



Community Council



POMEGRANATE CENTER

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS:  
PROGRESS REPORT  
May, 2017**

The purpose of Community Conversations is to engage residents of the region in identifying shared values and priorities and establishing a foundation for collective action. The region includes Columbia and Walla Walla counties and northeastern Umatilla County. Community Council is leading this project in collaboration with United Way of Walla Walla County, Sherwood Trust, Blue Mountain Community Foundation, and Pomegranate Center.

This report describes the project thus far and outlines initial steps forward.

Community Conversations has been organized and convened by a Coordinating Team that managed meeting logistics, and a Convening Group, which has guided the process and supported community outreach. The Coordinating Team is made up of representatives from the collaborating entities (Community Council, Blue Mountain Community Foundation, United Way of Walla Walla County, Sherwood Trust, and Pomegranate Center). The Convening Group is comprised of community leaders who have broad and deep social networks throughout the region, and the Coordinating Team (see Appendix A). The Coordinating Team met often throughout the process to develop the project and coordinate logistical support. The Convening Group met as needed to provide guidance and feedback on the process. Generous support from the community, including grants from local foundations and nonprofit organizations and individual donations, provided financial support for this project.

## **Phase 1: GATHER IDEAS**

Between May and August of 2016, hundreds of participants shared their ideas for the future of the Blue Mountain Region in a series of workshops and roundtable discussions. In an effort to include as many participants as possible, the workshops were held in different locations across the region, mostly in the evening, with one held during the day. Refreshments and childcare were provided at all workshops, and simultaneous Spanish interpretation was provided as needed. In addition to the large workshops, United Way of Walla Walla County conducted a number of smaller roundtable discussions at business offices, service club meetings, and youth centers. The meetings and workshops are described below.

### **Workshops:**

Five evening workshops were held in Walla Walla (May 23), Milton-Freewater (May 24), Dayton (May 25), Carrie Street Community Center (June 21), and Waitsburg (August 18); over 450 community members attended. To accommodate those who could not attend any of the evening meetings, a daytime workshop was held in Walla Walla (August 24). Simultaneous Spanish interpretation was provided as needed and utilized at two of the events—the evening meetings in Walla Walla and Milton-Freewater. A workshop held at the Carrie Street Community Center was conducted in Spanish and English interpretation was provided. At all of the workshops where Spanish was used, participants' ideas offered were recorded in English and Spanish. Childcare was offered at all of the evening events and utilized at three of them.

All workshops followed a similar agenda. Roger Esparza, Community Council Board President, welcomed community members and then turned the meetings over to a facilitator, either Milenko Matanovic from Pomegranate Center, Lawson Knight from Intermountain Impact Investments, or Maria Remington from Walla Walla Public Schools. The facilitator briefly explained the goals, purposes, and timeline of the project. They stated that the meetings were to discover and learn together, not to promote agendas. The facilitator proposed the following ground rules:

- Everyone participates
- Speak and listen
- Respect differences
- Make it work for all and for future generations

The facilitator asked each attendee to answer the question: “**What ideas do you have for this region’s future?**” Then they asked each attendee to share their top idea in a few words. The ideas were recorded on a poster board at the front of the room. Everyone had a chance to speak in turn, one at a time. This sharing strategy was used because it allows everyone to hear from each other and learn from one another. This approach puts into practice the notion that when it comes to understanding our community, together we know more. Further, by witnessing

everyone else's proposals, participants begin to see larger patterns and shared concerns. As we learned, facilitating this type of individual feedback in a large group (over 100 participants) is difficult and risks people feeling rushed and possibly misunderstood. In such a large group setting, care needs to be taken to ensure participants feel their ideas were accurately recorded. After all ideas were shared, and recorded at the front of the room, the facilitator asked volunteers to identify common themes as the first step in linking the many ideas and generating a coherent vision.

## **Roundtable Discussions**

An additional series of workshops were conducted by the United Way of Walla Walla County at a number of business offices, service clubs, and youth centers in Walla Walla and Milton-Freewater. The workshops were organized into small-group discussions in order to develop an intimate setting for sharing and to allow participants to answer questions in depth. In addition to asking participants to share their community treasures (see Appendix B), facilitators also asked questions designed to elicit participants' ideas for the future and their concerns. The questions asked at roundtable discussions can be found in Appendix C. Facilitators made notes of participants' responses.

## **Visioning Documents**

In order to include additional recent visioning activities that took place outside of these workshops and roundtable discussions, ideas from those reports that were submitted to us were incorporated. These include:

- *Blue Mountain Action Council Community Needs Assessment 2015*
- *Columbia County Coalition for Youth and Families Strategic Plan 2016*
- *Columbia County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies List 2016*
- *Partnership for Greater Burbank Community Visioning Summary 2016*
- *Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office Strategic Development Plan 2016*

## **Results**

Ideas from all of the workshops, roundtable discussions, and visioning documents, were grouped by Pomegranate Center into thirteen goals as follows (in alphabetical order):

- **ACCESS TO EDUCATION**  
*The region will be renowned for excellence in education that embraces the entire population from birth through retirement.*

- ARTS AND CULTURE  
*The region will become a thriving arts community for all ages and arts education will flourish.*
- CARE FOR NATURE  
*The region's abundant natural treasures and environmental resources will be sustainably managed, protected, and celebrated.*
- CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  
*The region's government will reflect its diverse community, and planning efforts will be socially inclusive. This will be a community with a culture of civic engagement that provides multiple opportunities for civic involvement, particularly among youth.*
- COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY  
*The region will celebrate its rich social and cultural diversity by being inclusive and respectful of, and caring for, people from all backgrounds.*
- HEALTH AND WELLBEING  
*People of all ages will be able to access a full range of health services. Healthy lifestyles will be supported by access to healthy food, regional trail networks, and recreational facilities.*
- LOCAL AGRICULTURE  
*The region will preserve farmlands and will support a robust local food system that will contribute to the population's health and the region's vitality.*
- RECREATION  
*Bike/walking paths will provide greater access to the region's natural and cultural amenities and will increase regional connectivity. Sport complexes and recreational facilities, especially for youth, will be expanded.*
- REGIONAL COLLABORATION  
*The region will foster collaboration among governments, businesses, and non-profits at the neighborhood, local, regional, and state levels. Infrastructure will enhance connectivity within the region and to destinations outside the region.*
- SAFETY  
*Community members and law enforcement will work together to cultivate safe environments for everyone, particularly in public spaces, on roadways, and in the region's schools.*
- STRONG AND DIVERSE ECONOMY

