



## SUMMARY REPORT

# Rural Communities Design Initiative Finding Linkages Symposium

February 9, 2012  
Washington State University  
Pullman, Washington

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## 1. Background

### Purpose of the Symposium

The Finding Linkages Symposium supporting the Rural Communities Design Initiative (RCDI) was held on February 9, 2012, at Washington State University's Pullman campus. The one day event was attended by fifty five invited participants from across the state representing a wide variety of interests, expertise and experience in addressing the challenges facing rural communities. The RCDI provides an avenue for small rural communities to identify and facilitate economic revitalization through renovation and repurposing existing downtown properties. Specifically the RCDI links Washington State Design (WSU) design resources with rural communities, providing guidance through the collaborative design process, identifying potential funding sources for capital improvement, and facilitating that process. Last year's Initiation of Collaboration (IOC) Symposium added considerable value in the development of the RCDI which is significant because large numbers of small rural communities across Washington State as well as the rural United States are in jeopardy and in danger of extinction. The health and viability of such communities is vital to the country because, as the "Heartland of America," rural communities produce most of our food; represent a large portion of voters in national elections; and send a disproportionate number of young men and women to our armed services. It is also where we are likely to find under-performing schools and a paucity of professional services. The Finding Linkages Symposium aimed to further develop an essential university and community collaboration that will work toward restoring, preserving, and revitalizing Washington's small rural communities.

The purpose of this years' Finding Linkages Symposium was to enhance the dialogue and collaboration between Washington State University (WSU) and other organizations, agencies, and individuals interested and actively engaged in understanding and addressing challenges of economic development for Washington's very small, impoverished rural communities. The goal of the Finding Linkages Symposium was identify ways to further the aims of RCDI and identify action items relevant to these aims.



*During registration, introductions were made and old friends were greeted. At registration participants received name badges, parking permits, and an informative program with the day's agenda and explanations of the mission and goals of the RCDI.*

## Symposium Participants

Funded by WSU Extension, WSU Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, WSU Department of Interior Design, and AVISTA, organizers of the Finding Linkages Symposium included Dr. Janetta McCoy, Associate Professor of Interior Design, WSU Interdisciplinary Design Institute; Dr. Ole Sleipness, Clinical Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture, WSU College of Agriculture and Human and Natural Resources; and Kathleen Ryan, Assistant Professor of Interior Design, WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences. The symposium's fifty five participants (Appendix A) were recruited based on their expertise and experience in dealing with the challenges of Washington's small rural communities. Participants represented a variety of areas of focus including rural entrepreneurship, politics and government, communication, design, health and education, and planning. Within each area of focus were individuals affiliated with the university, state and local governments, and private enterprise.



*Participants spent the morning in group discussions, brainstorming project opportunities for quick successes and funding options.*

## 2. Symposium Process and Results

### Overview

The all-day symposium was designed to include a variety of interactive and participatory activities intended to capitalize on the diverse perspectives and insights of the participants, thus encourage meaningful dialogue between new and established acquaintances (Appendix B). Morning activities consisted of a review of progress the RCDI has made since the last symposium and an intimate look at current projects in Kettle Falls and Omak, Washington. Afternoon activities allowed interactive groups to identify action items for prospective community projects and steps in building stronger university and community collaboration.

The symposium opened with a warm welcome by Dr. Gregory Kessler, Associate Director and Professor of WSU Architecture & Construction Management, and the new School of Design and Construction, who emphasized the value of university and community collaboration.



*Teams were organized to identify project action items based on community profiles. Each team was assigned a student scribe to assist with the documentation of their discussion.*

## Progress of Recent and Current RCDI Projects

To demonstrate the process and value of interaction between WSU Rural Communities Design Initiative and participating rural communities, WSU students presented two projects: Kettle Falls Community Chest Food Bank and the venue for the Omak Stampede.

### *Kettle Falls Community Chest*

Alyse Zimmer, a master's graduate student in interior design, presented her non-thesis project which focused on the Sense of Place in the Community Chest building in Kettle Falls, WA. Alyse explained how a sense of place can strengthen place attachment in a community and how a redesign of the current food bank in Kettle Falls, informed by community interviews elicited needs, desires and culture of the community. The presentation included explanation of how the redesign could support the clients need for privacy and dignity --- as well as support the need for a greater sense of community and stability in the downtown district.

During the Kettle Falls participatory design workshop, the community worked through a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) of the food bank site. The next steps for the Kettle Falls project includes additional meetings for design feedback with clients, implementation of the design based on funding and volunteer know-how, and development of plans on how they will operate during construction of the new phase of the project in order to continue to meet the nutritional needs of the clients in need of food.

