

# Co-Creation & Collaboration: Advancing Meaningful Engagement with Community-Based Organizations

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2025 APA WA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**

**REDMOND**  
 **2050**  
**From Suburb to City**

# Presentation at a glance



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## Structure:

- Commerce Advancing Meaningful Engagement pilot grant + multimedia toolkit
- Redmond 2050 community engagement process
- Moderated panel discussion with CBOs

# We strengthen communities



HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



INFRASTRUCTURE AND BROADBAND



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



ENERGY



PLANNING AND TECH ASSISTANCE



COMMUNITY SERVICES



CRIME VICTIMS AND PUBLIC SAFETY



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# HB1181: Climate Law (2023)

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## Climate:

Adds climate goal (**#14**) to Growth Management Act and requires local governments to reduce emissions and per capita VMT and foster resilience to hazards ([RCW 36.70A.070](#))

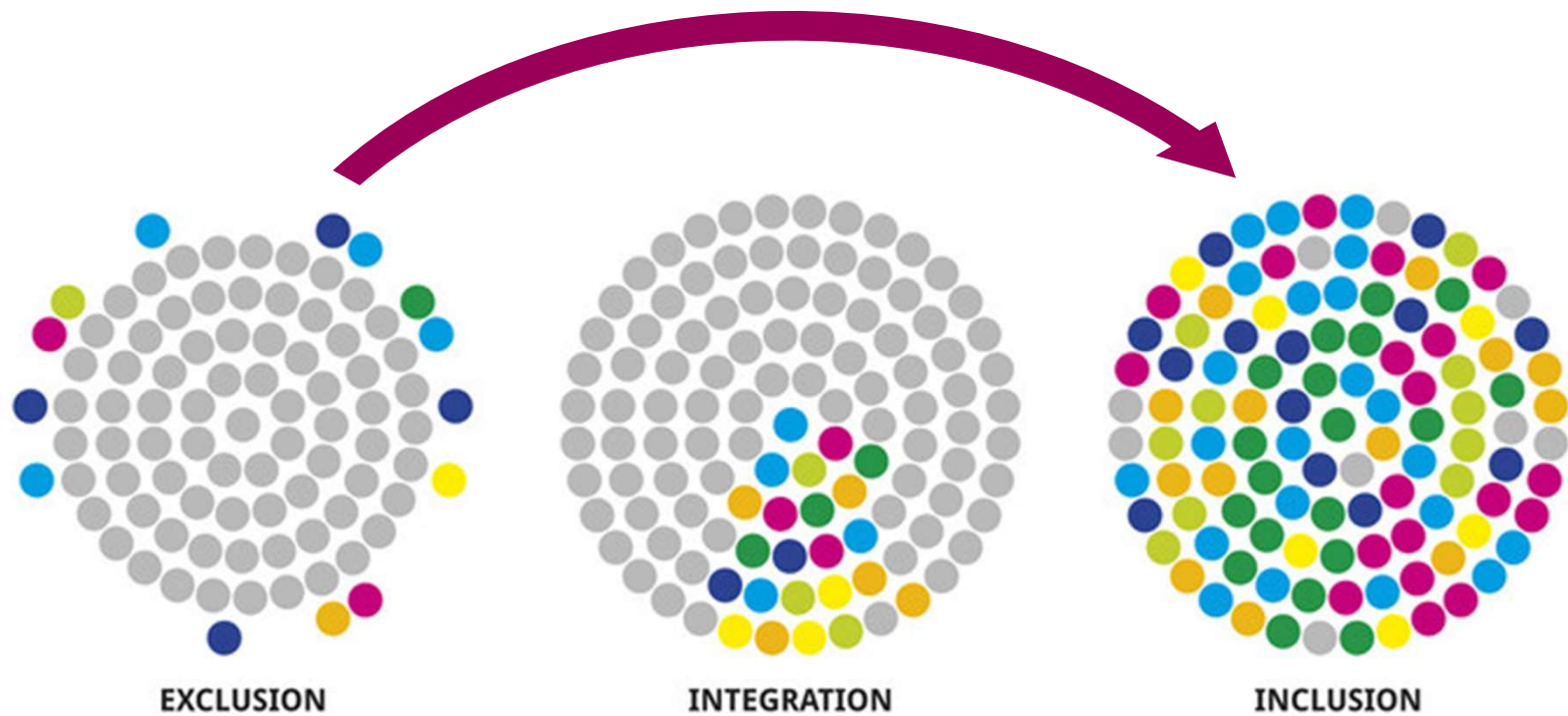
## Participation:

Amends public participation goal (**#11**) and requires Commerce to advance participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities in the planning process ([RCW 36.70A.190](#))



# Moving toward more inclusive participation

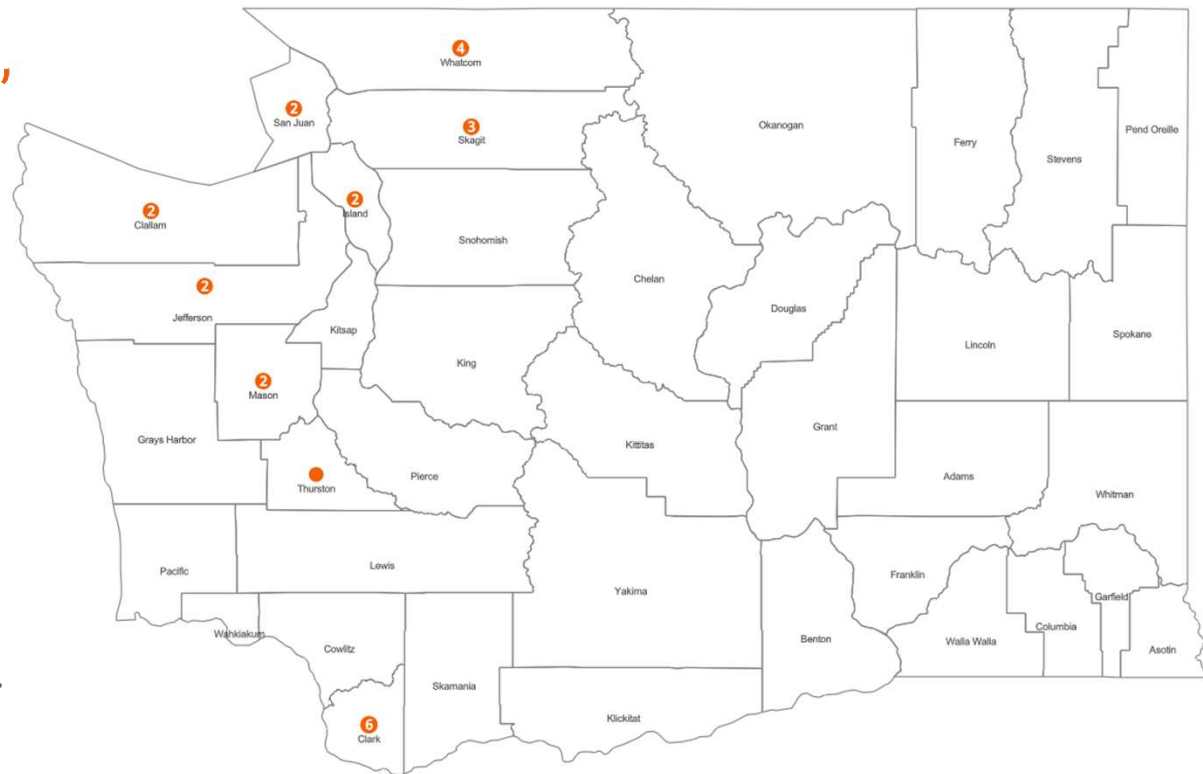
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*Graphic: E. Zacher on Adobe Stock*