*The region will have a strong economy that supports a large base of family-wage jobs in multiple sectors. The region will foster business creation and innovation and will provide more employment opportunities for teens and youth. New opportunities to connect food production to tourism will build on the existing rich agricultural base.*

- **VIBRANT CENTERS**

*Cities and towns will be places where people can live, work, and play. Housing will be affordable\*, and a vibrant mix of commercial establishments will serve a diverse population. Building on existing historical fabric, cities and towns will become more environmentally sustainable, with greater emphasis on walkability, public transit, green energy, and public spaces.*

\*Affordable housing has been identified as a priority for the region through separate processes and therefore has been moved to the Strong and Diverse Economy goal.

- **WELLBEING FOR ALL**

*The region will provide services and opportunities for all, creating a place that is attractive to young families and retirees alike. A broad array of recreational and cultural activities along with affordable childcare, year-round opportunities for youth, and a support system for seniors and the disabled will serve the whole population and create a high quality of life for everyone.*

See Appendix D for the list of all ideas gathered at community meetings.

## **Phase 2: PRIORITIZE GOALS**

Prioritization workshops were held on September 19th, 20th, and 21st in Walla Walla, Milton-Freewater, and Dayton, respectively. Participants were presented with the list of 13 goals and asked to select their top five goals for the region and write each one on a separate 3 x 5 notecard. Next, participants were asked to rank their chosen five goals in order of importance by assigning them a numerical value, 1-5. As they identified their top goals, participants were asked to think strategically and choose topics that, in their best judgment, are the most critical given the region's current situation.

This method of choosing five topics (instead of a single one that people are most passionate about) was designed to encourage participants to think of the region as an integrated system, and not to simply advocate only for their own particular interest. While it may be natural to gravitate to areas of personal passion and

expertise, this method requires participants to identify four additional goals as a way to encourage them to think more broadly.

The notecards were collected and the results were tabulated as participants engaged in conversations with each other about their choices. By adding the ranked order for each goal, a list of priorities emerged.

### **Regional Priorities**

The results from the three prioritization workshops show a strong overlapping of goals throughout the region; seven priorities emerged.

The priorities, listed in rank order are:

- Access to Education
- Strong and Diverse Economy
- Health
- Care for Nature
- Safety
- Commitment to Diversity
- Civic Engagement

See Appendix E for the complete tabulation of results from the three prioritization meetings.

As a way to organize future action groups, the Convening Group differentiated these topics as *priorities* and *values*. Priorities are what the community believes should be done. Values refer to the principles to which the entire process is meant to adhere.

The Priorities are:

- Access to education
- Strong and diverse economy
- Health
- Care for nature
- Safety

The region's core values, "Civic Engagement" and "Commitment to Diversity" will be embedded in the way that community members move forward in pursuit of these priorities.

It is important to note that these results do not suggest that goals that did not rise to the top are unimportant. Rather, they represent the collective wisdom of the participants, and the process sought to identify priorities that will transform the

region for the better most effectively and efficiently. It is the intention of the project to assess the status of the work done toward priorities regularly, and evaluate the possibility of refining or taking on new goals in the future.

### **Phase 3: ESTABLISH FOUNDATION FOR ACTION**

Community Conversations work for 2016 culminated with a regional celebration on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Walla Walla Fairgrounds attended by over 250 community members. At that event, community engagement was recognized and a foundation for future action was established. The meeting began as a dinner party during which community leaders presented each of the five priorities and highlighted its regional significance. The priorities and the community ideas that comprised the priorities were displayed on poster boards. Please see Appendix F for the poster boards presented at the event. The presenters were:

Access to Education: Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer  
Strong and Diverse Economy: Brad McMasters  
Health: Christy Lieuallen  
Care for Nature: Mike Denny  
Safety: Ben Currin

After dinner, participants identified which priority they would most like to work on or discuss further and broke into preliminary action groups. The community leader that presented the topic then led these action group conversations. Participants shared why they felt their topic was important and brainstormed ideas for actions that would support the priority. These conversations were designed to have community members speak directly to each other, rather than to one facilitator who would report back to the group as had been done at earlier workshops. The intention was to provide time and space for residents to identify shared values and goals in a relatively unmediated environment. During these conversations, community members demonstrated a wonderful sense of community pride and generated tremendous energy for addressing regional challenges.

Participants were invited to sign up to participate further in the project, and were asked if they were interested in taking on a leadership role. 160 people indicated an interest in working on the priorities, 39 said they would like to take a leadership role.

Over 250 people attended the celebration, and in addition to dinner, childcare and Spanish interpretation was provided.

## **Moving Forward:**

We recognize that the development of Community Conversations is an on-going process, and that the specific steps forward are not predetermined. As a regional project that relies on community engagement, we know that the process will need to be flexible and adapt to local conditions as we move ahead.

As of this writing, two of the five priorities—Access to Education and Health and Wellbeing—have been incorporated into existing organizational structures. Because there is significant alignment between the goals identified in the Access to Education priority and the recommendations generated through Community Council’s *Education as a Path to Economic Growth* study, the 50 Community Conversations participants who indicated an interest in working towards that priority have been invited to join the *Education as a Path to Economic Growth* Implementation Task Force. The Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, which works across jurisdictions to support efforts in Umatilla and Columbia counties, has invited the 32 Community Conversations participants who indicated an interest in working towards the Health and Wellbeing priority to join their efforts in support of that priority. Involving Community Conversations participants in existing efforts to move forward on community-identified priorities generates greater civic engagement and collaboration, and helps to reduce redundant or duplicative work. The next steps and timing for moving the additional three priorities forward has not yet been determined.

In order to build a regional pool of community facilitators to support a variety of civic engagement efforts, Pomegranate Center will offer facilitation training to individuals who indicated an interest in taking a leadership role. The training will emphasize the importance of inclusivity and engagement.