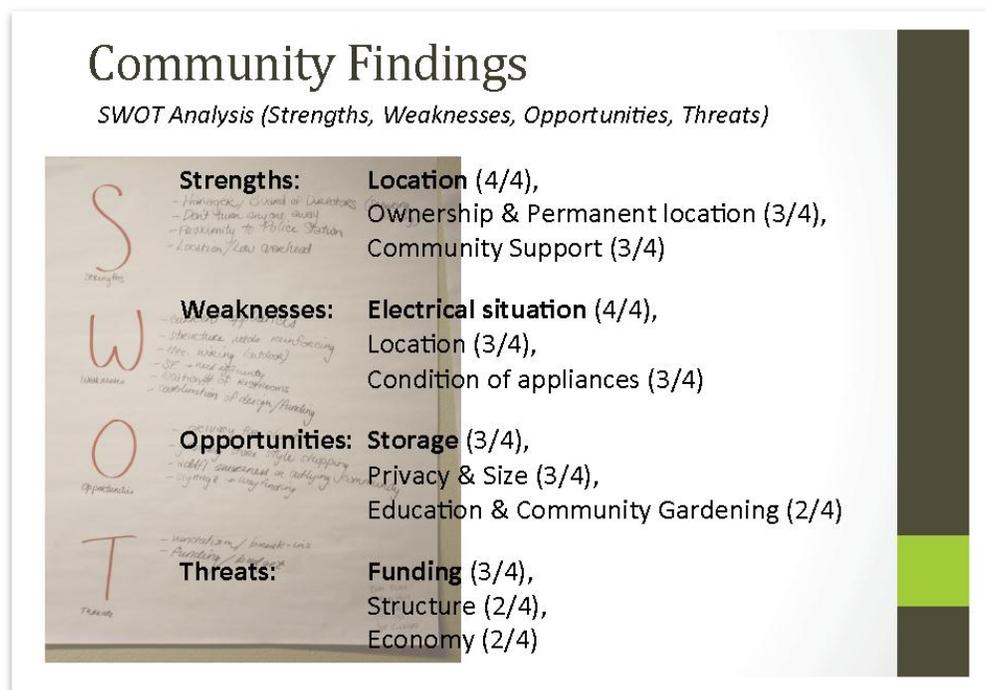


Figure 1. Kettle Falls Food Bank Project: Community and client needs were identified in a participatory, focus group process. (Source: Alyse Zimmer)



# Omak Stampede Project: Landscape Architecture Students

Students in the Landscape Architecture Recreation Design Studio worked in teams with the Omak Rodeo and Native American Center, the City of Omak and representatives from the Colville Confederated Tribes. The project focused on the East City Park, which hosts the annual Omak Stampede and Suicide Race. The event draws tens of thousands of visitors to the park, which serves the community's recreation need throughout the rest of the year. Students' design interventions focused on redesigning the existing park for improved vehicular and pedestrian circulation, greater flexibility, and symbolic linkages between the Tribal and rodeo cultures. To accomplish this, students engaged in participatory design workshops in the community, collected feedback from stakeholders, and used this local knowledge to inform their design interventions.



## Omak Stampede & Rodeo Week Long Event

*A horse dignified cannot stand*  
-Maxine Lincoln

**Unity --- Strength --- Community**  
The design intent of the project is to build stronger connections, both culturally and functionally, through the use of artwork, Native plant material, and experiential walkways. All for the purpose of bringing people together as one.

**Elements**

- 1 Dream Walk** - The proposed Dream Walk integrates contemporary artwork, historic, and modern cultural context. Penning the entire site, the Dream Walk will unite all aspects of the Rodeo and Native Center.
- 2 Stadium Plaza** - The Stadium Plaza will serve as a contemporary plaza between Founder's Square and the Rodeo Center. It will also house the Dream Walk and the majority of visitors.
- 3 Founder's Square** - Founder's Square will be the final destination for the stadium. It will pay tribute to the founding fathers of the Stampede Rodeo through historic flat lands and artwork.
- 4 Encampment Entrance** - Encampment Entrance will be the main entrance to the stadium. It will pay tribute to the Rodeo and the Native American arena.
- 5 Improved Circulation** - Through the utilization of design-related parking lots and pedestrian/vehicular circulation routes, movement flow will not only be safer, but also more efficient.

**Key**

- Camp
- Entry
- Parking
- Entrance
- Exit

**Functional Diagram**

- Steel Art
- 3D Lights
- Exposed, Colored, Permeable Concrete
- Iron Fence

**Rodeo Featured Materials**

Permeable Concrete  
Exposed aggregate and colored concrete can be used to create a unique look and feel. This material will be used for the main entrance to the stadium. It will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.

Iron Fence  
Iron fencing will be placed around the stadium to provide a sense of security and to protect the stadium. The fence will be made of iron and will be used around the stadium.

Steel Art  
Steel art will be placed around the stadium to provide a sense of security and to protect the stadium. The art will be made of steel and will be used around the stadium.

3D Lights  
3D lights will be placed around the stadium to provide a sense of security and to protect the stadium. The lights will be made of 3D and will be used around the stadium.

Exposed, Colored, Permeable Concrete  
Exposed aggregate and colored concrete can be used to create a unique look and feel. This material will be used for the main entrance to the stadium. It will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.



## Moomaw Bernard Park Year Long Park

**Why Moomaw Bernard?**  
Leo Moomaw and Tim Bernard were the original founders of the Stampede Rodeo in 1933. It would be a good way to honor the founding fathers of the Rodeo, which brings identity, visitors, and growth to the town of Omak.

**Park Featured Materials**

- Ballers** - These provide an aesthetic look and are used for all aspects of the park. They will be used for the main entrance to the stadium. They will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.
- Tree Grates** - These provide a protective barrier for the trees and are used for all aspects of the park. They will be used for the main entrance to the stadium. They will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.
- Benches** - These are designed to be aesthetically pleasing and are used for all aspects of the park. They will be used for the main entrance to the stadium. They will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.
- Signs** - Signs will be placed around the park to provide a sense of direction and to protect the park. They will be used for the main entrance to the stadium. They will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.

**Key**

- Trees
- Large
- Medium
- Small
- Shrub
- Flower
- Scale 1:100

**Featured Plants**

- Plaster Red Cedars** - Plaster Red Cedars are a low maintenance species that will be visible at all times during the year except winter when it will lose its leaves. They grow well in the ground. It will be used for the main entrance to the stadium. It will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.
- Japanese Sycamores** - Japanese Sycamores will be used as a large shade along the main entrance to the park. It has great fall color and an appealing tree shape.
- Flower Lilies** - Flower Lilies will be featured as a large shade tree with a variety of colors. They have been found that are used for the main entrance to the stadium. They will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.
- Apple Trees** - Apple trees are a small size spring flowering deciduous tree which has beautiful flowers and fruit. They are used for the main entrance to the stadium. They will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.
- Maple Trees** - Maple trees are a small size spring flowering deciduous tree which has beautiful flowers and fruit. They are used for the main entrance to the stadium. They will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.

**Master Plan**

The Master Plan shows the layout of the park and the location of the various features. It will be used for the main entrance to the stadium. It will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.

