTOWN EQUITY STRATEGY (BDES)

As of June 2022, the team had completed the following major components of its work on the project:

SUMMER 2021

Project team conducted training for City of Beaverton staff and elected leaders on:

- Cultural competency – understanding the concepts of equity, diversity, inclusion, and intersectionality
- Applying equity tools in real life situations
- Using a Racial Equity Strategies for Reviewing and Developing Policy
- Authentic community engagement

JULY 27, 2021

Project partners Dr. Andres Lopez from Coalition of Communities of Color, and Dr. Jade Aguilar from ECONorthwest led a conversation with the Beaverton Urban Redevelopment Agency (BURA) about the City of Beaverton and BURA's progress along the continuum toward becoming an anti-racist, multicultural institution, an important step in the City's ongoing equity journey to transform its overall policies and practices for the benefit of Beaverton's residents and businesses.

"You created an inclusive space for our team to learn, grow more comfortable with the concepts, and really think about how we can use the tool in our work. I really appreciate how you created the container for being together...that's so valuable."

Cadence Petros

Development Division Manager at City of Beaverton



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WHAT WE DO BEST:
RACIAL EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

BEAVERTON DOWNTOWN EQUITY STRATEGY (BDES)

Continued - major components of project completed as of June 2022:

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2021-22

Community engagement and outreach conducted with compensation for participation and translation and interpretation provided.

- The consulting team leveraged its relationships to enlist the support of community “ambassadors” who conducted outreach to downtown area business owners from the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities.
- Two gatherings were hosted with Latine business owners.
- Conversations held with Black, Chinese, Korean, Muslim, Native American, Thai, and Vietnamese affinity groups.
- About 140 residents attended two virtual gatherings hosted by the City and facilitated by the REC partners. For many, it was their first time participating in such an event with the City. Together in small groups, they shared their ideas about how to create a downtown where everyone feels like they belong, and to discuss ways to avoid pushing residents out of the area, as often happens with urban redevelopment projects.

“Thank you for arranging these virtual meetings, which help me participate, share my thoughts, and feel important.” Beaverton Resident

JANUARY 26, 2022

The Beaverton business community was invited to help guide the process and strategies by joining us to discuss their experiences as a business owner, share their vision of a thriving downtown, connect with other business owners, and take away some information to support their business.

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WHAT WE DO BEST:
RACIAL EQUITY COLLABORATIVE

BEAVERTON DOWNTOWN EQUITY STRATEGY (BDES)

Continued - major components of project completed as of June 2022:

FEBRUARY 22, 2022

VAN's consultant team presented at the meeting of the Beaverton Urban Redevelopment Agency board. They shared best practices research and the results of their outreach to business owners and residents on how the City of Beaverton should invest \$100 million in its downtown area.

BDES BY THE NUMBERS

260

Beaverton community members participated

48

BIPOC business owners participated in interviews and focus groups

"I love the idea of ongoing dialogue thru spaces like this and also thru affinity groups...with clear reporting on metrics and input from community on each step." Beaverton Resident

SUMMER 2022

The consultant team has completed work on the project and is preparing the final report for the City of Beaverton.

connection

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

SOCIAL MEDIA BY THE NUMBERS

16%
30%
44%
49%
93%
104%
178%
335%
372%

Increase in VAN Facebook followers

Increase in VAN Facebook page visits

Increase in Thrives Facebook followers

Increase in LinkedIn followers

Increase in Twitter followers

(activated account 4/2022, numbers for one quarter)

Increase in Instagram followers

Increase in Instagram profile visits

Increase in Facebook reach

Increase in Instagram reach



connection

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



FINDING COMMUNITY PODCAST

VAN's podcast Finding Community expanded its focus beyond Washington County and now serves as a way for VAN stakeholders to explore more deeply what it means to be a community through stories of human connection, conflict, collaboration, and envisioning the possible.

Our guests are artists, educators, activists, frontline workers, ministers, public servants, and people committed to co-creating a better world. The episodes provide inspiration and encouragement that our vision is actually possible: a community where all people have the opportunity to enjoy a rich and meaningful life.