## **Recognition and Thanks:**

Many individuals were involved in making Community Conversations a success—most importantly our community members who attended these meetings and shared their hopes and dreams for their region. This project relied heavily on committed volunteers; professional interpreters, translators and facilitators; childcare providers; and caterers. Generous financial support has been provided by local foundations and nonprofits, individual donors, and businesses.

## **Contact and Questions:**

For more information about this project please visit the following website <http://www.wwcommunitycouncil.org/community-conversations.aspx> (or contact Mary Campbell)



**Appendix A: THE CONVENING GROUP**

Mary Campbell, Harvey Crowder, Ben Currin, Mike Denny, Roger Esparza, Danielle Garbe, Randy Grant, Leanne Griffin, Brian Hunt, Stephanie Ingram, Kari Isaacson, Lawson Knight, Christy Lieuallen, Milenko Matanovic, Brad McMasters, J. Andrew Rodriguez, Cynthia Selde, Beth Swanson, Mike Taylor, Catherine Veninga, and David Woolson

Appendix B: COMMUNITY TREASURES

Regional Treasures



## Tesoros regionales





# Lugares de reunión



## **Appendix C: LIST OF QUESTIONS ASKED AT UNITED WAY MEETINGS**

The following questions were asked at the United Way Meetings.

- What are our region's treasures?
- What kind of community do you want to live in?
- Why is this important?
- How is that different from the way you see things now?
- What are some of the things that need to happen to create that kind of change?

## **Appendix D: LIST OF ALL IDEAS GATHERED AT COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

All of the ideas gathered at the workshops are listed below. Ideas presented in the visioning documents are marked with the following identifier:

- (BMAC) *BMAC Community Needs Assessment 2015*
- (CCYF) *Columbia County Coalition for Youth and Families Strategic Plan 2016*
- (CCED) *Columbia Country Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies List 2016*
- (Burbank) *Partnership for Greater Burbank Community Visioning Summary 2016*
- (WWSO) *Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office Strategic Development Plan 2016*

### **1. ACCESS TO EDUCATION**

Improved quality of education (6X)  
Health education  
Vocational high-school training  
Early childhood education: birth to 5 years  
Upgrade existing facilities  
Build a new high school  
Affordable, quality childcare  
Well-funded preschool  
Career planning and development for all  
Local opportunities for high school and college graduates  
Bookmobiles  
Universal pre-school (3X)  
Parenting classes  
100% high school graduation rate  
More support for local schools  
Pre-K education  
Education for all ages  
Summer school for kids falling behind  
Childcare for all  
Improved educational resources  
More support for school districts (2X)  
Increase birth-5 years childcare education  
Parent education for low-income families  
Local affordable adult education  
Early education and preschool for all  
Classes for parents  
More respect by the teachers for their students  
Transportation for after-school activities  
More support for parents and school district should explain parental rights.

Additional strategies for teachers to work with students with behavioral challenges  
Youth employment/educationally linked  
Residential workshop learning centers (2x)  
"Utility Edu Alliance in Portland" Develop an edu industry alliance  
Adequate school facilities  
Continue to improve K-12 education with an eye on higher ed  
Life-long learning cradle and up  
Increase K-12 options  
Massive expansion of high quality summer programs for youth  
Make sure K-12 is increasing  
WWPS that delivers a world class education  
We need a program that prepares our kids for college and trades/skills  
Make our schools #1  
Access for youth to attend college  
Work on our education facilities esp. Walla Walla high school  
Provide more than adequate education  
After school opportunities are accessible to everybody regardless of income  
WWPS that delivers excellent education  
Alternative middle schools with pathways towards higher ed  
Our community needs to be involved in the school education system  
Exclusionary learning model needs to be applied by our schools  
Strong advocacy for our teachers  
Increase sex education in school  
Share knowledge in educational system  
Universal access to childhood opportunity  
Focused on education and less focused on class (social status)  
There was Better Money for schools  
There were more teachers like Mrs. C  
There were more schools, smaller classrooms  
There were more diverse classroom experiences: travel more, learn more real life stuff, hands on experiences, work outside the classroom more, visit learning places  
There were more field trips during the school year  
Better schools  
Financial training  
One need in the WW community is that adults who cannot read either because of being second language learners or disabilities.  
Some have trouble reading  
Males are more likely to be educated and females home taking care of the younger siblings. (not all cases is this true)  
College Place schools are so much better; Tri-Cities & other schools look much nicer  
Science & technology are lacking



How do you reach the kids that don't know how to advocate for themselves  
 Parental education & support  
 Get the kids who are slipping through the cracks  
 Educate beyond high school; access to it, funding  
 Parental support of youth  
 Schools  
 More accountability for Kids  
 Better school system  
 Children; better appropriate activities, more accountability  
 More opportunity for vocational training  
 Teach parenting skills 1st  
 Increase coordination with downtown businesses and the school. (CCED)  
 Continue to improve stability of local school district (CCED)  
 Improve relationships with high schools and colleges. (CCED)  
 WWCC (and/or WSU) to open branch or satellite office. (CCED)  
 Continue to expand programs at Dayton High School/Skill Center with  
 WWCC. (CCED)  
 Encourage active participation in regional workforce training. (CCED)  
 Research community workforce need, then develop programs to meet  
 established needs. (CCED)  
 Provide incumbent worker training (CCED)  
 Development of STEM programs (CCED)  
 Seek funding under the Safe Routes to Schools program (CCED)  
 Facilitate youth internship/entrepreneurial program in school (CCED)  
 Revitalize the Internship Program (CCYF)  
 Implement a College and Career Day (CCYF)  
 Support an Alternative Learning Environment (CCYF)  
 Continue Support for Students Helping Each Other (CCYF)  
 Provide a Teacher Appreciation Event (CCYF)  
 Create a Staff Focus Campaign (CCYF)  
 Integrate ACEs & Resiliency Training (CCYF)  
 Communicate and promote school activities to the community (CCYF)  
 Support the After School Program (CCYF)

## **2. ARTS AND CULTURE**

Art for children  
 Support of the arts  
 Support of arts for kids  
 Artists Co-op (2X)  
 Community art mural projects  
 Community arts center

