




# Event Purpose & Agenda



“Big goals  
get easier  
when we talk  
about them  
together.”



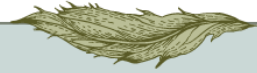
**Purpose:** Beginning to align state initiatives toward just and equitable social, economic, health and environmental outcomes in partnership with communities historically excluded from well-being.

**Call to Action:** Build the wellbeing of people and environment in ways that promote equity, joy, and justice.

## Some Meeting Objectives:

- Relationship and trust building with community and agency staff
- Introduction of Community Cornerstones for Co-Governance
- Outline key steps for collective action

# Participants were associated with...

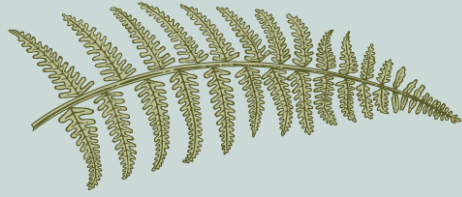


- Poverty Reduction Work Group & Steering Committee
- Environmental Justice Council
- HEAL covered agencies
- Health Disparities Council
- Office of Equity
- State racial & ethnic commissions
- Attorney General's Office
- Additional state agencies
- Just Futures
- People's Economy Lab
- Front and Centered
- Community 2 Community
- Asia Pacific Cultural Center
- Additional community groups and members



# Shared Knowledge – readings

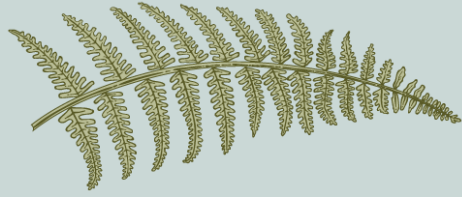
- [Speaking of Nature](#) - Robin Kimmerer
- [Building Resilient Organizations](#) - Maurice Mitchell
- [New Economy Washington: A Path Forward](#) – Front & Centered, the People’s Economy Lab, Poverty Action Network, WA State Budget & Policy Center
- [Just Futures Project Presents Community Vision of WA State Economic Recovery Plan](#) - Just Futures
- [Co-Governing Toward Multiracial Democracy](#) - Partners for Dignity & Rights
- [What U.S. Organizers Can Learn From Brazil’s Landless Workers Movement](#)
- [Theory of Aligned Contributions](#) – Jolie Bain Pillsbury, ed. Vicki Goddard-Truitt



# Speaking of Nature



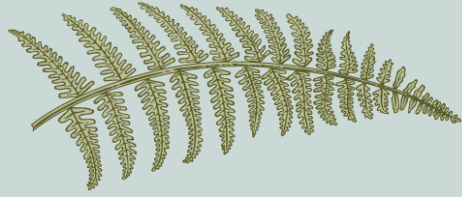
- Interconnectedness
- Rights of Nature; justice for nature; personhood for all beings
- **Ki / Kin : “to signify a being of the living earth”**
- “Our words can be an antidote to human exceptionalism, to unthinking exploitation, an antidote to loneliness, an opening to kinship.”
- “Language, personhood, and politics have always been linked to human rights. Will we have the wisdom to expand the circle yet again? Naming is the beginning of justice.”



# Building Resilient Organizations



- “We draw from the courage of radical traditions but often lack the strategy or conviction to challenge the status quo.”
- “We infantilize members of historically marginalized or oppressed groups by seeking to placate or pander instead of being in a right relationship, which requires struggle, debate, disagreement, and hard work... Finding authentic alignment and solidarity among diverse voices is serious labor. After all, ‘steel sharpens steel.’”
- “Our opponents are formidable and dangerous. We must assess the power we actually have at all times and in every circumstance so that we don’t either leave power on the table or overreach and come up empty... When we organize and win material change with and for our people, we expand our base and create more power. In this way, the demands we make tomorrow can be more ambitious than the ones we make today.”



# New Economy WA: A Path Forward



“Our vision is to build an economy that is rooted in democracy and self-determination, is sustainable and equitable, and creates shared economic well-being. This is a fundamental reorientation away from an economy rooted in growth, commodification, extraction of labor and resources, and exclusion based on race and gender. We envision a Washington where all people’s fundamental needs are met, including having free time for important things like family and participation in community life. Where all work is dignified, rewarded, where all workers have a voice at work, and where everyone can afford to live a good life. Where the air, water, and land is clean and healthy.