**Playground, Soccer Park** - A new playground and soccer park will be added to the park. They will be used for the main entrance to the stadium. They will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.

**Entrance to Cowardin** - The entrance to Cowardin will be added to the park. It will be used for the main entrance to the stadium. It will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.

**Road Way to Park** - A new road way will be added to the park. It will be used for the main entrance to the stadium. It will be used in the main entrance to the stadium.

Page 1

**Omak Rodeo Week**  
November 2011

Designers  
Taylor Berberich  
Jacob Asey  
Erik Rose

Washington State University  
Dept. of Landscape Architecture  
Professor Ole Slepness, LA 363

Page 2

**Year Round Park**  
November 2011

Designers  
Taylor Berberich  
Jacob Asey  
Erik Rose

Washington State University  
Dept. of Landscape Architecture  
Professor Ole Slepness, LA 363

Figure 3. Omak Stampede and Rodeo Presentation poster (Source: Ole Slepness)

## Community Profile/Project Interactive Discussion

After student presentations, participants were asked to organize themselves into seven teams that consisted of community members, community partners, academic members, each easily identifiable by the color coded dots. A student volunteer was assigned to each group as a scribe, yet encouraged to participate, as their perspectives would be invaluable to the discussions on development projects.

Each group was provided one of seven community profiles and asked to brainstorm success opportunities, challenges, and practicalities of the project listed on the community profile (See appendix D). Groups became lively with discussion as they collaborated on the project details, limitations, and opportunities of perspective projects. Combining members from different communities with community and academic partners was effective in identifying resources and strengths of the community projects discussed with new resources for funding and support. Participants became so involved with discussions it was difficult to get them to break even for lunch.

After the lunch break, the afternoon discussion aimed to get feedback and new ideas from symposium participants. Continuing in their interactive teams participants were provided a worksheet to record quick success opportunities, possible community and academic partners for support and design, funding sources, and logistics of the perspective projects (See appendix E). Participants became engaged in discussion once again as they sorted out and recorded specific details for successful project development and completion.



*Collaboration between community partners, rural community members, and university faculty and students volunteers continued through lunch and into the afternoon.*

Quick Success is a way for communities to begin the revitalization process immediately following or during the RCDI intervention. It should be a fast paced, easily funded and quickly built community project prominently placed that reminds community members of the actions identified as important for revitalization. Examples of a Quick Success may include an installation of a community art piece, main street flower baskets or banners, a park or playground feature . . . anything that can be completed with physical evidence of the intervention. It should be constructible over a weekend and with minimal expertise.’ During the symposium several activities were discussed by teams to lead to community change and bring communities together to find opportunities for quick successes.

Activities identified by participants that could lead to community changes:

- Community charettes to identify potential needs and uses by the community,
- Workshops to explore focus of project,
- Identifying project phases, Community involvement is project research,
- Combining presentations and workshops with community potlucks,
- Community clean up,
- Physical enhancements to buildings
- Involving high school students in project development and implementation
- Contacting Avista to assess energy needs
- Keeping the community informed and updated to stimulation and maintain enthusiasm
- Case studies of other successful small communities
- Use of signage for communication of project to community and visitors

Tom Vanek, the mayor of Colfax and Kristie Kirkpatrick, Colfax library director, were seated at a table along with a Paul Kimmell, from Avista. Bob Krikac, WSU Professor of Interior Design and student volunteer Jessica Archer were seated together. Bob commented after “We were able to see this process being able to succeed at many levels.” With the help of the mayor and the Avista representative they were able to outline several funding sources available, the major hurdle identified would be crafting proposal for funding of the project.



*Each team addressed cultural, design and financial challenges the communities and universities need to consider in order to accomplish proposed projects.*

## Community and Funding Partners identified included

- Trusts and Grants
- Past emotionally invested stakeholders
- Historical Society and Heritage Network
- WSU Extension
- Local schools
- Foundations
- Community Volunteers
- Local Artist and News
- Economic Development Districts
- WSU Center for Civic Engagement
- Local Businesses
- Chamber of Commerce
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation
- US Department of Agriculture (Rural Development)

Interactive groups also identified academic partners as graduate and undergraduate students and faculty from Interior Design, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Construction Management, Business, Economics, Agriculture, Anthropology, Ecology, Geology, and History. Potential support from academic partners consisted of addressing needs of site design and long term maintenance plans, water resource management, interior and exterior challenges, urban design, branding, marketing, business plans, phasing, budgeting, and grant writing.



*Team members were thoughtful and engaged; their discussions were lively.*

## Action Items for Building University/Community Collaboration

With an understanding of the priorities identified in the morning activities and RCDI's model of participatory design, symposium participants were asked to brainstorm and identify additional steps or actions that they believed would enrich in the current process. A Large group discussion was held at the end of the symposium where participants shared ideas. Recommendations for enriching the RCDI process included:

- Develop community application procedure for RCDI services
- Post application to the RCDI website including community funding & cost guidelines
- Build stronger links with professional community for collaboration
- Send request for community profiles to all communities in Washington eligible for RCDI services
- Develop 30 minute consult with Main Street organization for community assessment and funding eligibility and opportunities

## Opportunities for Collaboration

After the presentation of each group's recommendations, participants were asked to lend their expertise, support, and advocacy for rural communities where opportunities arise. Participants responded by identifying the collaboration opportunities in which they were most interested. Participants provided feedback about the Rural Communities Design Initiative by completing a final form, Collaboration Opportunities (Appendix F). Responses suggest participants will enthusiastically support the effort through a variety of means, as illustrated in Table 3.

Responses	Action of Support
18	Write a letter of support
3	Secure letters of support from others
9	Contact others regarding participation
10	Review grant proposal
12	Serve on advisory board
8	Advocate with legislators or other elected officials
15	Champion efforts at the local level
23	Keep me on the mailing list
6	Other: See Appendix G

When asked to rate the value of the experience of the day participants responded positively to the day and the RCDI efforts, as illustrated in Table 4.

