



# SIUSLAW VISION

*A Better Community Together*



# IMPACT REPORT

2024



Siuslaw Vision is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supporting our region's community-led Vision. Siuslaw Vision convenes, catalyzes, and connects individuals and organizations who want to improve quality of life for people living in the Siuslaw region of Western Lane County Oregon. We help people implement locally owned solutions that address community identified goals.

## FOCUS AREAS

Our community's Vision: Ensure all people in the Siuslaw region have opportunities to be **working, happy, educated, connected, creative and active.**

## OUR PROGRAMS

- RiverCal Community Calendar
- Siuslaw Community Resources Guide
- Working team formation
- Partnerships
- Capacity building
- Consulting
- Referrals
- Hybrid meeting support & OWL equipment rental



## FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

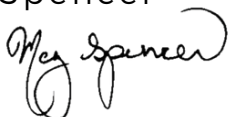
On December 9, the folks at Merriam-Webster Dictionary chose their 2024 Word of the Year: polarization. It is used to describe our political landscape, but it is also a word that is used to describe how we interact with one another. We are supposedly too polarized to listen.

That word, polarization, is why the work of community building matters more today than it did ten years ago. That is when a group of community members first decided it was time to listen to each other and create a vision for our shared future. The organization that resulted, Siuslaw Vision, is today a nonprofit that focuses on convening, catalyzing, and connecting people and organizations throughout the Siuslaw region to build a better community—together. As the President of the Siuslaw Vision Board in 2024, I can't think of more important work. It is why my word of the year is something different: celebration.

You will learn more about the work of Siuslaw Vision in the pages of this annual report, and why there is much to celebrate. Groups were convened in Florence and Mapleton around issues important to local residents, like universal access to technology, and a high school student-led wellness program. A new Siuslaw Vision staff member is working to increase local access to child care in our region, while new funders have stepped forward to help the work of Siuslaw Vision continue.

Now, in 2025, we'll all have a chance to listen once more to one another: it is time to refresh our shared vision for our community. Together, we get to choose what we want to come next.

While we are still celebrating 2024, I'd like to personally thank everyone who has or will be a part of this community-building project. And 2025 here we come.

Sincerely,  
Meg Spencer  




# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

## INCREASING CHILD CARE CAPACITY SUPPORT IN THE SIUSLAW REGION

Recognizing a continuing need within the Siuslaw region, Siuslaw Vision, in partnership with City of Florence, Onward Eugene, and the AmeriCorps Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) Program, are supporting ongoing initiatives in place to increase child care capacity. The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce is also supporting the project.

Hiring Lindsey Phillips (Vision Connections Coordinator) and Abby Harrison (AmeriCorps RARE) has increased Siuslaw Vision's ability to provide support, as well as develop new ways to add child care slots. Current focuses are: providing support for child care business training and licensing; promoting child care career opportunities; and supporting our current child care providers. Currently, two prospective child care business owners are participating in a child care business accelerator through a partnership with the Lane County Small Business Development Center and Quality Care Connections, Lane County's child care resource and referral service. This program will result in an ongoing addition of 1-3 new child care providers every 6-9 months.



In partnership with Our Coastal Village, Inc., a 501(c)(3) developer of affordable housing on the central Oregon coast, Siuslaw Vision is working to develop a local advisory committee to assist in the development of an early learning center on the site of a planned 32-unit affordable housing community. The goal of the center is to bring four early learning classrooms to accommodate 56-80 additional child care slots (depending on age). Siuslaw Vision is also supporting a working group for child care stakeholders to actively participate and collaborate with each other and staff. If you'd like to get involved in child care in the Siuslaw region, email [childcare@siuslawvision.org](mailto:childcare@siuslawvision.org). If you're interested in a career as a child care provider, Lindsey and Abby can help you get connected to resources in our community to get you started!

## DIGITAL ACCESS MEETINGS IN THE SIUSLAW REGION



In early 2024, Siuslaw Vision gathered an enthusiastic group of community members to talk about access to and use of technology in the region. The group established a mission and vision for the community as we explore how to increase people's comfort levels in using technology for work, connection, education, and entertainment.