“To accomplish this vision, we must stay true to key principles of equity, transformation and regeneration. That if we...create and sustain a state-wide cross-silo movement built on trust, experimentation, and learning we can create the conditions for success.”



What's a social outcome  
you want to see?

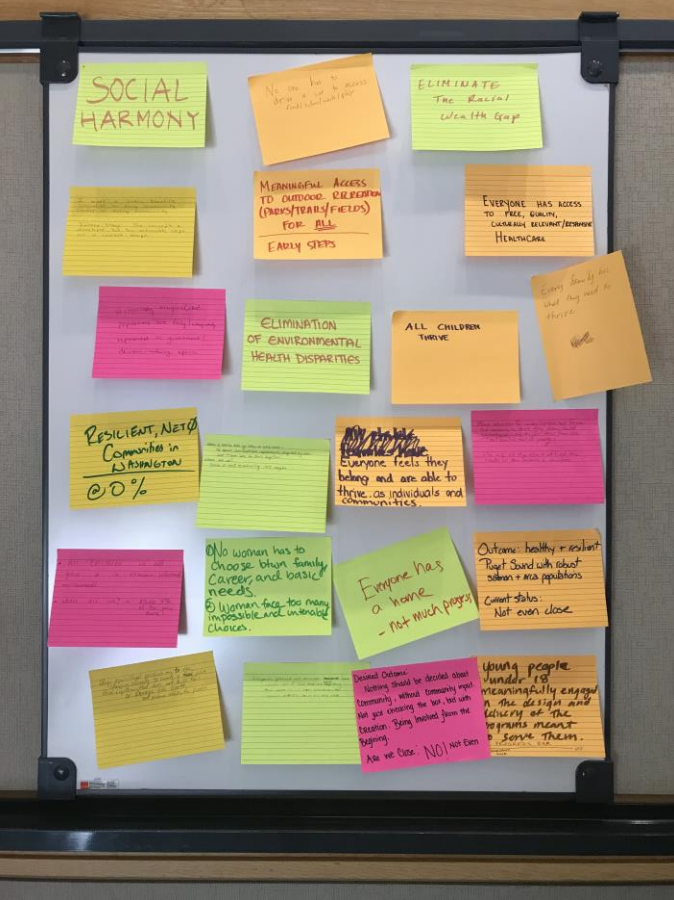
Where are we in  
achieving it?