Table 4. Value of Finding Linkages Symposium	
Responses	Participant Value of Day's Events
24	Highly encourage RCDI to continue effort
16	Glad I came, learned a lot
1	Interesting, but I wish you had done this: Had someone available from each community discussed
0	Not much

### 3. Impacts of Finding Linkages Symposium

Enthusiasm about the potential impact of RCDI was strong expressed among symposium participants. Discussions continued at the end of the day about what the community collaboration and visioning process of participatory design could bring to rural communities. Although there may be limited experience or expertise for design or finding funding, with university participation and commitment, together communities and universities offer hope and potential for community sustainability.



*Teams were able to identify several activities that could lead to community changes.*

## 4. Appendices

### Appendix A: Symposium Participants

#### **Kerry Brooks**

Associate Professor  
Landscape Architecture  
Washington State University  
kerrybrooks@wsu.edu

#### **Peggy Bryan**

Whitman County Library  
LaCrosse WA  
brianp@colfax.com  
Peggy Bryan, a lifelong LaCrosse resident is a graduate of Eastern Washington University with a degree in Business Education and Administrative Management. Peggy began working at Whitman County Rural Library District(WCL) in 1994 and serves as the Business Manager and Associate Director. WCL serves fourteen branch locations throughout Whitman County thanks in large part to numerous community, foundation and governmental programs and partnerships.

#### **Gabriel Cruden**

Communications Manager  
Valley School District  
Valley, WA  
gcruden@valley.k12.wa.us

#### **Marshall Doak**

Executive director, southeast WA development  
Associate & Palouse Regional  
Transportation Planning Organization  
Clarkston WA  
marshall@seweda.org  
I have worked with SEWEDA / PRTPO since September 2011. Prior economic development experience was with the Tillamook County Economic Development Council, and Sunnyside, Incorporated in Sunnyside, WA. Part of the responsibilities in Tillamook, OR was to manage the Small Business Development Center at the Community College. Private sector experience includes managerial and executive experience in small organizations for development, finance, operations, and planning.

#### **Greg Griffith**

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Washington State Dept. of Archaeology & Historic  
Preservation  
greg.griffith@dahp.wa.gov

#### **Debra Hansen**

Director  
WSU Stevens County Extension  
Spokane, WA  
dkollock@wsu.edu  
As the WSU Stevens County Extension director, my primary program responsibility is Economic and Community Development; focusing on developing community leadership capacity and skills such as nonprofit board training, grant writing, and small farm marketing. I have supported and managed nine Horizon community groups which involved RCDI on three separate design projects

#### **Sarah Hansen**

Main Street Program Coordinator  
Washington Trust for Historic Preservation  
Seattle, WA  
shansen@preservewa.org  
Sarah Hansen is the Program Coordinator for the Washington State Main Street Program, which is now housed in the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation and administered by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. Sarah first discovered her love of historic preservation as an undergraduate history major at Connecticut College and went on to get a Masters in Historic Preservation from Boston University. While in Boston she worked with Boston Main Streets and stayed involved in the program as a Program Officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Mountain/Plains Regional Office in Denver where she covered the states of South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. Since leaving the National Trust, Sarah has worked with Colorado Preservation, Inc. in Denver and most recently as a Project Manager with Architectural Heritage Foundation in Boston, a small non-profit developer. Sarah hails from the great State of Maine and is loving living in the Pacific Northwest.

**Tom Hudson**

Principal

The Hudson Company

tomhudson@thehudsoncompany.net

Tom has been devoted to community-based economic development for over thirty years. During this time, he has worked with over one hundred communities in fourteen states across the U.S. He has served on state planning boards in Hawaii, Washington and Idaho, including seven years as an officer of Idaho Rural Partnership. A specialist in revitalization and implementing development programs, Tom has served as executive director of three nonprofit economic development organizations. He is a faculty member of the Northwest Community Development Institute and Washington Economic Development Course.

**Gregory Kessler**

Director & Professor

WSU Architecture & Construction Management

gkessler@acm.wsu.edu

**Paul Kimmell**

Business & Public Affairs

Avista Corporation

Spokane, WA

Paul.kimmell@avistacorp.com

Business and Public Affairs Manager – Palouse Region for Avista. Currently serve as Chair of the Inland Northwest Partners and President of the Latah Economic Development Council.

**Kristie Kirkpatrick**

Whitman Co. Library

kirkpatr@colfax.com

Kristie Kirkpatrick has served as director of Whitman County Rural Library District (WCL) for the past 15 years. In a total of 25 years with the District, Kirkpatrick has held nearly every staff position from managing a small town branch library to computer systems administrator.

Under Kirkpatrick's leadership as Director, WCL's programs and staff have won numerous awards and have been featured in local, state and national workshops, broadcasts and publications.

Washington State Library named WCL the best rural library in the State and one of the top 100 libraries in the USA. The library even received a visit from Bill Gates in 2002.

**Kristen Koenig**

Academic Program Coordinator

WSU Center for Civic Engagement

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Kristen works at the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) at WSU. She leads the Academic Program and works with faculty who integrate service learning into their courses. Prior to her work at the CCE she worked in the field of sustainable agriculture. She held positions at WSU, University of Idaho and, Rural Roots, a regional non-profit food and farming organization. Kristen received her Master's degree from Washington State University and received her Bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida.

**Robert Krikac**

Associate Professor

WSU Interior Design

Colfax, WA

rkrikac@wsu.edu

Robert Krikac is an associate professor in the Department of Interior Design at Washington State University. Before coming to WSU he practiced design in the southwestern U.S. for twenty years. This practice occurred in a variety of architecture and design firms and gave him exposure to large and small commercial, residential and institutional projects. His areas of scholarship are in design communication and education, primarily freehand sketching and studio. He is certified by the National Council for Interior Design Qualification, serves on its committees and is a member of the Board of Visitors for the Council for Interior Design Accreditation.

