The Pacific Northwest’s nonprofits are tackling problems we all want addressed; such as hunger, youth suicide, domestic violence, unemployment, and drinking water pollution. Nonprofits also bring us the arts, great public spaces, animal companions, enriching youth activities, and much more. The staff, boards, and volunteers at these organizations are working hard, but there is still tremendous untapped potential in our nonprofits.

Because most of the funding available to nonprofits can only be used for programs, even large nonprofits have extremely limited budgets for planning, board development, operational improvement, as well as basic HR, technology, and financial systems.

How can we unleash their potential to make the world a better place unless we provide nonprofits with affordable access to the skills and tools they need?

In Washington State, individuals, foundations, corporations, and government have come together to surmount this problem by supporting 501 Commons.

As the nonprofit “management support organization” for the state of Washington, 501 Commons delivers a comprehensive array of resources and expertise that enables hundreds of nonprofits to serve more people, families, and communities throughout the state.

501 Commons is a dynamic, entrepreneurial, and effective social sector enterprise that is delivering results positively impacting the quality of life in Washington and beyond.

Recognition

Seattle Business Magazine Nonprofit of the Year (2014). Other awards include Minority Executive Directors’ Coalition Partner Award, Evergreen Award, and Most Innovative AmeriCorps State and Volunteer Generation Fund Programs.

501 Commons is a GuideStar Exchange Platinum Participant, a trusted validation of our transparency, stewardship, and organizational growth. Learn more by visiting 501commons.org/Donate.
The 2016 Climate Survey reported a 5.4 rating (6 = Strongly Agree) for “My supervisor treats me with respect.”

50+ staff members

The 2016 Climate Survey reported a 5.4 rating (6 = Strongly Agree) for “My supervisor treats me with respect.”

550+ volunteers

Including Executive Service Corps members, Encore Fellows, and volunteers serving in the Volunteer Manager Corps.

110+ partners

Consultants, businesses, and capacity builders listed in the 501 Commons Nonprofit Resource Directory.

$4.7 million budget

Including $1.3 million worth of in-kind donations of volunteer time and software.

Touching All Aspects of Our Community

Focus or Sub Type
- Arts, Culture & Humanities
- Human Services
- Youth Development
- Health Care
- Community Improvement & Capacity Building
- Housing & Shelter
- Environment
- Philanthropy, Voluntarism & Grantmaking
- Civil Rights, Social Action & Advocacy
- Mutual & Membership Benefit
- Unknown / Other
- Nonprofit Education
- Other

Sound Theatre Company (top) and Hopelink (bottom).
Annually, 501 Commons serves nearly 1,000 organizations through its consulting, training programs, contracted back office services, and Information & Referral Program.

More than 950 sector leaders benefit from our training and leadership development programs:

- Free 501 Talks Tech workshops
- Board Training in King County series
- Executive Director Forums
- Nonprofit staff development workshop series

Our website, which receives nearly 100,000 visits per year, features an organizational self-assessment tool based on the Five Elements of a Healthy Nonprofit. Visitors to our Nonprofit Resource Directory access:

- Referrals to vetted specialists
- Links to outside resources and helpful tools
- Advice on best practices
- A Venues Map
- A calendar of training and events happening in the community.

Clients receiving ongoing HR, technology support, and financial services get top-notch expertise at affordable rates for organizations of all sizes. Thanks to our funders and donors, we offer discounted rates for coaching, management consulting, and our programs.
About Board Service

For more than a decade, the 501 Commons board of directors has been guided by the Policy Governance® approach to board leadership. Policy Governance® clarifies the board’s role within the organization, defines its relationship with the executive, and proscribes how the board operates. This approach enables the board to focus on longer-term strategic issues, deepening community connections, evaluating performance, and achieving financial sustainability.