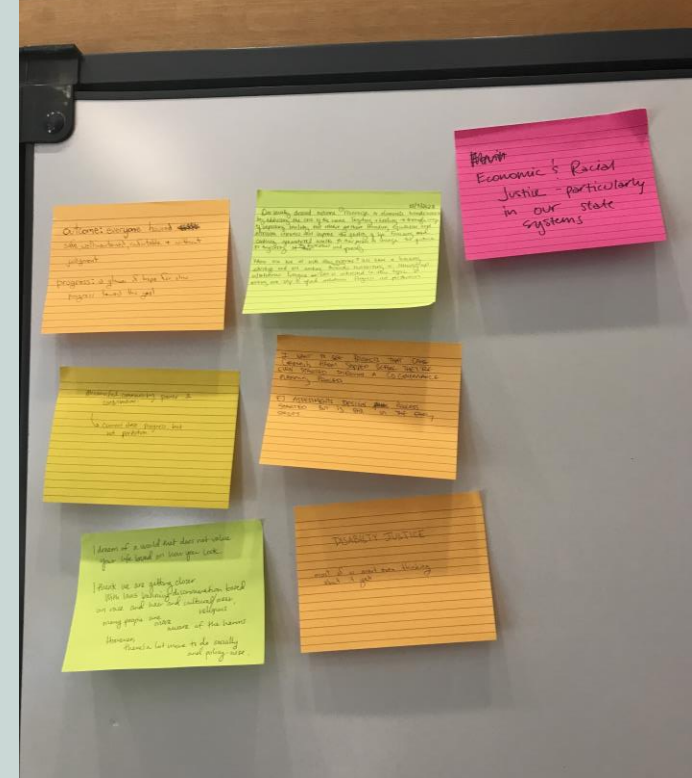
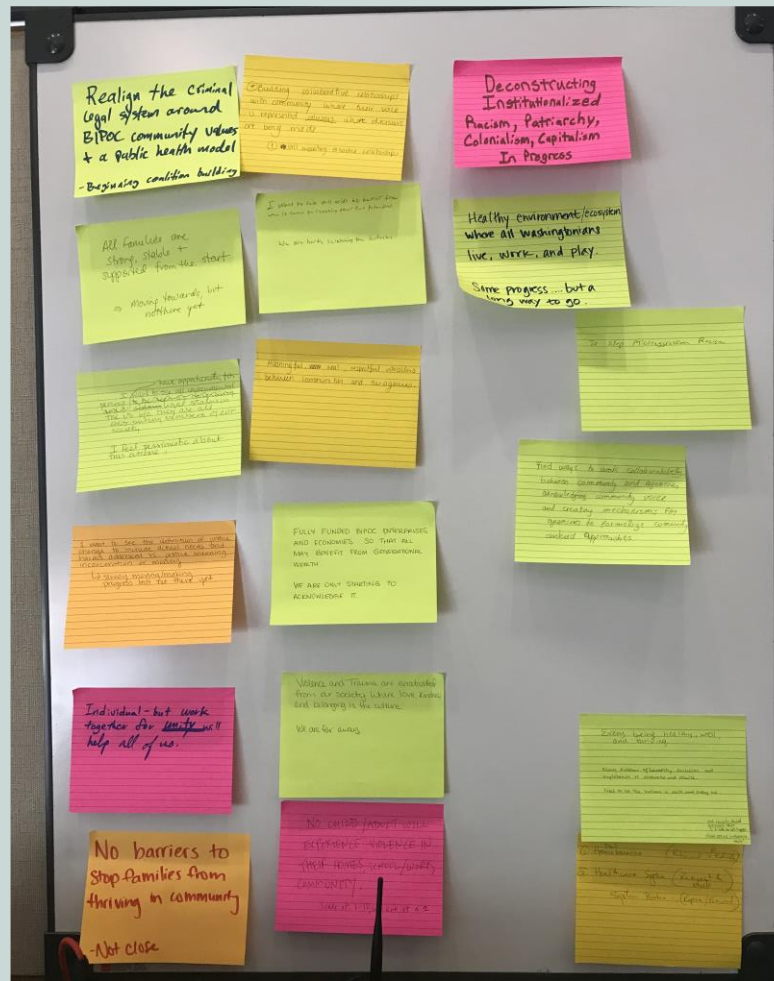
- Prevent harm in the first place and provide redress to harm
- Change people's interactions with systems—turn them from negative to positive
- Communities have a seat at the table everywhere, always, where decisions are made
- All families are strong, stable, and supported from the start
- Eradicate violence and trauma; build a culture of love, kindness, and belonging
- Health should be for everyone; health is a human right



“The power of the state is rooted in the power to incarcerate. It should be rooted in trust and participation in governing.”



“Deconstructing institutionalized racism, patriarchy, colonialism, capitalism”

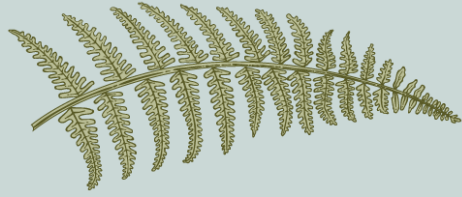


“Align agricultural production to the changing climate to create a just food system...not produce[d] strictly for profit.”