**Sue Lani Madsen**

AIA Architect

Madsen Mitchell Evenson & Conrad, PLLC

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Architect, D/B/A The Madsen Group, Edwall, WA – part time practice of architecture

President, CPoW Livestock Processors Cooperative Association -starting a new co-op & building a new slaughterhouse in Odessa, WA

Vice-President, Healing Hooves LLC, Edwall, WA – assistant shepherdess & social media guru

Citizen Journalist (meaning I write but don't get paid), SeattlePI & other websites

EMS Captain, Lincoln Co FPD #4, Edwall Station  
Chairman, WRIA 43 Upper Crab Creek, Lincoln County

Chairman, Lincoln County Republican Central  
Committee  
Trustee, Empire Health Foundation  
Elder and Worship Team, First Presbyterian Church,  
Reardan, WA  
Daughter, Wife, Mother & Grandmother  
Busy woman . . .

### **Andy Meyer**

Special Projects Coordinator, Member Services  
Division

Association of Washington Cities

andym@awcnet.org

With a background in community development and planning, and over 30 years of experience in public sector planning in three states, Andy has worked at AWC for the past 4 years. His work has included projects ranging from educating local elected officials on complying with NPDES storm water requirements, working with numerous partners in pilot effort to develop a web-based tool to assist with environmental permitting, to examining ways to help rural communities in Washington innovate, thrive and grow. Andy works as a part of the Leadership Programs team at AWC, whose mission is to help elected officials develop a greater understanding of the range of tools, information and partnerships that can assist them deliver leadership and service to their communities. AWC has been enhancing our work linkages with WSU and the Horizons Program over the past two years, and we believe the RCDI offers another way to share the "rural city" perspective and develop a tool that has potential benefits to many of our members.

### **Dale Miller**

Uniontown Community Development Associate &  
Community of action center

dalem@cacwhitman.com

Representative of the Uniontown Community  
Development Association and the Community Action  
Center

### **Linda Nelson-Johnson**

Interim Department Chair  
Washington State University  
Pullman, WA

lnj@wsu.edu

Linda Nelson-Johnson is the Interim Chair of the  
Department of Interior Design in the College of  
Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.  
She received a Master of Arts from Iowa State

University and is Associate Professor Emeritus at  
Arizona State University.

Associate Professor Nelson-Johnson's research  
interests include historic design and preservation,  
two-dimensional historic ornamentation, gender  
issues in design and leadership in the design  
industry. Nelson-Johnson is also an artist and has  
exhibited and won awards for her fiber art in  
national juried exhibitions throughout the United  
States.

### **Ann Olson**

City of Ritzville, WA

tloapo@centurytel.net

Ann Olson has been a member of the Ritzville  
community for the last ten years. Since relocating  
from Spokane Valley to Ritzville, Ann has served on  
the boards of the Ritzville Historic Preservation  
Commission, Adams County Development Council,  
Ritzville Museum Volunteers, and The Ritzville Public  
Development Authority. In 2009 she was elected to  
serve on the Ritzville City Council. Having been  
raised in an Air Force family, Ann has rediscovered  
her roots in Eastern Washington. She works to  
preserve not only the built environment but the  
quality of life which is unique to rural communities.  
Her dedication to the historic preservation  
movement is evident through her work with the  
creation of the Ritzville Center for Historic  
Preservation Trades. The Center meets Ann's  
personal goals of historic preservation, education,  
and economic development for the community of  
Ritzville.

### **Patrick O'Neil**

County Commissioner

Whitman County Commissioner

PatrickO@co.whitman.wa.us

I am starting my fourth year as a county  
commissioner. I believe in working with  
organizations; in helping people better themselves.  
This can mean many things in a variety of ways.  
Making decisions on what is right and just for the  
citizens of Whitman County. Looking at the big  
picture thinking how we can do things differently  
that will better everyone in the long term. Wanting  
accountability and not afraid of asking the hard  
questions when you know they may be unpopular.

**Michelle Osborn**

Volunteer

Organization: Hartline Betterment Organization (an AVO)

Hartline WA

info@confluence-media.com

Michelle joined the efforts to preserve, rehab, and reuse the Hartline School at the start of the project in early 2009. As a volunteer with the HBO she assists with research, planning, communications, fundraising, grant writing, and various organizational tasks. Michelle represents a multi-generational family which continues to farm the land her great-great-grandparents homesteaded in the late 1800s. Twelve years attending Hartline School, psychology and education degrees, and varied work and life experience contribute to her optimism and commitment to this community project. She and her husband live and work in Ellensburg.

**Greg Partch**

Whitman County Commissioner

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**Cathi Read**

Small Communities Initiative

Department of Commerce

Olympia, WA

cathi.read@commerce.wa.gov

Cathi Read has been providing project development technical assistance to small communities in Washington State for over twelve years, with a focus on drinking water and wastewater projects. Cathi is the Program Manager for the Small Communities Initiative Program at the Department of Commerce, a collaborative effort among the state departments of Commerce, Health, and Ecology. For the past three years, Cathi has served as Co-Chair of the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC), a non-profit organization of state, federal, and non-profit staff dedicated to helping Washington communities identify and obtain resources they need to develop, improve, and maintain infrastructure

**Michael Schwartz-Oscar**

Assistant Director

Washington State University – Center for Civic Engagement

Pullman, WA

mikejohn@wsu.edu

I attended Gonzaga University and have been in eastern Washington for roughly ten years. I earned an M.A. in history from WSU and spent time in rural communities doing service and history work. For five years I have worked at the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) where I am now an Assistant Director. The CCE coordinates many projects wherein WSU students engage with rural communities in service and civic engagement activities. I am eager to learn how we might continue to partner with professors, community members, students and others to improve the welfare of rural communities.

