



# Community Council

## 2017 Annual Report

This Annual Report marks the end of Community Council's ninth year of community-building – bringing citizens together to learn from one another, identify shared goals, address common challenges, and advocate for positive change. This year, we have focused on building institutional capacity and financial sustainability in addition to sustaining our advocacy work and continuing to support Community Conversations and develop community indicators.

2017 brought significant recognition of Community Council's work. In the fall, Community Council was awarded the Duane Wollmuth Catalyst Award, by the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce. In November, Philanthropy Northwest recognized Community Council as one of eight innovative change-makers in the Pacific Northwest in its report, *Pacific Northwest Changemakers: Innovative Approaches to Community-based Sustainability*, which can be found on our website at [www.wwcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.wwcommunitycouncil.org). We were honored to be recognized by the business community and the philanthropic community!

### **ADVOCACY**

#### ***Improving Food Security***

The *Improving Food Security* Implementation Task Force (Task Force), chaired by Genie Crowe, completed its advocacy period and celebrated its Full Circle Celebration in the fall. The Implementation Task Force spent three years, from fall 2014 to fall 2017, advocating for the recommendations developed by the *Improving Food Security* study committee. By reaching out to organizations and individuals who have long been engaged in addressing issues of poverty, agricultural sustainability, community health, economic development, nutrition and emergency food distribution, the Task Force sought to synergize and amplify on-going efforts by assembling and encouraging natural allies to collaborate toward achieving positive outcomes. Though Community Council's role in supporting implementation of the recommendations has concluded, the many organizations that have been working on these issues continue to do so. Results of the advocacy efforts are detailed in the *Improving Food Security Implementation Report*, which was released at the Full Circle Celebration, and is available on our website at [www.wwcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.wwcommunitycouncil.org).

## **Enhancing Outdoor Recreation**



The *Enhancing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities* Implementation Task Force (Task Force), co-chaired by Kate Bobrow-Strain, Mike Denny, and Kevin Mills, completed a second year of advocacy. One highlight of this effort is the Blue Mountain Region Trails project. In 2017, the Task Force helped facilitate eight public outreach meetings (two each in Dayton, Walla Walla, Milton-Freewater, and Burbank); renewal of the technical assistance grant from the National Park Service – Rivers, Trails, and Conversation Assistance (RTCA) program; and additional public outreach and general support. More than 30 federal, state, regional, and local public entities collaborated on the development of a plan for a non-motorized trails and transportation network throughout the region. The plan was completed and celebrated at an event with more than 200 people in attendance last week. Once the plan has been adopted, both public and private funding opportunities become available. Information about the Blue Mountain Region Trails project can be found at [www.bluezonetrails.org](http://www.bluezonetrails.org).



## **Education as a Path to Economic Growth**

The *Education as a Path to Economic Growth* Implementation Task Force (Task Force) completed its first year of advocacy. The Task Force is chaired by Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer, Executive Director of the Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Association, and supported by more than 25 community members. Several new individuals have joined the Task Force this year after having indicated their interest in the topic through the Community Conversations process. During the past year, the Task Force has been conducting research and meeting with stakeholders in support of its advocacy efforts. One of the subcommittees has conducted an inventory of collaboration between our local arts economy and educational institutions in order to identify gaps in service or areas of need. Another subcommittee has researched educational collations and met with experts to identify the best approach to developing a local educational attainment alliance. An additional subcommittee has worked with educational institutions and local foundations to identify opportunities to provide diversity and inclusion training for leaders, educators, and community members as a step towards increasing educational equity in our region.

## **COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

In 2017, we issued a Community Conversations Progress Report, which details the process and outcome of the eight large community workshops and many smaller ones we held in 2016. Five priorities were identified in that project: Access to Education, Strong and Diverse Economy, Health and Wellbeing, Care for Nature, and Safety. The Access to Education priority has been folded into the *Education as a Path to Economic Growth* Implementation Task Force due to strong alignment between the goals within each one.