# Overview: “AME” Pilot Grant

- **\$2M in grants to 24 CBOs, including:**
  - Vamos Outdoors Project
  - Island Stewards
  - Mason County Climate Justice
  - Thurston Climate Action Team
  - Native American Youth & Family Center
  - Vietnamese Community of Clark County



[Map link](#)

# Community engagement

- **Required Activities:**
  - Attend and participate in local government meetings
  - Review policies and submit comments
  - Participate in training or other capacity-building activities
- **Additional Activities:**
  - Bridge gaps and access issues
  - Engage directly with community members and relay information to planners and policymakers



Image courtesy of WA Conservation Action Education Fund

# Successes & Challenges

- **Successes:**
  - Offered participation stipends and welcomed families to meetings
  - Trained residents how to provide testimony
  - Translated surveys and other materials
  - Leaned on trusted community champions
  - Built local leaders and capacity
- **Challenges**
  - Misalignment of AME grant and local planning schedules
  - Difficulty building bridges and feeling heard
  - Need additional funding to continue work



*Image courtesy of Native American Youth & Family Center*



# In their own words

“... I realized just how powerful individuals and groups can actually be, even though they may not be traditionally represented in these political spaces.”

“It’s taught me a lot about how the government works. We also learned to work with people that we may not have always agreed with.”

“I think it’s important how we get to write our own destiny and be able to directly affect our future in this City and the County.”