**Wesley Sieg**

Chairman, Grant County Port District #5

Hartline Betterment Organization

Hartline WA

victorys@bossig.com

I am a 4th generation dry land Wheat producer from Hartline, WA. I am currently Chairman of the Grant County Port District #5. We have worked in conjunction with the Hartline Betterment Organization to save the Historic Hartline School building, and are currently in the process of securing updates on the building, and securing tenants for new business. I am also active in the Washington Grain Alliance.

**Todd Vanek**

Mayor

Colfax City, WA

mayor@ci.colfax.wa.us

Todd Vanek is the newly elected Mayor of Colfax. He has extensive leadership experience including military and corporate experience. Todd is currently the Customer Support Manager at Decagon Devices here in Pullman. He is a Washington State University graduate with doctoral studies in program evaluation and assessment. His military experience includes quality control and process improvement. The Vanek family moved to Colfax 9 years ago to be part of the small town culture

**Nicolas Vann**

State Historical Architect

Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

Olympia, WA

nicolas.vann@dahp.wa.gov

Nicholas comes to Washington from New Orleans where he worked as a project manager at Trapolin-Peer Architects. A native of Tempe, Arizona, Nicholas

gained his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Architecture and a second Masters degree in Preservation Studies, all from Tulane University. In addition to working or interning with architecture firms in New Orleans and Phoenix, Nicholas also interned at the Vieux Carre Commission in New Orleans, one of the earliest local historic preservation decision-making bodies in the nation. Nicholas has enjoyed every aspect of his move to

Washington, especially engaging in the state’s historic preservation and architecture communities.

**Dick Watters**

Managing Director, Whitman County  
SEWEDA  
dick@seweda.org

**Others in Attendance:**

Carl Thompson	Colfax, WA
Chad Flemming	LaCrosse, WA
Nancy Attebury	Moscow, WA
Kris Robbins	Ritzville, WA
Becky Dickerson	St John, WA
Kelly Lundberg	St John, WA
Carole Scherff	St John, WA
Lydia Smith	St John, WA
Dan Erlacher	Coeur d'Alene, ID

**Student Volunteers:**

Jessica Archer	Interior Design	Brianna Martensen	Interior Design
Taylor Berberich	Landscape Architecture	Logan McKay	Landscape Architecture
Melissa Collins	Interior Design	Bryan Orthel	Doctor of Design
James Davis	Landscape Architecture	Regina Rollis	Interior Design
Elena Hennings	Landscape Architecture	Erin Schuster	Interior Design
David Hewitt	Landscape Architecture	Josh Small	Interior Design
Andrew King	Landscape Architecture	Alyse Zimmer	Interior Design

**Rural Communities Design Initiative Committee Members:**

**Kathleen Ryan**

Assistant Professor, Department of Interior Design  
Washington State University  
karyan@wsu.edu

In a sustainable design and construction practice that has spanned over 27 years Kathleen Ryan has worked in several emphasis areas: performance of the built environment in terms of energy and resource efficiency; the development of environmental and interpretive graphics in public spaces; and universal design as it relates to design for accessibility and aging in place. Projects include: zoo, botanical garden, science center space and exhibit design, museum and gallery, grocery,

religious, retail, hospitality and residential design. Academic emphasis areas are in: visual reasoning skill development and relationship to creativity; development of the interior to enable learning through a supportive built environment as it relates to museum, zoo and hands-on learning settings. Current projects include the development of an informal learning exhibit for rural middle-school children, where we bring the science of physics, sustainability and design to the rural community

**Ole Sleipness**

Clinical Assistant Professor  
Department of Horticulture and Landscape  
Architecture  
Washington State University  
Ole\_sleipness@wsu.edu

As a native Northwesterner, Ole Sleipness' passion for rural communities is based in time spent working and recreating in the mountains of northeast Washington. He recognized the unique history and sense of place possessed by the small communities of the region. His professional interest in rural communities is based on his research on issues of community branding, sustainability, and the interaction between rural communities and adjacent holdings of public lands in the mountain West and Southern Appalachian Mountains. As W.S.U. faculty in landscape architecture, he is interested in strategizing ways that small rural communities in the Inland Northwest can reinvigorate themselves without compromising their unique identity.

**Janetta McCoy**

Associate Professor  
The Interdisciplinary Design Institute  
Washington State University  
janettamccoy@wsu.edu

Working closely with very small rural communities since 2005, Janetta launched the Rural Communities Design Initiative (RCDI) in 2010, an action research program of service and service learning that focuses on the revitalization of very small rural communities with populations of less than 2000. RCDI provides innovative design solutions to economic challenges and follow up support for implementing the design interventions. With roots of her own in a very small community in the American Heartland, Janetta's interest in preserving the social, cultural, and physical environment of small communities has been a natural evolution of her research in creative teamwork together with her teaching efforts in the IDI's Community Design Studio.

**Monica Babine**

Senior Associate for Digital Initiatives  
Division of Governmental Studies & Services  
WSU Extension & College of Liberal Arts

babinem@wsu.edu

Monica is delighted to have the opportunity to support business, community and economic development initiatives in the state where she has been a lifelong resident. Building on her telecommunications and economic development expertise acquired during her 15 years at Qwest and 10 years of supporting WSU Extension telework efforts, in 2000 Monica began working on initiatives to strengthen and diversify the economy of rural communities through use of broadband and other digital technologies. Monica has also assisted WSU Extension with the Northwest Area Foundation funded Horizons Program to reduce Poverty and increase local Leadership capacity in rural Washington. She is Vice Chair of the Inland Northwest Partners, an organization focused on economic development in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. She serves on several telecommunications-related boards and committees, and last year was invited to join the board of the National e-Commerce Extension Initiative which provides curricula and research for rural communities across the country interested in broadband awareness, access and adoption

**Michael Gaffney**

WSU Division of Governmental Studies and Services  
mjgaffney@wsu.edu  
Michael J. Gaffney is the Director of the Division of Governmental Studies and Services (DGSS) at Washington State University. DGSS is an outreach and extension unit jointly sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and WSU Extension which provides applied research, technical assistance, and training for governmental agencies and non-profits throughout the Northwest. DGSS focuses on improving the quality of life in the State of Washington through program areas covering Digital Initiatives; Governance, Sustainability & and Economic Development; and Public Safety. Mike is also Director of WSU's Washington State Institute for Criminal Justice, a partnership with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and other public safety agencies to advance applied research and innovative public safety practices.