Art education for all  
Amphitheater for large events (2X)  
Incubator for demonstrative arts  
A community project, like a community art project  
Tremendous support for arts and arts in the schools  
Oral history/Preserving and sharing history  
Alternative mid/high opportunities for art development  
Support regional fine arts destinations through culture, access, education and awareness  
Increase art education in schools  
Development of a consumer wine education center and museum  
There was a music studio where you can mix your own music and create community around music  
There was a Sci-Fi Festivals  
There was more engaging events for people interested in Sci-Fi  
Lots of culture & events

### **3. CARE FOR NATURE**

Environmental awareness  
Ensure water supply  
Healthy soil and water for growing food  
Beautification and enhancement of Mill Creek in downtown (2X)  
Opportunities to connect kids with nature  
Recycle glass  
Restore parking along Mill Creek  
Opportunities to connect kids with nature  
Protect, preserve and manage the Walla Walla River  
Sustainable water supply  
Healthy creeks (see river drainage)  
Careful protection/mgt of Walla Walla river drainage (2x)  
Continue to save our natural resources  
Water careful management and conservation  
Recycle  
Less waste more compost  
Noise and air pollution reduction  
Demonstrate sustainable living  
There was an Electric car plug in so that people will drive more electric cars and be able to plug in which would encourage them to be more environmentally friendly  
There was Vegetable oil cars for sale so we could buy them  
Our natural resources, outdoor recreation (Burbank)  
Install car charging station (CCED)  
Obtain funding for maintenance on dike (CCED)

#### **4. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Expand diversity in government and planning  
Training for public offices and boards  
Youth activities  
People involved with balancing priorities  
Opportunities for more engagement on neighborhood levels  
Identify, encourage and train community leaders  
Region known for giving  
Youth engagement  
Enhance culture of volunteerism  
Community advocates among communities  
Information hub for those in need  
Plans to create the next generation of leaders  
More publicity for the programs available to the community  
Better communication about the services offered by organizations.  
Continue exchange of citizen/govt. communication  
Involving adults in learning/internships  
Use community resources to make our children better  
Keep our one-on-one communication with one another- no devices  
June 2018 allot growth management changes  
Planning processes that are all inclusive for those living here  
Extensive volunteer handbook for retirees and general public  
Increase mentors for future  
Strategic plan of the growth of our community/region inclusive of all people who live here  
A roadmap for raising resources for social enterprise  
Community and economic development for community voices: what we "do" directory and navigation  
Have a strong community identity that retains it citizens  
More community engagement  
Celebration of our place  
Help kids volunteer and help their community  
A culture of solution orientation  
Increase of community support for non-profits and knowledge/education to our community about services available  
Enhanced long range planning for our region  
Civic pride among youth  
More participation with our heritage education program  
Willing to help each other out and less likely to manipulate or take advantage

There were more Reasonable court systems, don't just "go with" the department recommendations.  
There were Good people like Andrew, JJC Chaplain  
All part of the team in the community  
Role model for kids  
More community of engagement- society is changing- hard to make any meaningful changes  
Establish a relationship among the group where you want to effect change; build trust through one-on-one relationships  
Somehow increase engagement among key community members who have resources and abilities to contribute  
Need more forward thinking  
Is our effectiveness of delivering services in danger because of our legal binding?  
Tiering of socioeconomic of entire community  
Amount of regulatory requirements  
Sense that someone else clean up community  
Collaboration: duplication of effort fractures self-competitive effort; all need funding  
Resistant to change  
City Red tape resistance to progress suppresses growth  
Better attitude toward federal employees  
Commercial development: need for community voice (Burbank)  
Install a digital community information board, perhaps in Flour Mill Park (CCED)  
Encourage the community to adopt a leadership development program (CCED)

## **5. COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY**

Understanding diversity through education and collaboration  
Language learning centers  
Civic culture of diversity  
Involve Hispanics in all decisions  
Embrace multi-culturalism  
Multi-cultural meshing  
Involve Native Tribes in regional community  
Rich and diverse culture (2X)  
Integration of empathy and compassion in planning  
Community cooperation- respect for diverse opinions and culture  
Proactive land use planning- not reactive  
Increase access/participation for minorities in higher ed  
Broad inclusion of marginalized populations  
Increased leadership for and from diverse groups

Equal standings in all our communities  
Be a region that celebrates and respects diversity  
Establish a language center so we can become a bilingual community  
More diverse or open to diversity  
Connect with others, especially those from other demographics  
We have marginalized communities around poverty and ethnicity. We are not integrated communities presently. Educational opportunities are now equal for all. People are afraid – change adverse – of losing what they think is good. Wine gets a lot of attention; helps some but not all. There is a disconnect between how things were and how things are. There is insecurity in some communities. Some people feel unwelcome in our communities.  
More racial/cultural integration: more community building, more civil and safe in neighborhoods  
Community that values all people/strong relationships, strong arts, culture  
More cultural diversity  
More cultural diversity  
Build relationships across socio-economic levels (CCYF)  
Explore establishing a Friends Program in Dayton (CCYF)

## **6. HEALTH**

Making healthy choices easy to do  
Local, scratch cooking in all schools  
Local healthy foods in all public institutions: schools, colleges, prison, etc.  
Affordable health-care  
Enhanced psychiatric services  
Respect for all ages – from toddlers to elders  
Behavioral health treatment  
Mental health awareness and resources (2X)  
Community wellness center  
In-home health care for the elderly  
Year-round exercise facility for all ages  
Positive health opportunities for teenagers  
Assistance for people in need  
Caring community  
Quality healthcare for all  
Drug and alcohol rehab  
Full spectrum senior health care  
Preserve and foster healthcare facilities (4X)  
Youth community center  
Information hub for those in needs  
Adult day-care  
Healthier food in the schools

Better mental health services  
Promote awareness of a healthy lifestyle should start in schools  
There was no more hunger  
We need more available outpatient treatment facilities  
There was better food at the movie theater  
Preventative  
Mental health  
Physical health  
Grade school children 30% to 40% go hungry  
Health troubles (like nutrition)  
More and better mental health  
Good health care  
Lack of mental health support & services; impact all  
We need a treatment facility that is in-patient specific for WW residents so  
that people can get help close to family  
Nutrition education/healthy eating (BMAC)  
Mental health services (BMAC)  
Dental services (BMAC)  
Drug and alcohol abuse services (BMAC)  
Food (BMAC)  
Clothing (BMAC)  
Rehab community housing (possibly with CDBG funds)  
(CCED)  
Promote Healthy Choices (CCYF)  
Support the work of Columbia Cares (CCYF)  
Provide trainings, speakers and other community outreach  
(CCYF)  
Engage attendees of activities such as Turkey bingo, Ham  
Bingo, Etc. (CCYF)