FINDING COMMUNITY BY THE NUMBERS

13	Episodes produced
82	Highest number of downloads for one episode
524	Total downloads in FY 21/22
#1 & #2	Most popular Facebook posts were podcast releases for Ep 15 and Ep 6

Notable guests over the past year included Oregon State Senator Akasha Lawrence Spence; Indigenous artist Stephanie Littlebird Fogel, curator of "This IS Kalapuyan Land" at Five Oaks Museum, who appeared along with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson; and nationally recognized author and consultant Peter Block. In addition, we've interviewed local community leaders like Cameron Whitten of Brown Hope, union coordinator and political candidate Lamar Wise, and Sabrina Wilson, Executive Director of the Rosewood Initiative. Our most popular episode so far is our interview with Cindy Cosenzo, owner of Just Create Community based out of Hillsboro, Oregon.

connection

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER



VAN has been convening a “Meet the Funders” event since 2010, with the aim of bringing the Washington County nonprofit community together with regional, state, and local funders from foundations, government agencies, and businesses. In 2021, VAN rebranded this event to “adVANce,” and convened online in October 2021 with **14 funders** and approximately **50 nonprofits**.

FEEDBACK FROM adVANce 2021

“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. Thank you for everything you did to make it possible.”

Ellen Catania,
Development Director, Easterseals Oregon

“This was great! I really appreciate the opportunity to connect with community partners/funders today. Thanks for bringing us together.”

Amber Kern-Johnson
Community for Positive Aging



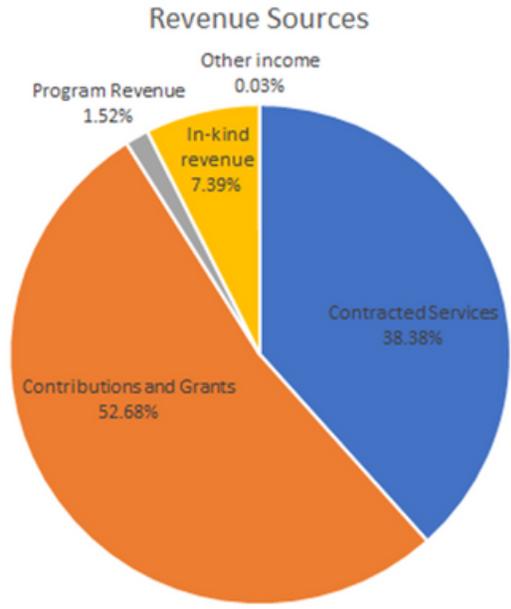
Wordcloud generated from event chat feedback

financials

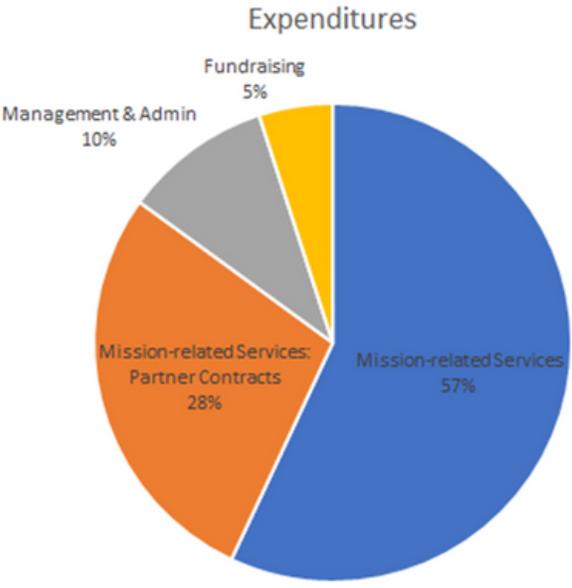
VAN’s financial performance was strong for FY21-22 with net income of over \$27,000 and a General Operations fund balance of approximately \$130,000.

REVENUE SOURCES (APPROXIMATE)

- 53% contributions from VAN’s Sustaining Partners, grants, and other donations
- 38% service contracts with Washington County stakeholders
- 7% in-kind donations
- 2% programs and events



EXPENDITURES (APPROXIMATE)



- 57% mission-related services
- 28% mission-related services subcontracted to VAN partners
- 10% management and administrative costs
- 5% fundraising costs

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 organizations deserve special recognition for their long-standing support.



Other contributors during FY21-22 include:

Tualatin Valley Water District
Community Action
Worksystems, Inc.
Hillsboro School District
Intel

Reedville Presbyterian
Alexis Ball
Annie Herbert
Karen Montgomery



leadership

BOARD & STAFF
FY END JUNE '22

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WorkSystems, Inc.

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

Annie Herbert
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Albert (Al) Roque
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Alexis Ball
City of Beaverton

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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