



Community Council

2021 Annual Report

This Annual Report highlights Community Council's work to foster a trusted gathering place where people engage in dialogue, inquiry, and advocacy to build a vibrant region for everyone. Our region includes Columbia and Walla Walla counties and the Milton-Freewater area.

Study Implementation Highlights

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

In 2021, Community Council continued to facilitate the work of the Affordable Housing Implementation Task Force (ITF) as it advocated for the implementation of the recommendations from the [Affordable Housing study report](#).

Highlights of the Implementation Task Force's work include:

- Continued to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis by continually updating and distributing its [English-language](#) and [Spanish-language](#) COVID-19 Housing & Utility Relief information sheet, which briefly explains state, federal, and regional relief measures that have been enacted in response to the pandemic to protect residents from eviction, foreclosure, and displacement.
- The election of the founding board of directors for Common Roots Housing Trust, the first community land trust in our region, which will provide affordable homeownership opportunities to community members earning low incomes. A community land trust (CLT) is a nonprofit organization that owns land and develops housing for the purpose of creating permanently affordable homes. Homes on CLT land are owned or rented by households, and the land, which is owned by the CLT, is leased to the residents for a modest fee. CLTs also provide financial services, such as counseling and access to lenders, to support their residents so as to prevent foreclosure. Common Roots will create lasting home ownership opportunities for community members who have steady incomes but cannot afford to buy safe, market-rate homes in our region. You can learn more about Common Roots Housing Trust by visiting the organization's website, <https://www.commonrootshousing.org/>
- The successful organization of a virtual community land trust town hall in January 2021 for the purpose of community education and outreach to the public at large, and in particular to prospective Common Roots Housing Trust residents, board members, volunteers, developers, neighbors, and donors. Close to 200 people attended the town hall, which had simultaneous interpretation into Spanish, and was covered extensively in local media. A recording of the town hall can be accessed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_e4ZNruQhA
- Building the foundation for Common Roots, which included: grant writing, raising seeds funds, presenting the organization to prospective donors, requesting local jurisdictions transfer surplus public land for Common Roots' housing development, participating in regional and national CLT

networks and training programs, drafting the organization’s foundational documents, and determining the organization’s resale formula and ground lease, which will ensure the permanent affordability of Common Roots’ homes.

- Advocacy with manufactured home park residents for manufactured home park zoning where manufactured home parks already exist in College Place and Walla Walla. This advocacy resulted in College Place becoming the first city in eastern Washington to enact manufactured home park zoning with a resident-opportunity-to-purchase provision.
- Successful advocacy for the amendment of College Place and Walla Walla’s Comprehensive Plans to broaden and deepen the cities’ commitments to preserving and promoting affordable housing.
- The submission of a proposal to amend Dayton’s Comprehensive Plan to better support affordable housing in the city.
- The further development of a multi-media public awareness campaign on the benefits of affordable housing for our community. This included publishing articles in local newspapers and issuing social media posts on affordable housing facts. These can be found on our website [here](#).
- The development of an Affordable Housing Data and Measurement Report with key infographics for our region, which was presented to regional housing stakeholders for feedback. The report will inform the affordable housing aspect of the Community Conversations that Community Council will hold in 2022. It will also be made available via our website in 2022.
- Advocacy for a non-profit behavioral health provider to begin pursuing a housing first development for the people it serves.
- The beginning of an advocacy campaign to enact an affordable homes sales tax in Walla Walla County to fund affordable housing development for people earning extremely low and very low incomes.