## **7. LOCAL AGRICULTURE**

Stronger local food system  
The region becomes a hub for new generation of farmers  
Maintain and preserve local foods  
Commercial kitchen for preparing local foods  
Local healthy foods in all public institutions: schools, colleges, prison, etc.  
Preserve farmland  
Food hubs for local farmers  
Vibrant, diversified local agriculture (2X)  
Support and development of our local food system  
Sustainable agriculture (no chemicals)  
Develop awareness for the impact that irrigation loss would have on water  
resources

Protect ag land from development  
I wish that Different Foods growing around town in open spaces so that people can eat more healthy food  
I wish that we Grow more of our own food so that we don't have to buy so much from out of town, you know grow food ourselves  
There were Gardens everywhere with food that is free  
Develop value added agriculture (CCED)

## **8. RECREATION**

Indoor shooting range  
Bike lanes (3X)  
Trail development in the mountains  
Paved multi-use regional trails  
Rails to trails  
Regional trails network  
Develop rails to/and trails  
Connect bike/walking trails throughout the region (4X)  
Make Bluewood a year-round destination  
More outdoor recreational opportunities  
Athletic complex  
Beautify access to Touchet River  
Regional rest stops  
Bowling alley  
Swimming pool  
Recreation and information programs for teenagers to keep them busy  
Recreational activities in the mountains/outdoor recreation (2x)  
Recreational fishing opportunities  
Walking path/trail in Waitsburg—target older adults  
Free organized recreational activities for all ages  
Special events for things like archery/quilting competition  
Build on what we have- Mill Creek trail, kayak- look at confederated tribes plan  
Partner with community for increase in recreation  
There was a sports complex that is open to the public and a center point of the town  
There was a Swimming pool  
There was a Laser Tag  
There was a Mini Golf  
There were Dances  
There was a Video gamers place  
There was an Arcade  
There was a Video Game Store  
There was The Ocean (lol)

There was a Water park  
 There were more Bowling alleys  
 There was a zoo  
 There was a “Sky Walk” trampoline store, big trampoline room  
 There was a Build-a-bear workshop  
 Recreational parks  
 More bike paths & loops  
 Outdoor family and tourist activities – bike paths, jogging paths, pool (Burbank)  
 Install Touchet Valley Golf Course sprinkler system (CCED)  
 Long and short range plans for Fairgrounds, Golf Course, and Seneca property the county is acquiring (CCED)  
 Create and improve walking & biking paths throughout the community, connecting Downtown, BMS, Fairgrounds, School, etc., and potentially between Dayton and Waitsburg. Bike Bridge over Touchet River (CCED)  
 Develop additional opportunities for ag tourism and seasonal recreation (hunting/fishing, biking, camping, horseback riding, outfitting, skiing, snowmobiling, zip lines, etc.) (CCED)  
 Encourage the establishment of cabin rentals (CCED)  
 Develop Community Center (CCED)  
 Expand recreational opportunities at Bluewood, including purchase of snow machine (CCED)  
 Encourage development of Sports Complex for events and tournaments (CCED)

## **9. REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

Collaboration between government sectors  
 Connected neighborhoods  
 Better communication amongst communities in the region  
 Make inter-state relations easier  
 Bring businesses and non-profits together for mutual support  
 Cooperation amongst businesses, governments, non-profits  
 Protect local identities  
 Preserve regional historic structures (2X)  
 Information hub for regional activities  
 A non-profit network  
 Stronger regional identity  
 State support for regional projects and planning  
 Comprehensive regulation  
 Centralized regional historical hub  
 Be open to outside thinking—extra regional resources  
 Infrastructure investment  
 Better access to Walla Walla via roads and flights



Highway connectivity

Airport is on the right track with free parking! The freebies are very important!

Finish highway 12

Better infrastructure: solves transportation problems, provides better access to jobs, provides jobs, improves economy and community wealth.

Connectivity/relationships

Infrastructure (Roads, river, rail, air, water, sewer, energy, telecom, solid waste, transportation, utilities, etc.) (CCED)

Improve City street and County road infrastructure, including Hwy. 261 improvements. City & County (CCED)

Seek funding to maintain short line railroad (CCED)

Improve railroad tracks to include passenger service (CCED)

Partner with Columbia County Transportation for additional van pools to Starbuck and the Dam (CCED)

## 10. **SAFETY**

Safe and friendly community

School resource officers at all levels

Trauma informed/smart community (2X)

Community without gangs (2X)

Sustainable funding for police

Safety for all kids

More security in schools

More law enforcement

Prevent opportunities for gang membership

Eliminate neighborhood and community blight

Enhanced public safety

Drug-free community

Greater general safety in the early morning hours for pedestrians

Greater safety in the schools (bully, gangs, drugs, etc.)

More surveillance on the streets, parks, alleys, dark areas, more street lights

Surveillance and patrol on the streets, including better policing (take us seriously)

People who speak Spanish at the 911 center and make it easier to communicate with them and the police

Gang prevention, bully education

Safe area free of homelessness

Increase awareness and education about gangs- can't just be a police problem- must be a community effort

Community that is safe for pedestrians and cyclists (include driver and elementary education)

Safe place for youth like a teen center  
 Safe  
 No gangs  
 No drugs (None, not even weed)  
 Deal with the bullying  
 Stable; safer  
 Laws have really changed  
 Drugs increasing causing lots of crime & stealing; prosecutions not enough  
 & they're (criminals) are back on the streets  
 Gangs/crime  
 Gangs are a problem  
 Increase in crime  
 Stealing cars, drive by shootings  
 Gangs Walla Walla and Milton Freewater  
 Opening a pot store is countering what we want to see  
 Safe-personal safety- less vandalism, crime theft  
 Preventive Services for youth (age entering gangs- young)  
 Tourism market-ties in with safety  
 Reduce gang activity. Security/safety—gangs, etc.  
 Highways, roads, traffic—need for safety infrastructure (Burbank)  
 Improve safety, access, and ADA accessibility for pedestrians on Hwy. 12  
 viaduct on E. Main Street (CCED)  
 Jail/Law & Justice facility (CCED)  
 Employ civilian civil process officers (WWSO)  
 Detectives will be able to specifically focus on the prevention, intervention,  
 and suppression/ investigation/ enforcement of criminal gang and drug  
 related crime (WWSO)  
 Create an SES Gang & Drug Unit now in an attempt to proactively minimize  
 the number of our neighbors, friends, and family from becoming victims  
 and statistics (WWSO)  
 Specially trained deputies who will proactively focus on our community's  
 traffic safety issues and save lives (WWSO)  
 More school resource officers (WWSO)  
 More patrol officers (WWSO)