## Appendix B: Program Agenda

**Finding Linkages**  
Rural Communities Design Initiative  
Symposium

Washington State University  
Pullman, Washington

February 9, 2012

### Program Agenda

- 9:30 Registration begins, CUE 518, Smith Center, Pullman  
Continental Breakfast with Coffee, Tea, Juice
- 10:00 Welcome  
Greg Kessler  
Director of the *new* school of design & construction
- Introductions, progress since we last met, and overview  
Ole Sleipness, Landscape Architecture  
Kathleen Ryan, Interior Design
- 10:30 Current Projects involving WSU Students  
Alyse Zimmer, Kettle Falls Community Chest  
Landscape Architecture Students, Omak Stampede Project
- 11:15 Interactive Groups, Prospective Projects
- 12:30 Working Lunch
- 1:30 Identified Linkages and Team Reports
- 2:30 Action Items for Building a University/Community  
Collaboration
- 3:00 Social and Close  
Coffee and afternoon goodies

This symposium is supported by grants from Washington State University Extension, Departments of Interior Design and Landscape Architecture, and AVISTA.

## Appendix C: Team Activity Instructions

### Finding Linkages Rural Communities Design Initiative Symposium

Each year, community partners around the Northwest express an interest in working with WSU design programs in order to improve the quality of the built environment in their small rural communities. Sometimes, community partners have a particular project in mind that would benefit from creative & technical expertise. In other instances, communities have identified issues they would like solved, but do not have a particular project in mind.

The *new school of design and construction management* presents an exciting opportunity to engage community partners, design faculty, and students together in addressing pressing community needs through studio projects, faculty & graduate student research, as well as outreach. To determine how to best engage rural communities in the *new school*, we are going to work in teams and brainstorm ways of engaging several of the projects with which the RCDI has been approached.

Each team is provided with:

1. A community profile for each community, including their location, population, and the community's self-identified design needs.
2. Paper & Markers for recording brainstorming ideas

Please work in your team to brainstorm potential ways that the New School can engage the issues of your given community. Some of the possibilities you might consider include:

- Logistics- timing, scheduling, financial resources necessary to engage with the project, including student travel, supplies, etc.
- Potential challenges/pitfalls of engaging the project in *the new school*?
- Community support necessary for the project
- Teaching/Studio potential- undergrad, grad, vertical studios?
- Research potential- faculty, graduate student?
- Interdisciplinary potential- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Interior Design, Construction Management, others?

*Please select a spokesperson to present your ideas to the room (10 minutes each team).*

## Appendix D: Community Profiles



1909 map of Stevens and Pend Oreille County

### Cusick | Pend Oreille County | Washington

**CONTEXT:** Cusick occupies the former site of the largest village of the Pend d'Oreilles tribe, where as many as 1000 people once lived. The town of Cusick was founded in 1902 by Joseph W. Cusick. Cusick was officially incorporated on March 15, 1927. The population was 207 at the 2010 census.

**PROJECT:** We are working on a project which was launched in Newport last year. It involves high school students starting a business to rent canoes and kayaks to the public for use on the Pend Oreille River. We have established a "water trail" on the River, Cusick is a launch/takeout point, so the local students will start a business to dovetail with the business started in Newport. We will be seeking local funding to build a storage building and mini-office for the enterprise.



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## Hartline | Grant County | Washington

**CONTEXT:** Hartline was named for early settler John Hartline, and was officially incorporated on March 6, 1907. As of the census of 2000, there were 134 people, 60 households, and 36 families residing in the town. The population density was 406.6 people per square mile (156.8/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 77 housing units at an average density of 233.6 per square mile (90.1/km<sup>2</sup>).



**PROJECT:** Community priorities for the future of Hartline include:

- Attracting and retaining young families and the next generation of residents
- Developing employment opportunities for residents and newcomers
- Increasing the level of local services available to visitors and residents
- Developing opportunities for business and economic development
- Adapting existing resources, when possible, to facilitate the above goals

The Historic Hartline School sits in the SW corner of rural Hartline, WA. Owned by Grant County Port District #5 the highly visible building is part of a larger property, adjacent to SR2, which includes a mid-1960s gymnasium and two sports fields. It is a two-story Colonial Revival brick masonry building on a concrete foundation. The building is a "T" shaped structure with classrooms on both floors separated by a central corridor. The west leg of the "T" contains the gymnasium and directly above it an auditorium. The lower and upper levels have a total of 29,052 feet. Having had little alteration, the Hartline School retains excellent integrity in its original site, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as an historic rural schoolhouse built in central Grant County.

The Hartline School Rehabilitation and Adaptive Reuse Project will help fulfill the needs of the Hartline community as a center for community activities and a resource for economic and business development. It will help restore community pride, provide opportunities for civic engagement, and increase the level of services available to visitors and locals. It will build upon previous public investment and develop a valuable resource for future generations. This is a long term community project. We are committed to its successful completion. In-kind and cash donations, research, planning, referrals, applying for grants, soliciting donations and assistance, working on specific rehab projects, and cleaning are just some of the contributions volunteers have made and will continue to make in the future. The Port District provides support as owner of the property, and invests a portion of its limited funds in maintenance and upgrades.