The Walla Walla County Department of Community Health agreed to provide the infrastructure for the Health and Wellbeing priority. They are working with Columbia and Umatilla counties' departments of health, along with many community members, in a group now called the Blue Mountain Regional Community Health Partnership. In addition to continuing to work with the Blue Mountain Regional Community Health Partnership, we also plan to identify effective ways in which to move the additional priorities forward, and continue the important community outreach and engagement that made Community Conversations so successful.

## INDICATORS



We continue to work toward a set of community indicators that can be used to better understand and measure the quality of life within our region. In 2017, we convened a “data walk” in Milton-Freewater in order to engage community members and regional funders in an examination and discussion of the information. In the coming year, we look forward to building on what we learned through the data walks and focusing on the priorities identified through Community Conversations in order to refine a set of indicators that can be used by our community to set goals and measure progress.

This year, Community Council expanded its institutional capacity and financial sustainability through successful hiring and fundraising efforts. Ruthell Martinez, Community Council’s new Advocacy Coordinator, joined the team in October. Her role is to support on-going and future advocacy efforts and build community outreach. Our development work during 2017 began to catch up to the significant expansion in programming during 2016. This year our donor base grew by 32% and the amount of total donations increased by 38%.

In addition to generous donations, event revenue, and sponsorships, our work continues to be supported through grants from local foundations and trusts. We are also grateful for the in-kind donations that are vital to our work.

### Board of Directors (2017)

Officers for Community Council’s Board of Directors in 2017 were:

Roger Esparza, President  
Katie DePonty, President-elect

Bill Erickson, Secretary  
Ben Currin, Treasurer

Directors serving, with the officers, during 2017 were:

Maria Alonso  
Kate Bobrow-Strain  
Katherine Boehm  
Sharon Clinton  
Mike Denny

Debbie Dumont  
Jessica Gilmore  
Rick Griffin  
Cheri Heafy  
Sergio Hernandez

Randy James  
Chris Kontos  
Jeff Reynolds  
Kim Rolfe  
Ynez Vargas

### Staff

Mary A. Campbell,  
Executive Director

Catherine Veninga,  
Study Coordinator

Ruthell Martinez,  
Advocacy Coordinator

**Community Council**  
**Statements of Financial Position**  
**Unrestricted and Temporarily Restricted Funds Combined**  
**December 31, 2017 and 2016**

	2017	2016
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 189,568.09	\$ 101,713.44
Grant & Accounts Receivable	2,000.00	3,500.00
Equipment-Net of Depreciation	1,588.27	1,736.72
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$ 193,156.36	\$ 106,950.16
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,281.25	\$ 586.07
Other Current Liabilities	4,484.73	3,461.08
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	5,765.98	4,047.15
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	187,390.38	102,903.01
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>	\$ 193,156.36	\$ 106,950.16

**Statements of Activities**  
**Unrestricted and Temporarily Restricted Funds Combined**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016**

<b>STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>External Support (Contributions &amp; grants)</b>		
Contributions & Grants	\$ 241,366.64	\$ 110,179.00
Special Events	9,750.00	9,300.00
Sponsorships	18,250.00	11,750.00
In-Kind Donations	23,235.60	44,518.87
Total External Support	292,602.24	175,747.87
<b>Revenues</b>		
Interest Income	38.12	73.84
Total Revenues	38.12	73.84
<b>Total External Support &amp; Revenues</b>	292,640.36	175,821.71
<b>Expenses</b>		
Personnel	150,920.22	134,412.69
Occupancy	7,027.22	7,216.18
General & Administrative	12,705.68	16,540.90
Marketing & Promotion	13,080.54	8,326.42
Program Materials & Other Costs	24,419.33	89,919.88
Total Expenses	208,152.99	256,416.07
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	\$ 84,487.37	\$ (80,594.36)