## **11. STRONG AND DIVERSE ECONOMY**

Incubator for young entrepreneurs  
 Center to foster entrepreneurs  
 More jobs and opportunities for the young  
 Living-wage jobs (5X)  
 Raise household income to state median  
 Closing socio-economic gap (2X)  
 Socially responsible tourism

Sustainable local economy / Strong economy  
Employment for people with disabilities (2X)  
Local opportunities for high school and college graduates  
Agricultural tourism (2X)  
Preserve agricultural base  
Living wages and jobs (3X)  
Retain our young and our families  
Improved economy  
Eliminate poverty (2X)  
A micro-loan program to provide citizenship fees  
Cooperation amongst businesses  
Region known for business creation  
Economic diversity (3X)  
Value-added agriculture  
Living-wage jobs (2X)  
Keep small businesses viable  
Professional and technical jobs  
Survivability and sustainability  
Sustainable community businesses  
Buy local – support local products  
Support for local diverse farmers  
Resource sustaining/non-depleting jobs  
Embrace regional support for small businesses  
Economic development in scale/style (balance) of community (adaptive)  
A larger base of primary employers  
Community economic development opportunities  
Continued effort towards economic development  
Sustainable economic development  
Job opportunities and businesses that will employ those who return to our community after college  
Increase on sustainable jobs for youth employment  
Leverage our unique assets and tax climate to attract businesses  
More business/job opportunities so that we retain our new grads/professionals  
Living wage employment  
Missing food processing jobs-more opportunity  
Jobs for youth  
Factories  
Lower cost; reasonable cost; clothing stores  
More jobs for children  
Recruit industry  
Find ways for kids to earn money so they can contribute to economy  
We don't have enough living wage jobs  
Need to create more job opportunities; for young people to stay

More drivers economic development, different industries  
Faster growth we are one of the slowest growing communities in the state  
Lack of jobs  
Lack of jobs out of HS, college here-have resource of colleges here, support of entrepreneurship  
Lose younger & lure of big city  
Not a lot of family wage jobs  
Lack of occupational depth and better paying jobs  
Opportunity for employment  
More jobs for kids  
Change min. wage so kids continue to get jobs  
Be a size (larger tax base) to get goods & services so that we don't out shop  
More jobs/industry  
Employment opportunities, Job search assistance (BMAC)  
Employment opportunities (BMAC)  
Development with Burbank in mind – aesthetically pleasing, managed growth (Burbank)  
Continue to improve stability of local hospital district, including workforce training (CCED)  
Facilitate small business technical assistance and workshops (CCED)  
Create targeted marketing strategy for downtown business recruitment (CCED)  
Continue to encourage development of wind generation project (CCED)  
Encourage biomass energy production. (130 jobs) Port & County with Columbia Pulp (CCED)  
Building capacity of local contractors to get on small works rosters, Sustainable Living Center list, etc. Chamber (CCED)  
List resources and contractors on its website (CCED)  
New Industry at Lyons Ferry to take advantage of new infrastructure (CCED)  
Implement Choose Columbia County shop local/recruitment campaign (CCED)  
Improve tourism web sites (CCED)  
Develop a Youth Entrepreneur Program (CCYF)

## **12. VIBRANT CENTERS**

Natural spaces in and near communities  
More parks for children  
Green energy supply  
Repurpose the Carnegie Library as a community center  
Free WI-FI  
Alternative transportation  
Improved planning and zoning

Parking garages to promote walking  
Strong neighborhood centers  
Local shopping  
Thriving downtowns  
Traffic calming through downtown areas  
Communities where people can live, work and play  
Adequate housing for all  
Energy conservation  
Environmental quality  
More electric vehicles and charging stations  
Redevelopment of HW 11 between WW and M-F  
Make towns irresistible (so people will move in)  
Faster communication networks and outreach  
Preservation of regional history – preserve the past while look forward  
Best place to retire and stay independent  
Electrical vehicles and charging stations  
Improve streets and roads  
Competitive technology access  
Fiber optics  
Faster communication networks and outreach  
Vital downtowns (2X)  
Decent and affordable housing for low and fixed income  
Enhance public transportation  
Simple, user-friendly codes and regulations  
More laundromats  
Make towns irresistible (so people will move in)  
Build laundromats in smaller communities—inclusive of multiple services,  
e.g. tutoring  
Housing developments to enhance and contribute to the local environment  
Adequate affordable housing  
Develop urban forestry  
Enhancing downtown Walla Walla  
Build environment for pedestrians  
More affordable housing  
Preserve and utilize our historic buildings  
Pedestrian/ cycle friendly  
Multi-family housing downtown  
Mill Creek flood control redevelop plan. Constrain development to regions  
we currently have  
Highway 11 redevelopment between Walla Walla and Milton-Freewater  
There was a Costco  
There was a real mall with places like foot locker, Burlington, sports shops,  
board shops, etc. – a triple decker mall would be cool