Board Commitments

Board members commit to making 501 Commons one of their top volunteer commitments, so that you, other board members, and staff realize the benefits of your skills, experience, talents, and passion. Additionally, board members are expected to make these commitments:

- Serve a three year term. There are no term limits; consequently, board members are often invited to serve more than one term.
- Attend the board retreat and at least four of the six board meetings each year.
- Join and actively participate in a board committee. These meetings are generally by phone in the months between board meetings.
- Advance the mission of 501 Commons by promoting the organization’s services and volunteer opportunities, as well as affirming its reputation as a prestigious, entrepreneurial, award-winning, and successful nonprofit organization.
- Make a meaningful annual financial contribution and actively support 501 Commons’ fundraising efforts.
- Gain an understanding of the organization that enables you to contribute your unique set of skills, talents, and passions toward its continuing success.
- Attend at least three gatherings, interviews, meetings or program events involving 501 Commons staff, clients, volunteers, funders, or other social sector stakeholders.
- Be responsive to other board members and staff, making careful use of the organization’s resources.

Our Commitment to You

We want our board members to enjoy their affiliation, as well as feel valued for their commitment to 501 Commons and those we serve. We provide customized support to each new board member in order to ensure that they feel successful in their leadership role. Our commitment to you includes:

- Ensuring that meetings and events are well-organized and make effective use of your time and expertise
- Providing timely and helpful responses to your information requests and concerns
- Producing effective results of which you can be proud
- Saying what we can do and doing what we say
Janice Deguchi serves as the Executive Director of Community for Youth, a mentoring program serving high school students in South Seattle. Janice also serves as the current chair of the Asian Pacific Director’s Coalition. Previous roles have included Chief Operating Officer of Keiro Northwest, Executive Director of Denise Louie Education Center, past president of the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), and past president of the Washington State Association of Head Start/ECEAP.

Greg Dietzel served as the Senior State Executive for IBM until his recent retirement, responsible for all operations and employees in the State of Washington. He has spent over 30 years helping organizations achieve business and societal value through the use of technology and leading teams in the technology industry. Currently, Greg serves on the Board of Trustees for Bellevue College, the largest open access, higher education institution in the State of Washington.

Frank Hagel founded Hagel & Company in 1993. Hagel & Company is an executive search and human resources technology company that serves clients in 26 states. Prior to founding Hagel & Company, Frank served as a United Way professional for 24 years, including 14 years as President and CEO of the United Way of Pierce County in Tacoma, as well as eight years in management positions for United Ways in Yakima and Portland.

Art Jackson (on leave) is the former Vice President of General Administration for Costco Wholesale. In this role, he served as Chairman of Costco’s Charitable Contribution Committee. Prior to joining Costco in 2001, Art was Vice President of Labor and Employee Relations, Government and External Affairs for The Bon Marche in Seattle, now known as Macy’s, (a subsidiary of Federated Dept. Stores) and Assistant General Counsel of Federated Department Stores/Allied Stores in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Reza Khastou earned his degree in Political Science in Iran, and moved to the U.S. to receive his master’s degree in education from Eastern Washington University. He has been working with high school students as a teacher, advisor, and administrator for almost 30 years. Reza personally funded and created the Bright Future Program at John Marshall Alternative High School.

Joyce Lee leads the Marguerite Casey Foundation’s finance operations, which includes investment, treasury, budget, financial reporting, and insurance functions. She also oversees the MCF’s human resources and administration functions. She also serves as the treasurer of Hispanics and Philanthropy and as a board member of Asian Counseling and Referral Service.

Ivan H. Lee has 15 years of experience at organizations like Apple, T-Mobile, and CityYear AmeriCorps leading initiatives in learning and talent development, diversity and inclusion, and corporate social responsibility. He currently manages T-Mobile’s ethical leadership training program which drives the “Do it the right way” culture at one of America’s most trusted and loved companies. Both in and outside of the workplace, he advances social justice, economic empowerment, and capacity building.
Chris McClincy is currently the Senior Vice President and CIO at Expeditors, a Seattle-based worldwide logistics and freight forwarding company. He has worked in the transportation and logistics field for more than 20 years in various roles from loading and driving trucks to dispatching pickups and deliveries, processing shipments, technology support and implementation, global management, and organizational strategy and leadership. Before joining Expeditors in 1998, Chris previously worked at Seattle Air Cargo and UPS. He was promoted to his current role in 2014. Chris earned his MBA through Seattle University’s Executive Leadership Program in 2009. Since 2011, Chris has continued to support SU by serving as a mentor for graduate students.