Community members who have participated in Affordable Housing Implementation Task Force activities are:

Ruben Alvarado	Meagan Hayes	Felicia Peterson
Christine Aurili	Sundown Hazen	Laura Prado
Richard Aurili	Paul Ihle	Nadean Pulfer
Deborah Backous	Samantha Jackle	Richard Pullman
Yazmin Bahena	Deanna Jameson	Linda Ray
Craig Baker	George Jameson	Kim Reed-Forbes
Bev Barksdale	Steve Johnson	Gustavo Reyna
Ed Barksdale	Bob Kingsley	Jon Rickard
Shelby Barnett	Rieko Kingsley	Nancy Riggle
Matt Bona	Debbie Kleinhesselink	Jerry Riley
Ruth Ann Broman	Dorothy Knudson	Mike Rizzitiello
Micki Breitenstein	Ted Koehler	Carrie Russo
Emily Brown	Jen Krull	Nikki Saunders
Karen Carman	Michael Krull	Lily Seaman
Judy Carroll	Jonathon Kusler	Mick Semerdjian
Lydia Caudill	Amber Larsen	Terri Silvis
Riley Clubb	Pat Leamer	Joy Smith
Cameron Conner	Bev Lytle	Beverly Snell

Chuck Cooper
Linda Cooper
Erendira Cruz
George Danby
Laura Dixson
Donna Feider
Davina Fogg
Kevin Fouste
Susan Fouste
Marcus Frey
Jennifer Glynn
Rosendo Guizar
Jeff Hanlon

Jim Lytle
Dena Martin
RL McFarland
Marsha Middleton
Suzanne Morrissey
Steven Moss
Chris Nelson
Byron Olson
Norm Osterman
Sue Palmer
Russ Parker
Susan Parker
Emma Patterson

Greg Sterling
Bonnie Szuch
Kyle Tarbet
Roger Trick
Ynez Vargas
Craig Volwiler
Catherine Walker
Lisa Wasson-Seilo
Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer
Catherine Wiberg
Cindy Widmer
Trish Wilder
Leanna Yenney

EDUCATION AS A PATH TO ECONOMIC GROWTH IMPLEMENTATION

Elevate: Educational Attainment Alliance

Community Council has continued to support the work of Elevate, formerly known as the Educational Attainment Alliance, which was created in response to a recommendation in our [Education as a Path to Economic Growth study report](#). Elevate is a regional partnership that seeks to increase educational attainment by eliminating barriers to success and building better alignment across the educational continuum in our region. Over the past year the partnership has continued to build institutional capacity, facilitated the Middle School Working Group, and launched an Early Learning Working Group.

This year, the Elevate administrative team, which consists of staff from United Way, Community Council, and two long-term volunteers, has been working closely with staff from Partners for Education to expand Elevate's capacity to increase educational attainment in our region. Partners for Education, located at Berea College, is a cradle to career partnership that has been working to support student achievement in rural Appalachia for decades. They have been providing technical assistance to Elevate through a grant funded by StriveTogether, a national network of cradle to career initiatives. Elevate is also part of the Washington State Cradle to Career Advocacy Network, a state-wide network of cradle to career partnerships that collaborates to shape opportunities for strategic investments in education in Washington state. Elevate's participation in this network brings an important rural perspective to state-wide advocacy efforts.

In January 2021, Elevate launched a Middle School Working Group to devise strategies for increasing middle school family and community engagement, and opportunities for students. Working Group members, who represented schools and community organizations from around the region, met every two weeks via zoom from January through July. Their work engaged experts in adolescent development, family and community engagement, and educational attainment, and resulted in initial strategies for family engagement, recommendations for a future focus on 8th grade math outcomes, and a partnership with Queremos Escucharte/The Listeners Project to elevate the voices of middle school students.

This past fall, Elevate's Steering Committee identified Early Learning as its next priority area. In doing so, the Steering Committee highlighted the impact high-quality preschool has in preparing young children for a strong start in kindergarten. They also recognized the critical lack of early learning opportunities currently available to families throughout our region. In collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition, an initial Early Learning Working Group has developed a goal of making sure that all children aged 0-5

have access to affordable, high-quality care. The Blue Mountain Community Foundation has committed funds to support the development of this initiative for two years.

