



Co-op Developments

A short monthly update about co-op development in the Pacific Northwest provided to you on or about the 20th of each month. Please share with your network!

[Support Co-op Development in the PNW: Donate Today!](#)



Orca Books Cooperative Now Operational

The timing wasn't perfect, but after 12 months of hard work, [Orca Books Cooperative](#) successfully purchased the beloved Olympia Bookstore from Linda Berensten on March 31st! The membership drive, to date, has brought in over 550 members of the co-op. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the store's brick-and-mortar operations are currently suspended. People can order through Orca Books and even join the co-op on-line. The Co-op is planning on moving the store to a smaller footprint but it will keep remaining in the core downtown Olympia Arts District and come with 12 parking spots.

Mount Vernon Co-op Academy Begins in May

NWCDC's third co-op academy will focus on the community of Mt. Vernon and Skagit County. This year, NWCDC will be partnering with the **Mt. Vernon Small Business Development Center** (SBDC) and Cindy Brooks, a SBDC advisor, will join NWCDC staff providing training and support. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the academy has been moved to an on-line format.

Give Big for WA Co-ops



Give Big WA is a special day in the Spring when Washington non-profits seek support from the community under the banner of 501 Commons. NWCDC will be participating for the first time and hope to raise \$30,000 to assist our efforts providing technical assistance, education and training, and moral support to the co-ops in our community. The early-donor period is already open. Please help us get the word out and meet our goal!

Co-op Managing Through the Pandemic



The need for care giving didn't disappear with the pandemic, but it became a lot more dangerous. [Capital Homecare Cooperative](#) has teamed up with [South Salish Mighty Masks](#) to help supply their members, their clients, and anyone who needs Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The group grew out of Olympia Mutual Aid. CHC Board member **Monessa Bacon** (pictured left) expresses her thanks to the SSMM community! In addition, [Isthmus Engineering](#), a worker co-op in Madison, WI offered to make and ship face masks for the PNW home care co-ops!

[Burial Grounds Cafe](#) began operations just about a week prior to the Governor closing restaurants and cafes except for carry out. They began a new concept "**Community Supported Caffeine**" where they will deliver coffee, tea, and zines to your door.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED CAFFEINE

FROM BURIAL GROUNDS COFFEE & ROGUE TEA

Meanwhile [New Moon Cafe](#) is selling gift cards for when they re-open. Both are also accepting donation.



NWCDC Submits Application to Become CDFI

This month NWCDC submitted its application to the US Department of the Treasury to become a certified **Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)**. This certification is a designation given by the CDFI Fund to specialized organizations that provide financial services in low-income communities and to people who lack access to financing. It marks a significant evolution of NWCDC's revolving loan fund and will open the door to new sources of capital that we will, in turn, make available to worker cooperatives.



Takesa Village Resident Owned Co-op Goes Virtual

Adjusting to their new reality - taking care of business while maintaining social distance. And still finding ways to take care of each other and supporting the cooperative spirit. Takesa owners have paper green hearts and red hearts. A green heart on the window means all is good, a red heart on the window means help is needed.

DONATE TODAY

Help us provide technical assistance to co-ops!

You don't have to wait for the end of the year to support our programs! You can provide a tax deductible one-time donation or monthly sustaining gift to help fund the work of co-op development! Any amount is welcome.



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