# What we learned about Co-Governance

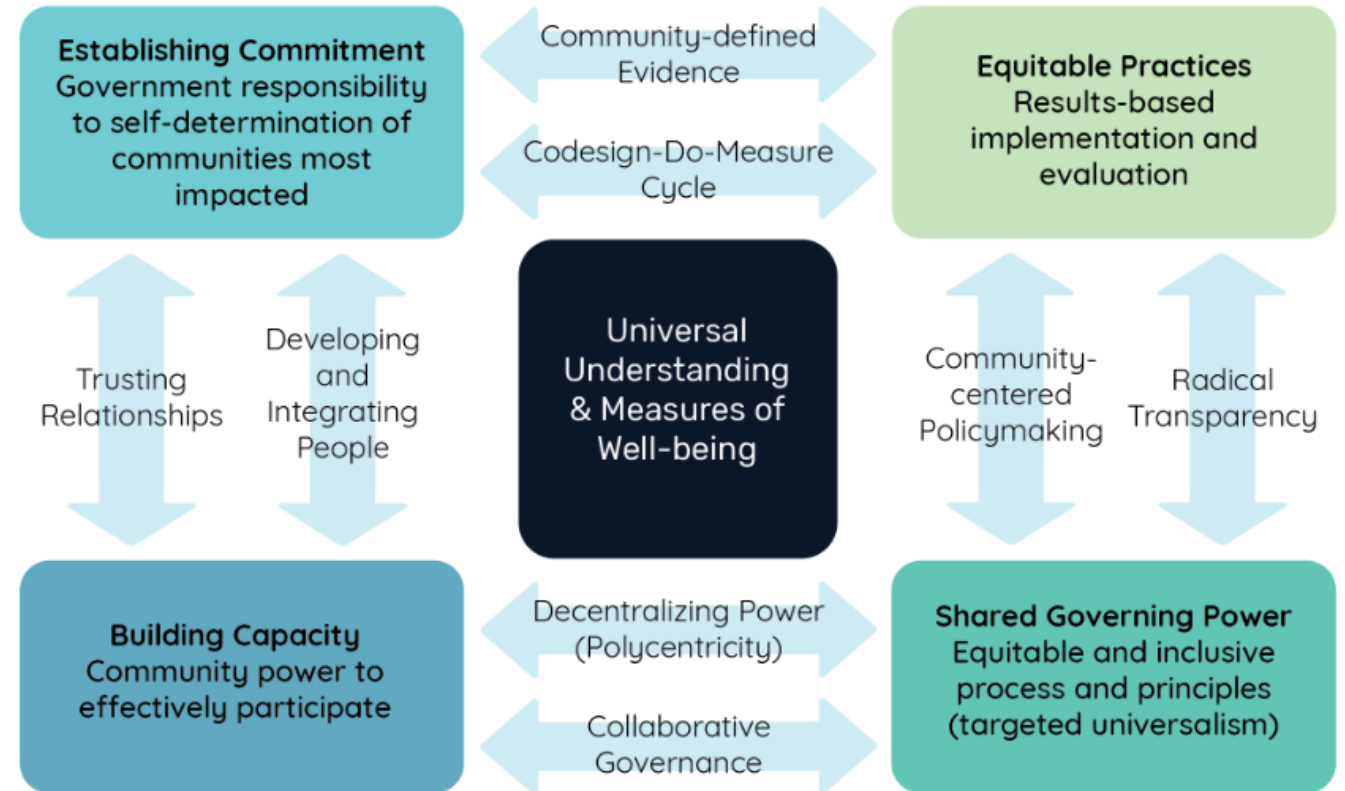




# Just Futures Coalition: Community Vision



## Cornerstones of Co-Governance for a Just and Equitable Future



Just Futures created this framework to:

- Elevate leadership and participation of communities
- Create opportunities for government agencies to collaborate with community owned enterprises



# Co-Governance

“Co-governance is a collection of participatory models and practices in which government and communities work together through formal and informal structures to make collective policy decisions, co-create programs to meet community needs, and ensure those policies and programs are implemented effectively.”



- Partners for Dignity & Rights,  
[Co-Governing Toward Multiracial Democracy](#)

# Community/People's Assemblies

“Community Assemblies are a participatory democratic platform that brings people together with a clear process and strategy to articulate community needs, assess solutions, and mobilize for action.”