There was more food options: Coldstone, Sonic, In and Out Burger, Olive Garden, Golden Corral, Wendy's with no drug dealers, Chucky Cheese, Lorenzo's – bring it back, Carl's Jr.  
 There was a cheaper movie theatre  
 There were more museums and historical places  
 I wish there was Nice housing opportunities so that people don't have to spend all their money on a dumpy place  
 I wish there were No long waits for housing vouchers or help getting back up after you fall down, like 6 months or less  
 There were Affordable housing options for all ages  
 There was a Target  
 There were more Pet Stores  
 There was a Comic stores  
 Affordable housing  
 Store fronts full  
 More affordable shopping; shops target tourist  
 Bringing back Marcus Whitman  
 Buildings are getting better; investors have changed and made better  
 Increase size of Walla Walla Valley population  
 Increase band-width for internet connectivity  
 Affordable workforce housing  
 We need more housing affordability  
 Housing prices too high because of VRBO and other investors  
 Small community w/ good streets  
 Reduced cost of living  
 Affordable housing (BMAC)  
 Permanent supportive housing (BMAC)  
 Permanent housing (BMAC)  
 Asset: Our small town – rural, quiet, unincorporated (Burbank)  
 Need: Center for recreation and locally owned business – restaurant/deli, Farmers' market (Burbank)  
 Implement the Commercial Street Corridor plan – Caboose Park Phase (CCED)  
 Improve the water and sewer system infrastructure of the City of Dayton (CCED)  
 Make Transfer Station improvements and upgrades (CCED)  
 Install playground and cabins at Lyons Ferry Marina (CCED)  
 Construct new speculative building at Rock Hill Industrial park (CCED)  
 Achieve funding for regional Way Finding program (CCED)  
 Encourage and improve West entrance to Dayton (CCED)  
 Maintain and enhance existing railroad depot. DHDS  
 Install east end Welcome to Dayton sign (CCED)  
 Conduct Tourism Survey to guide marketing decisions (CCED)  
 Build a bandstand on the courthouse lawn (CCED)

Improve courthouse grounds (CCED)  
Address and encourage affordable housing needs in Dayton and Starbuck (CCED)  
Fund and construct ADA pathways (CCED)  
Continue Implementation of the B&O Main Street Tax Incentive Program (CCED)  
Plan for the highest use for all industrial lands (CCED)

### **13. WELLBEING FOR ALL**

Senior-friendly community  
Support for youth (2X)  
Resource center for youth / leadership empowerment (2X)  
Better year-round programs for youth  
Senior-friendly communities  
Best place to retire and stay independent  
Adult day-care  
Activities for all ages  
Opportunities for people who have been disabled from work  
Educate the community about people with disabilities  
Bosses to give time off to parents to attend the parent-teacher conferences  
Paid and longer maternity and paternity leave  
Facilities for the homeless (referring to Madison Park) not located so close to parks  
Quality affordable childcare for working families  
Youth opportunities that are not sports related  
Awareness and a network for youth foster parents  
An investment “after the bell” for young people. “consistent, not mobile”  
Affordable and flexible childcare and childcare for those with children with special needs  
Decision making that considers children  
Making sure there are high performing services for the elderly  
Housing for youth  
More training opportunities for youth  
Opportunities for youth (leadership, work ops, support, retention)  
Life skills for youth  
Increase opportunities for our children to envision futures for our communities  
Access to venues 17-31 inclusive of thinking training and soft skills  
Show our youth that they are loved  
Investment after the bell (schools)  
Priority and investment for those caring for children  
Building personal connections. Neighbor to neighbor.  
Parenting classes for all

Work on homelessness issue and increase all out neighborhoods living  
Legal weed  
Kind  
There was Food for less or more affordable  
There was more Help owning a pet  
Affordable child care  
Poverty  
Poverty and Homelessness maybe the cause of a much great problem  
(however there are not that many homeless more the poverty and can't pay  
their bills like lights etc.)  
At risk teens and risk factors  
Some parent taking care of large family (and just one parent who works)  
Youth hanging out downtown makes one think we aren't doing something  
right  
Increase in homelessness  
Diversify youth activity options- pool; get parents involved in the activities  
w/ their youth (cooking classes); many parents are not involved & don't  
know where their kids are  
Keeping kids busy; the kids whose parents aren't involved need something  
to do & somewhere to be- somewhere they can play ping pong-CCY not  
diversified enough  
People are stressed; no energy to parent, they're tapped out  
Broad section of our youth that are underserved: middle school &  
teenagers need stuff to do  
Youth center; community support  
Opportunities for kids to engage in positive things instead of gangs  
Dealing with the homeless is a fine line, what about their civil rights when it  
comes to how we "clean up" downtown.  
Not all parents can afford quality childcare, many are depending on friends,  
family.  
Youth Shelter  
Veteran support  
Homelessness  
Unaccompanied youth  
Homelessness is an issue  
New arrivals not working or rentals disrupting neighborhoods  
Retirees from here leaving  
Cliques keeping people out  
Higher wage income- both parents working- kids are running astray no  
supervision  
More for children to do- free programs and transportation for children  
Less poverty: high value on families and livelihood  
Stronger families, prioritize children and families  
Less homelessness: higher value on relationships and responsibility.



Friendly community  
Emergency shelter (BMAC)  
Transitional housing (BMAC)  
Housing for special needs (BMAC)  
Utility bill assistance (BMAC)  
Rental assistance (BMAC)  
Housing repair assistance (BMAC)  
Energy efficiency assistance (BMAC)  
Affordable clothing resources (BMAC)  
Youth activities outside of school – need for prevention (Burbank)  
Develop adequate senior and retirement housing (CCED)  
Temporary/emergency housing assistance (CCED)  
Develop a sequential housing environment (CCED)  
Develop assisted living facility (CCED)  
Encourage youth activities (CCED)

## **Appendix E: PRIORITIZATION RESULTS**

Results from each of the September prioritization meetings were as follows:

### **Walla Walla (126 attendees)**

1. Access to Education: 361
2. Strong and Diverse Economy: 235
3. Health: 179
4. Safety: 153
5. Care for Nature: 133  
Commitment to Diversity: 133

### **Milton-Freewater (27 attendees)**

1. Access to Education: 91
2. Safety: 49
3. Care for Nature: 48
4. Strong and Diverse Economy: 46
5. Health: 37  
Civic Engagement: 37

### **Dayton: (34 attendees)**

1. Strong and Diverse Economy: 84
2. Health: 56
3. Access to Education: 47
4. Care for Nature: 41
5. Civic Engagement: 34

### **Combined tabulation:**

- Access to Education: 499
- Strong and Diverse Economy: 365
- Health: 272
- Care for Nature: 222
- Safety: 202
- Commitment to Diversity: 133
- Civic Engagement: 71

## Appendix F: TOPIC BOARDS FROM DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

### **STRONG & DIVERSE ECONOMY**

*The region will have a strong economy that supports a large base of family-wage jobs in multiple sectors. The region will foster business creation and innovation and will provide more employment opportunities for teens and youth. New opportunities to connect food production to tourism will build on the existing rich agricultural base.*

- **Goal:** Support and further develop existing regional businesses and industries.
- **Goal:** Increase availability of affordable housing.
- **Goal:** Develop, attract and retain a qualified, diverse workforce.