Our goal is to ensure universal access to essential digital resources and skills, empowering individuals and communities to thrive in the digital age. We envision a digitally connected Western Lane County where individuals and businesses have increased connections, remote opportunities, and inclusive access to services and education, made affordable to ensure accessibility for everyone. This fosters diversity, collaboration, and resilience, empowering all members of our community to participate and succeed. In 2025, Siuslaw Vision will continue working with community groups to make this a reality.

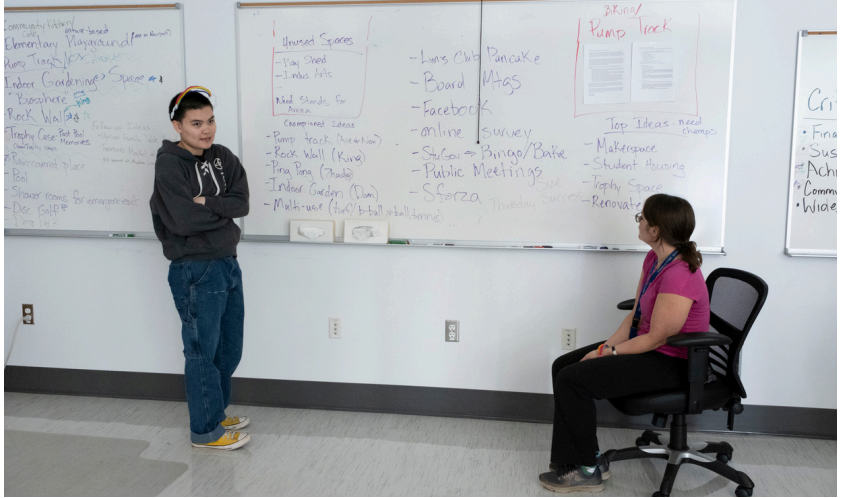
### SIUSLAW PLAYSHOP: LET'S PADDLE AND GO HIKING EVENT



Siuslaw Vision, in partnership with the Florence Oregon Area Kayakers group, planned a connection and educational event for those who love to be outdoors in the Siuslaw region. Held at the Florence Events Center in April, the PlayShop prepared residents to get outside, learn where to hike and paddle, hear the history and stories of our beautiful land, and get tips on how to stay healthy and safe out on the trail or waterway. The opening speakers were Patricia Whereat Phillips and Chief Doug Barrett with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; and Patrick Dill, Park Ranger from Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park. Ten hiking and paddling informative sessions followed, offered by local experts from the Siuslaw region. The event also featured community nonprofits and vendors and a Pop Up Playzone from Siuslaw Family Connection.

## PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS AND STUDENT-LED INITIATIVES

In March, Siuslaw Vision, Mapleton High School Student Government and community members came together at Mapleton High School for **Vision & Voice: What to Do With the Community Pool Building?** This session included training on community visioning, followed by a discussion about transforming campus spaces into areas for gathering and recreation.



In October, Siuslaw Vision, in partnership with Lane Education Service District and the Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts, hosted a **student-led community event centered on student wellness**. The event, held at Lane Community College Florence, focused on identifying student concerns and encouraging community members to work with student leaders on action-based solutions.



The collaborative effort emphasized listening to and amplifying student voices while agreeing on actionable steps to address the issues.

“The event brought students and community members together to talk about problems and really listen to each other,” said Ramil Beers, 11th Grade Mapleton Student Council vice president. “It was great to have adults hear our ideas and not ignore them.”

In preparation for the event, Lane ESD staff worked with student leaders from both school districts to identify issues affecting their wellness. After the students identified problems, Siuslaw Vision invited representatives of community partner organizations to the event to help the students in finding solutions.



## STRENGTHENING NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP IN THE SIUSLAW

In partnership with the Nonprofit Association of Oregon with support from The Ford Family Foundation, Siuslaw Vision held another Nonprofit Board of Directors Training at the Florence Events Center on September 20, 2024. This workshop was an opportunity for Siuslaw-area nonprofit staff, board, and volunteers to learn about valuable tools and resources, and connect with other community members. The two-part workshop dove into how boards can come together and work productively to advance their mission both now and in future years.