- Aligning toward Justice, Co-Governance, and Wellbeing event

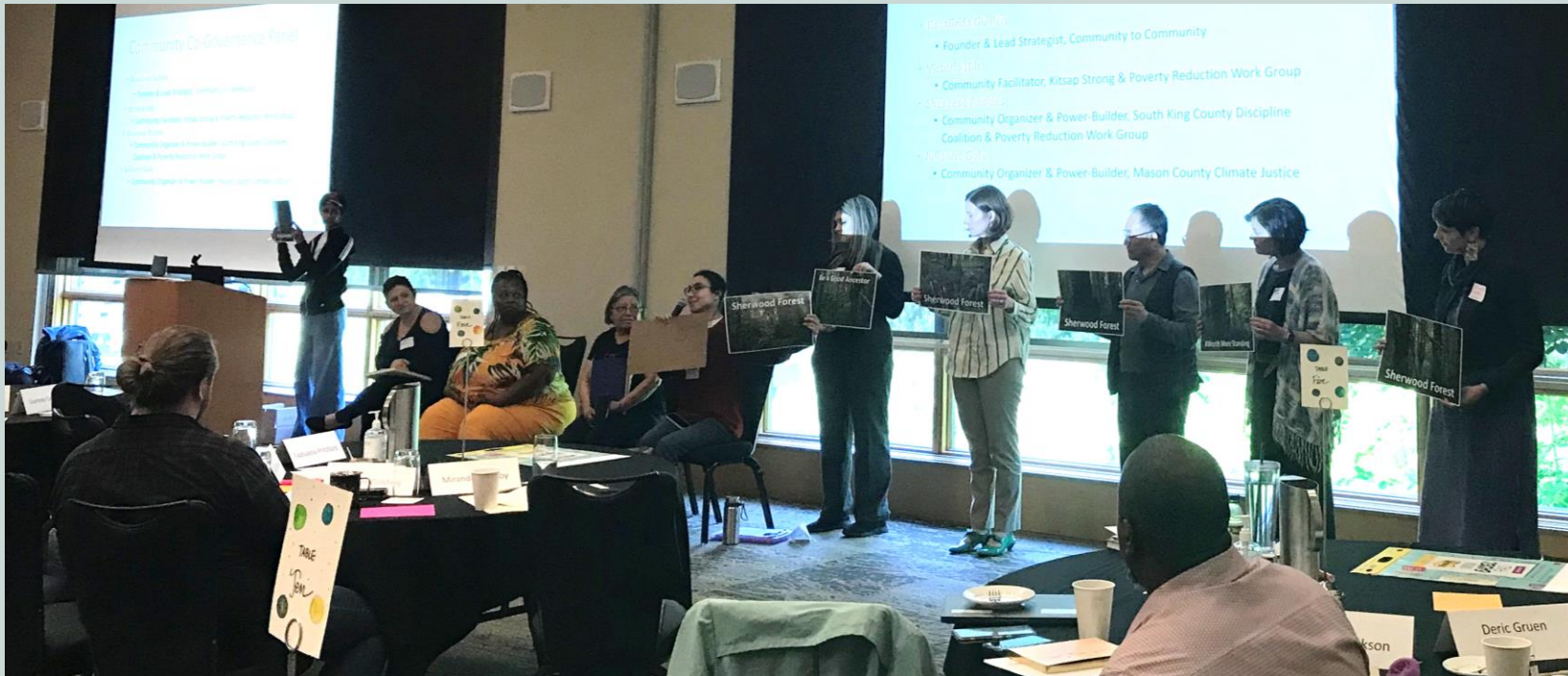
Assemblies enable BIPOC and low-income communities to:

- Mobilize and convene frontline communities
- Identify lived experience and struggles
- Create and assess solutions
- Recommend solutions to government agencies
- Build consensus for collective action

An ‘assembly anchor’:

- Is an existing community-based organization or grassroots movement with deep relationships in community
- Convenes, organizes, and facilitates an assembly

# Community Co-Governance Panel



“Don’t assume that by sharing power that you’re losing power.”  
- Event participant



## Q: Why is co-governance needed?



## Panelists:



- We're stronger together. If you don't have a blueprint for it, start creating one with people. Start small and take initiative.
- White supremacy rushes to urgency. But if we're trying to build a cathedral, we need to do things in a sustained, Seven Generations way.
- Your language [government speak] is really hard to understand, even in English.
- Co-governance is going to require some really clear challenges to the existing state government structure. It can cause fear among folks and institutions that are comfortable in those structures.
- Co-governance is true equity at every single level our community needs.



Q: What do communities need to step into co-governance?



## Panelists:



- Address people's basic needs so they can be mentally involved.
- Provide transparency, communication, access, and knowledge so people can see themselves in the work.
- Just because data is publicly available, it doesn't mean it's accessible.
- Develop a community-organizing mechanism within government. Go to where people are and build from there.
- Community assemblies require commitment, skills, and sustained resources.





Q: What do communities need to step into co-governance?



## Panelists:



- Expect it to take a minimum of two years to earn anyone's trust.
- Do what you say you're going to do and show up.
- There needs to be enough of community in a space to change the culture.
- Be responsive to communities and be responsive to the moment we're in. It requires a shift in pacing—sometimes it means slowing down or speeding up.
- Engage honestly about what you're doing and why you're doing it that way.



“ Lean into this with an abundance mindset. What can we do when we come together? ”



- Community participant



# Questions, Comments, Reflections