### **ECONOMÍA SÓLIDA Y DIVERSA**

*La región tendrá una economía sólida que apoye una amplia base de empleos de ingreso familiar en múltiples sectores. La región fomentará la creación e innovación de negocios y proveerá más oportunidades de empleos para adolescentes y jóvenes. Se desarrollarán nuevas oportunidades para conectar la producción de alimentos con el turismo basándose en la existente rica base agrícola.*

- **Meta:** Apoyar y mejorar más los existentes negocios industrias de la region.
- **Meta:** Aumentar la disponibilidad de vivienda asequible.
- **Meta:** Desarrollar, atraer y retener una fuerza laboral calificada y diversa.

## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

*The region will be renowned for excellence in education for the entire population from birth through retirement.*

- **Goal:** Enhance classroom experiences and educational outcomes.
- **Goal:** Expand early learning and preschool programming to serve the entire population, birth to 5 years throughout the region.
- **Goal:** Provide educational facilities that support student engagement and learning.
- **Goal:** Provide support for parents.
- **Goal:** Increase educational attainment throughout the region.
- **Goal:** Increase alternative approaches to education and pathways to attainment.
- **Goal:** Provide more opportunities for kids to engage in learning and play activities during non-school hours.
- **Goal:** Make available more opportunities for adult education at low cost.
- **Goal:** Create an educational culture that supports each student's development and an environment where all—*students, educators, parents*—are respected.
- **Goal:** Increase collaboration between the education and business sectors (*corresponds with Strong and Diverse Economy*).

## ACCESO A LA EDUCACIÓN

*La región será reconocida por la excelencia educativa para toda la población, desde los recién nacidos hasta las personas jubiladas.*

- **Meta:** Mejorar las experiencias del aula y los resultados académicos.
- **Meta:** Expandir en toda la región, los programas para el aprendizaje temprano y los programas prescolares para servir a toda la población, del nacimiento a los cinco años.
- **Meta:** Proveer instalaciones educativas que apoyen la participación y el aprendizaje de los estudiantes.
- **Meta:** Proveer apoyo para los padres.
- **Meta:** Aumentar el éxito educativo en toda la región.
- **Meta:** Aumentar los enfoques alternativos para la educación y las rutas para el éxito.
- **Meta:** Proveer más oportunidades para que los niños participen en actividades de aprendizaje y lúdicas durante el tiempo que no están en la escuela.
- **Meta:** Proveer más oportunidades para la educación de los adultos a bajo costo.
- **Meta:** Crear una cultura académica que apoye el desarrollo de cada estudiante y un ambiente donde todos, los estudiantes, educadores y padres, sean respetados.
- **Meta:** Aumentar la colaboración entre el sector educativo y el sector de los negocios (coincide con la Economía Sólida y Diversa).

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

*People of all ages will be able to access a full range of health services. Healthy lifestyles will be supported by access to healthy food, regional trail networks and recreational facilities.*

- **Goal:** Quality health care should be affordable and accessible to all in the region.
- **Goal:** Healthy food and nutrition education should be available for all.
- **Goal:** Increase access to quality mental health services.
- **Goal:** Increase access to quality drug and alcohol treatment services in the region.
- **Goal:** Promote and support healthy lifestyles throughout the region.
- **Goal:** Enhance quality health care and services for senior citizens.

## SALUD Y BIENESTAR

*Las personas de todas las edades podrán tener acceso a una amplia gama de servicios para la salud. Los estilos de vida saludables serán respaldados por medio del acceso a alimentos sanos, redes regionales de senderos e instalaciones recreativas.*

- **Meta:** El cuidado de calidad para la salud debe ser asequible y accesible para todos en la región.
- **Meta:** Alimentos sanos y educación para la nutrición deben estar disponibles para todos.
- **Meta:** Aumentar el acceso a los servicios de calidad para la salud mental.
- **Meta:** Aumentar el acceso en la región a los servicios de calidad para el tratamiento para el uso de las drogas y el alcohol.
- **Meta:** Promover y respaldar los estilos de vida saludables en toda la región.
- **Meta:** Aumentar los cuidados de calidad para la salud y los servicios para las personas de la tercera edad.

## CARE FOR NATURE

*The region's abundant natural treasures and environmental resources will be sustainably managed, protected and celebrated.*

- **Goal:** Ensure that the region maintains a clean and sustainable water supply.
- **Goal:** Create opportunities for regional environmentally-friendly waste management solutions and encourage and support the use of alternative energy sources.
- **Goal:** Preserve and celebrate our region's natural treasures.

## CUIDADO DE LA NATURALEZA

*Los abundantes tesoros naturales y los recursos medioambientales de la región serán administrados sustentablemente, protegidos y celebrados.*

- **Meta:** Asegurar que la región mantenga un abastecimiento de agua limpia y sustentable.
- **Meta:** Crear oportunidades para soluciones en el manejo ecológico de desechos y alentar y apoyar el uso de fuentes de energía alternativas.
- **Meta:** Preservar y celebrar los tesoros naturales de nuestra región.

## **SAFETY**

*Residents and law enforcement will work together to cultivate safe environments across the region.*

- **Goal:** All schools will be safe places for learning and working.
- **Goal:** Gang activity and violence will be addressed and prevented.
- **Goal:** Law enforcement will be sufficient for regional needs and will be adequately funded.
- **Goal:** The region's roads and streets will be safe for all.

## **SEGURIDAD**

*Los habitantes y los cuerpos policiales trabajaran en conjunto para cultivar ambientes seguros en toda la región.*

- **Meta:** Todas las escuelas serán lugares seguros para aprender y trabajar.
- **Meta:** Se le pondrá atención y se prevenirá la actividad de las pandillas y la violencia.
- **Meta:** Los cuerpos policiales serán suficientes para las necesidades de la región y tendrán suficientes fondos.
- **Meta:** Las carreteras y caminos serán seguros para todos.