Jacqueline Lonning, Elevate's Collective Impact Coordinator, resigned from this position in the fall of 2021 in order to pursue a teaching opportunity at Walla Walla University. The partnership was very sad to see her leave, but thrilled for all of the students who will be able to learn from her in the classroom.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Community Council continued to develop and expand our approach to Community Conversations, in partnership with the Blue Mountain Community Foundation, Sherwood Trust, and United Way of the Blue Mountains. Community Conversations seeks to bring community members together to explore the quality of life in our region. Community Indicators, data regarding local social, economic, and environmental trends provide a foundation for those conversations. This effort builds on and refines earlier work in this area, including Data Walks, and Community Conversations held in 2016.

Our Community Indicators focus on the priority areas established by the community through our study process and Community Conversations. This past year, we have been facilitating the work of the Affordable Housing Implementation Task Force Subcommittee on Inventory, Data & Measurement to develop a set of Affordable Housing indicators that can be used by jurisdictions throughout our region to better understand and address the critical lack of affordable housing in our region. Based on the subcommittee's research and feedback provided by housing experts and local stakeholders, that subcommittee has generated an *Affordable Housing Data and Measurement Report* in order to share the data and analysis broadly; the report will be available on Community Council's website in 2022. We have also worked with Elevate to update and expand indicators that help us understand student success in our region. Data generated through this work is also used in monthly meetings to inform decision-making among Elevate's Steering Committee. Work to refine and expand the indicators in preparation for Community Conversations has been supported by two Whitman College Community Fellow Interns, Laska Fitzhugh and Allie McCann.

2021 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

This work is made possible because of the generous support of our volunteers, donors, and grantors!

Board of Directors

Board of Directors Officers for Community Council's Board of Directors in 2021 were:

Mario Delgadillo, President	Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer/Laura Prado, Secretary
Gustavo Reyna, President-elect	Ben Currin, Treasurer

Directors serving, with the officers, during 2021 were:

Jessica Cook	Tony McGuire	Ynez Vargas
Katie DePonty	Rodney Outlaw	Jim Wilson
Meagan Hayes	Julie Perron	Kathryn Witherington
Norma Hernandez	Kim Rolfe	
David Lopez	Yesenia Trujillo	

Staff

Mary A. Campbell, Executive Director	Catherine Veninga, Community Study Coordinator
Rachel Efenbein, Advocacy Coordinator	Allie McCann, Whitman College Community Fellow Intern
	Laska Fitzhugh, Whitman College Community Fellow Intern

For more information about Community Council or to get involved, please visit us at

<https://www.wcommunitycouncil.org/>

or

<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityCouncil>

Thank You!

Community Council
Statements of Financial Position
Unrestricted and Temporarily Restricted Funds Combined
December 31, 2021 and 2020

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 474,779.55	\$ 452,020.21
Accounts and Other Receivables	23,000.00	15,000.00
Equipment-Net of Depreciation	1,353.74	2,370.53
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 499,133.29	\$ 469,390.74
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,721.50	\$ 25.30
Other Current Liabilities	6,648.74	47,639.82
TOTAL LIABILITIES	8,370.24	47,665.12
NET ASSETS	490,763.05	421,725.62
TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	\$ 499,133.29	\$ 469,390.74

Statements of Activities
Unrestricted and Temporarily Restricted Funds Combined
Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		
External Support (Contributions & grants)		
Contributions & Grants	\$ 268,772.21	\$ 313,574.02
Employer Credits	63,000.00	15,000.00
Sponsorships	-	24,500.00
In-Kind Donations	18,772.50	17,368.50
Total External Support	350,544.71	370,442.52
Revenues		
Interest Income	739.48	232.87
Total Revenues	739.48	232.87
Total External Support & Revenues	351,284.19	370,675.39
Expenses		
Personnel	237,933.66	218,915.10
Occupancy	13,587.59	13,841.07
General & Administrative	12,600.67	14,346.54
Marketing & Promotion	7,999.26	8,535.60
Program Materials & Other Costs	10,125.58	6,698.95
Total Expenses	282,246.76	262,337.26
Change in Net Assets	\$ 69,037.43	\$ 108,338.13