Chris Miller serves as Chief Technology & Innovation Officer at Avanade, where he is responsible for the company’s technology strategy and innovation functions worldwide, client-centric innovation agenda (including Avanade Innovation Labs), annual Technology Vision white paper, and emerging technology incubation program. Previously, Chris was at Accenture, serving as a senior director for their Collaboration 2.0 program.

Don Miller has more than 16 years of industry and consulting experience. In his current role at Deloitte, he serves as the US Analytics leader for Deloitte's Human Capital Organization Transformation & Talent practice, as well as serving on Deloitte's Global Organization Design and Decision Solutions Leadership team. Don is focused on helping Deloitte's clients improve their performance by building operating models and organization structures to execute new capabilities through their people; aligning the capabilities, metrics, processes, and culture of a business to its structure, leadership, roles, and talent.

Kasa Tupua Pierson has more than a decade of coaching and program management experience in athletics, education, and the nonprofit sector. Kasa is the Head Junior Varsity Coach for the Ballard High School Girls Basketball team. Previous experiences include managing academic programs with the Institute of Public Service at Seattle University, policy analysis with the Office of Program Research at the Washington State House of Representatives, and coordinating intergenerational programs through AmeriCorps.

Richard Starnes is a principal in Deloitte Consulting’s Technology Service Area. He brings more than 20 years of experience delivering technology solutions for analytics, business intelligence, and data warehousing to a broad range of industries. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Science at Loughborough University in the U.K. Before joining Deloitte Consulting, Richard was a Managing Director at BearingPoint.

Alicia Yamamoto is passionate about building nonprofit capacity and leveraging project management strategies to remove roadblocks for her teams. She specializes in driving healthcare-related projects. She has also served as a Global Project Leader in oncology research at Covance and spent nine years at Fred Hutch overseeing projects in infectious disease, including launching a website for clinicians across the HIV Vaccine Trials Network and managing grants across the organization. Alicia has also been an active Service Corps member since 2010.
“As a CPA, I’ve seen a lot of nonprofits that have great passion and programs but do not have the expertise they need to become the best that they can be. I’m passionate about helping nonprofits be stronger and 501 Commons does that.”

Joyce Lee

“The responsibility to fund social services seems to be shifting from government to nonprofits, and we are in the perfect place to help those people I care about.”

Reza Khastou

“I believe in 501 Commons’ mission and love that our reach goes to more than 1,000 organizations each year. There are so many organizations that I would love to be able to support. I can reach them all through my work as a member of the 501 Commons board.”

Kasa Tupua Pierson

“I have been a client of 501 Commons for years, using them for coaching, human resources training, and as a participant in the Volunteer Impact Program. I participate in their quarterly ED Forums and regularly use the nonprofit listserv they moderate. As a nonprofit executive director, I find the services they provide invaluable. I joined the board because of how much I’ve been helped and how much impact I know they have by supporting the incredible work of the nonprofit sector.”

Janice Deguchi

“I observe the challenges with infrastructure that nonprofits face. Without the kind of support 501 Commons provides they cannot effectively have the impact they seek. I value that I can benefit multiple nonprofits in my role as a 501 Commons board member.”

Frank Hagel

“The challenges our community faces are complex and interconnected in so many ways. 501 Commons is helping the entire nonprofit sector achieve more and work together better. I feel like I am truly making a difference and can help many amazing organizations at once across my wide set of interests.”

Greg Dietzel
Our Supporters

501 Commons receives $1 million+ in annual philanthropic support. Thanks to these 2019 and 2020 supporters, we are able to provide nonprofits with free and low cost capacity building services, training, and referrals.

Public, Private, and Corporate Grants

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- 4Culture
- The Ballmer Group
- Campion Foundation
- Cedarmere Foundation
- City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture
- Kirkpatrick Family Foundation
- Medina Foundation
- M.J. Murdock Trust
- National Development Council
- Norcliffe Foundation
- Norman Archibald Charitable Foundation
- Puget Sound Energy Foundation
- Satterberg Foundation
- Seattle Foundation
- State of Washington - Serve Washington
- Sherwood Trust
- Social Venture Partners
- Umpqua Bank
- United Way of King County

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- Seattle Foundation
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