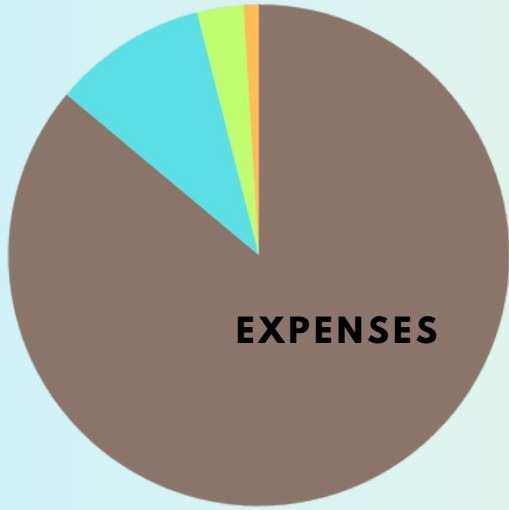
Over 60 volunteers and staff from over two dozen Siuslaw area nonprofits were represented. Thank you to Tim Rusk from the Nonprofit Association of Oregon for giving an informative presentation, and thank you to the attendees for engaging and asking insightful questions!

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS AT DARLINGS MARINA & RV RESORT



We shared a delightful evening in Dunes City at Darlings Marina & RV Resort on Siltcoos Lake for a special **Florence Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours** event on August 15, 2024 – brought to you by Siuslaw Vision and Darlings Marina & RV Resort. This was an excellent opportunity to network, unwind, and enjoy the company of fellow business professionals in our community. Over 100 people attended.

# 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT



## EXPENSES

**PEOPLE - \$154,008 - 86%**

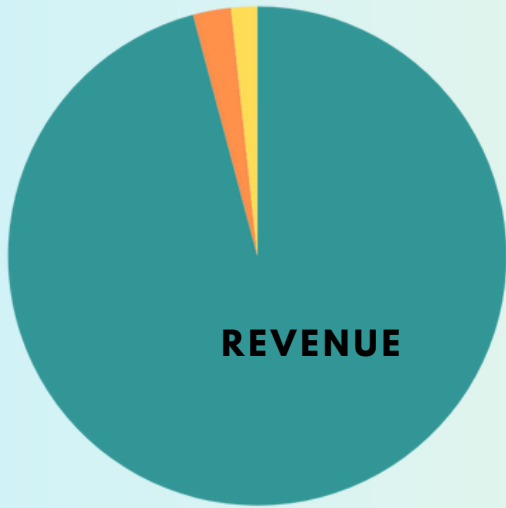
STAFF - 74% CONTRACTORS - 6% VOLUNTEERS - 6%

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - \$17,819 - 10%**

**CATALYST FUNDING - \$5,334 - 3%**

**MATERIALS & SUPPLIES - \$1,763 - 1%**

**TOTAL EXPENSES - \$178,924**



## REVENUE

**GRANTS - \$290,691 - 96%**

**CONTRIBUTIONS- INDIVIDUALS & ORGANIZATIONS - \$7,491 - 2%**

**EARNED INCOME - \$5,118 - 2%**

**TOTAL REVENUE - \$303,300**

**IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS =  
\$117,422.38**



## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

### DONORS WHO MADE OUR WORK POSSIBLE IN 2024



BECKY GOEHRING, LAUREN HESSE & LUCAS STANG,  
JENNY & BUCK LINDSEY, SUSY LACER & BART MEALER, HARLEN & CAREN SPRINGER

### 2024 EVENT SPONORS



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS, VISION TEAM & STAFF 2024

- Maggie Bagon Vision Team Member
- Jenessa Barton Board of Directors
- Jo Beaudreau Vision Team Member
- Devin Bishop Vision Team Member
- Sandy Craft Vision Team Member
- Brenda Gilmer Vision Team Member
- Erin Gordenier Vision Team Member
- Kate Harnedy Outreach Coordinator
- Abby Harrison AmeriCorps RARE
- Susy Lacer Board of Directors
- Jennifer Ledbetter Vision Team Member
- Heather Melton Vision Team Member
- Chantelle Meyer Vision Team Member
- Anika Miller Vision Team Member
- Cajun Olson Board of Directors
- Lindsey Phillips Connections Coordinator
- Stephanie Sarles Vision Coordinator
- Meg Spencer Board of Directors
- Courtney Stone MSD Upriver Coordinator
- Mike Webb Board of Directors
- Sue Wilson Vision Team Member