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## LaCrosse | Whitman County | Washington

**CONTEXT:** LaCrosse was incorporated on February 10, 1917. Railroad Town: With the completion in 1888 of the O.R. & N railroad line between Riparia and LaCrosse, George Dawson and his wife built a shack constructed from railroad ties. By 1889, LaCrosse boasted a population of 12. The first real store was constructed in 1899 by Tom Shobe. As of the census of 2010, there were 318 people, 164 households, and 105 families residing in the town. The population density was 1,101.6 people per square mile (431.5/km<sup>2</sup>).

**PROJECT:** The LaCrosse Community Club will re-purpose the Masonic Hall, do repairs and updates on the building. This building will be used by the community for receptions, dinners, meetings and a host of other functions. The lodge serves as the only community event building in LaCrosse and is need of updates in many areas. As a community club member speaking on behalf of the club, it is our desire to decrease the cost of operations by installing new lighting throughout the building as well as new windows and insulation as well as update fixtures in the bathrooms and kitchen area. These actions will be a great financial relief to the club in the years to come and help assure the use of the of the building by the community in future years.



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## St. John | Whitman County | Washington

**CONTEXT:** St. John was founded and named in the late 1880s for settler E.T. St. John. St. John was officially incorporated on March 10, 1904. As of the census of 2010, there were 537 people, 258 households, and 163 families residing in the town. The population density was 1,056.2 people per square mile (406.9/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 279 housing units at an average density of 537.7 per square mile (207.2/km<sup>2</sup>).



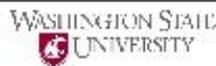
### **PROJECT:** St. John History Museum

The building was donated to the town of St. John by the Glenn White family. There are double doors that connect to the new City Hall & Library. We have formed the St. John Historical Society and are now a 501c3.

Our main goal is to keep the memory of the people who have lived here, farmed in the area and fought in wars. We are also excited about the three Nona Hengen original paintings of the Steptoe Butte Battle that was donated to our museum.



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## Uniontown | Whitman County | Washington

**CONTEXT:** Uniontown was first settled in 1878 by Thomas Montgomery. Uniontown was incorporated in 1890. As of the census of 2010, there were 294 people, 133 households, and 96 families residing in the town. The population density was 380.1 people per square mile (146.4/km<sup>2</sup>). Elevation: 2572 feet  
Land area: 0.91 square miles.

**PROJECT:** In the past 5+ years the artisans at the Dahmen Barn has changed the identity of Uniontown and resulted in the opening of a new café, a general store, an ice cream parlor and 3 new antique stores. The Dahmen Barn is located a few hundred feet west of highway 195 with an undeveloped field between the barn and highway. To make the artisan activity more visible and to solidify this identity, this project will develop a plan and design for the full Dahmen Barn site including the area between the Barn and the main highway that goes through Uniontown. The design will include an amphitheater for outdoor performances, public art and landscaping for the field between the Barn and the highway, and the design of a Barn addition for an improved classroom and additional studio spaces.



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1909 map of Stevens and Pend Oreille County

## Valley | Stevens County | Washington

CONTEXT: Valley is an unincorporated community founded in 1891  
Population (2009) 1,915.

**PROJECT:** Valley is a small community with a big heart. Once a thriving town built on a natural resource-based economy, Valley has tenaciously hung on despite feeling the economic pinch. Home to multi-generational families, the community is working to reinvent itself, rallying around the shared vision of cleaning up the town, enhancing community gathering spaces, growing the entrepreneurial economy and empowering the youth of today to be the successful leaders of the future. We want our youth to have the skills to be high achievers while developing a sense of place and knowledge of their roots in the history of Valley.

The "Old White Schoolhouse" is a 1,224 square foot historic building located on the Valley School District campus. The main floor is now vacant and the basement is currently used as the football locker room and storage area (needs which will be served on another part of campus starting next year). The building itself is in need of repair and updating, but the sloping grounds surrounding it were improved this year and the parking lot it faces will be upgraded next year. There is also a historic monument that was placed by the entrance this year.

There is unanimous consensus among representatives of the Valley School District, the Horizons Project team, Valley In Progress, the Valley Historic Society and other community groups to cooperate to revitalize the Old White Schoolhouse. Our collective vision is to repurpose the building into a museum and community resource center while preserving its historic value. Community members and visitors would seek out the facility for historic and educational purposes, for genealogical research, job search and training opportunities and other technology-related services. A regional study identified historical attractions as one of the most common interests among travelers.

The Valley School District will provide the site, the building, high speed internet connection, ongoing maintenance and landscaping, snow removal, insurance, taxes, sewer, water, garbage disposal, security and at times, staffing. The Valley In Progress will provide volunteer recruitment and community education and outreach about the building and its resources. The Valley Historical Society will provide additional staffing, much of the museum contents and the ongoing historical related activities. Other community groups and members will donate time and materials and contribute to fund-raising activities.



Valley School House 1910 [Valley School District photostream-Flickr]

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**Appendix E: Team Outcome Worksheet**



**PROJECT name**

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**Summary of project**

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**Quick success opportunity**

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**Partners | community support**

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**Appendix F: Finding Linkages Symposium Assessment**

**Finding Linkages**

Rural Communities Design Initiative

February 9, 2012

Thank you for attending RCDI Finding Linkages Symposium. As you can see from the day's activities, RCDI is active and working with Washington's rural communities. Where do you suggest we go from here. Please give us feedback. Indicate your interests by checking all that apply.

I will be glad to:

- Write a letter of support
- Secure letters of support from others
- Contact others regarding participation

*Please identify who you will contact.*

\_\_\_\_\_

- Review grant proposals
- Serve on an advisory board
- Advocate with legislators and/or other elected officials
- Champion efforts at the local level

*Please list the community/communities where you can help.*

\_\_\_\_\_

- Keep me on the mailing list
- Other *Please list other ways you would like to assist.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know how valuable you found today's symposium:

- Not much value
- Interesting, wish you had done this
- Glad I came, learned a lot
- Highly encourage you to continue the effort