—Cedar Stewards of Mason County students

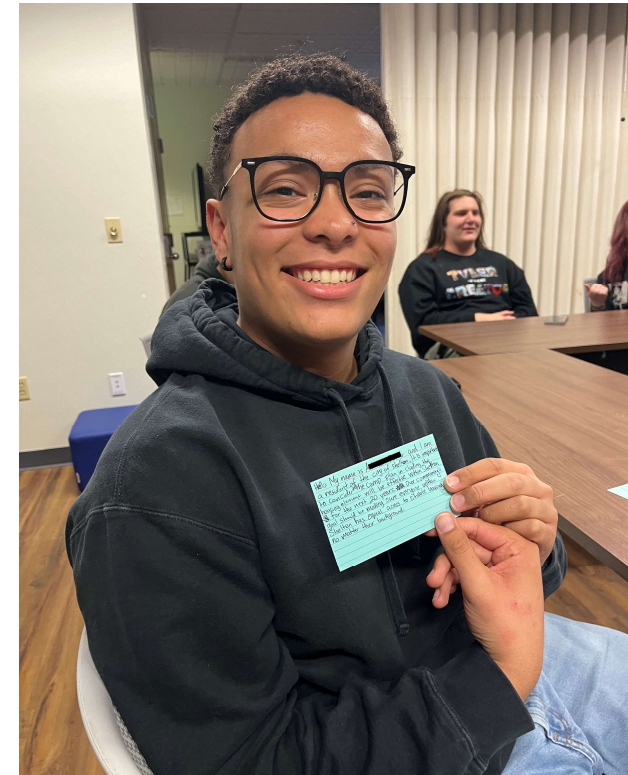


Image courtesy of Mason County Climate Justice

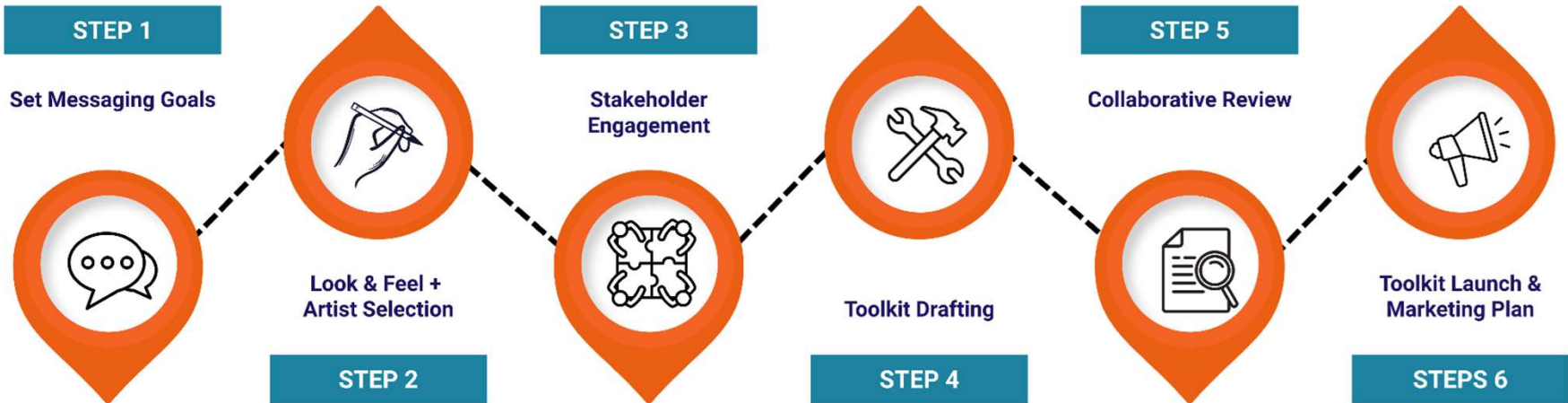
# “Plan Together, Grow Together” toolkit

- **Tools in the Box:**
  - Animated Video
  - Graphic Novel
  - Planning Workbook
  - Other Resources
- **Check it Out:**



Advancing Meaningful Engagement in Comprehensive Planning – Washington State Department of Commerce

# Engagement Toolkit Co-Creation Process



Images courtesy of *Plan Together, Grow Together* Comp Planning Toolkit



# Lessons Learned

- **Successes:**
  - Addressed specific feedback from CBOs in the toolkit
  - Committed to approachable, plain language creative products
  - Gave a complex concept personality
  - Facilitated artist - stakeholder relationship building
- **Opportunities**
  - Allow your vision of the end product to evolve
  - Take your show on the road



Images courtesy of Plan Together, Grow Together Graphic Novel

# City of Redmond–Redmond 2050



**> REDMOND 2050**  
From suburb to city

# What is Redmond 2050?

Once every 10 years cities in Washington state review their vision for their community and how to plan and build for the next few decades.

Planning for growth helps us build a city that meets the needs of the community and reflects the vision for how the community will look and function.

**Equity and  
Inclusion**



**Sustainability**



**Resilience**



# Redmond 2050 Engagement



"I love that the as the City is growing and expanding, they are still putting an emphasis on making sure that the City is accessible to people of all ages and ability levels"

- LeAnna Namovic, Disability Empowerment Center ([Redmond 2050's Work with Community-based Organizations](#))

# Engagement Process

Redmond committed to rethinking the engagement process

1. Active, equitable, diverse, and continuous
2. The community must be involved during implementation
3. Coordination and different levels of involvement



Nov. 9, 2022  
Debbie Lacey, Founder & Executive Director,  
Eastside for All at Redmond Planning Commission



# Lessons Learned

- Time
- Budget
- Staff



# CBO Panelists

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## Commerce Partners



**Julian Medina-Schroeder** —  
Program Leader,  
Vamos Outdoors



**Paris McClusky** —  
Community  
Organizer,  
Thurston Climate  
Action Team

## Redmond Partners



**Adam Dibba** —  
Executive  
Director, Africans  
on the Eastside



**Guillermo Rivera** —  
Housing Justice  
Organizer, Eastside  
for All

# Thank you!

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[www.commerce.wa.gov](http://www.commerce.wa.gov)



**REDMOND**  
 **2050**

**From Suburb to City**

<https://www.redmond.gov/2310/Redmond-2050-Comprehensive-Plan>