



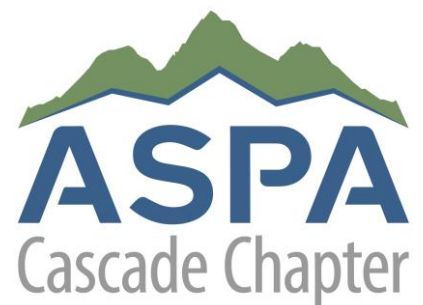
# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

*Representing the state of Oregon  
and the SW Washington state region*

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# MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

## 2022 Highlights

The year was a busy one for the Cascade Chapter. We started the year off with a panel presentation focusing on Portland city charter reform, which has been our highest-attended event to date! We soft launched our Twitter page (@ASPA\_Cascade) to debut our first Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) series. In the fall, the chapter was excited to present its Second Annual Student Symposium. The content of this symposium will be featured panel at the 2023 ASPA National virtual conference in March.



Event highlights and chapter information are now archived on our chapter website. Please visit us often! <https://aspacascade.weebly.com/>

## Looking Ahead

Looking into the year ahead, the Cascade Chapter plans to continue to achieve our 2025 planning goals. The updated 5-year Vision Plan and our chapter principles are included in this report as a reminder of what guides us. We intend to develop our membership outreach and retention strategies this year. We also intend to further engage with students and current members in 2023 through our Second Annual Public Service Recognition Week campaign, from May 7<sup>th</sup> through May 13<sup>th</sup>, and our Third Annual Student Symposium in October. Thank you for being a member and please be in touch to share your ideas and to participate in program development!

*Sara Friedman, President of the Board 2022-2023*

*Diane L. Odeh, Vice President of the Board, 2022-2023*

# 2022 EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

## 2022 ASPA Cascade Chapter Events

- Our panel event titled “Talking Portland City Charter Reform” took place in January 2022.
  - Panelists included:
    - Mary Hull Caballero, Portland City Auditor
    - Mingus Mapps, Portland City Commissioner
    - Douglas Morgan, Portland State University Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Public Administration
    - Shelli Romero, Community & Civil Rights Activist and local Public Administrator
  - Moderated by: Sara Friedman, *President of the Board*
- ASPA Cascade celebrated Public Service Recognition Week by launching its first PSRW campaign.
  - The first year’s awardees were:
    - Djimet Dogo, Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
    - Joyce Hamilla, Oregon Federal Executive Board
    - Joshua Fisher, Oregon State Employee
    - Silvia Ceron, Oregon Department of Human Services
    - Jackson County Community Long Term Recovery Group
- ASPA Cascade Chapter held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Student Symposium, “Promoting Democracy and Community Through Public Administration at all Levels of Government” in October 2022. We are pleased this continues to be an annual event.
  - Presenters included:
    - Kelsey Edmond, MPA, MPP | PhD Candidate at UMass Boston
    - David Okereke | PhD Candidate at Virginia Tech
    - Ina Kokedhima | MPA Student at Portland State University
  - Moderated by: Diane Odeh, *ASPA Cascade Vice President*

## Engagement

- The ASPA Cascade Chapter Executive Board has continued to refine the Chapter’s 5-Year Vision Plan through consistent strategic planning engagement.
- We have a website! Visit us at [aspacascade.weebly.com](https://aspacascade.weebly.com)

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic planning is a continuous process for the Cascade Chapter. The Board attended a fall retreat on October 22, 2021. Corky McReynolds, our 2020 strategic planning facilitator, joined us to guide the process. At that session, the board reviewed and refined the 5-Year Vision Plan, taking note of our progress while also outlining next steps.

Membership outreach was a top priority for the 2022 year. Jennifer Lee-Anderson, Membership Chair, has developed multiple outreach strategies including periodic email updates, check-ins with members, and other recruitment efforts. We are pleased to announce that this resulted in five new members being elected to the board during the 2022 election season—the largest election pool our chapter has had since its founding in 2018.

Moving forward, we continue to seek ways to support and uplift our ASPA Cascade members. Our first Public Service Recognition Week campaign was one way we chose to honor current and potential members.

Additionally, we have sustained our commitment to social justice by offering programming that seeks to educate communities about efforts currently underway in the Cascade region, along with offering education on important topics facing our communities.

Our Guiding Principles and Vision is below for your viewing. Please feel free to suggest any initiatives you feel would help us promote these to you.

## ASPA Cascade Chapter 5-Year Vision Plan

- **Vision 1.0**— Develop a robust policy that explains the Cascade Chapter’s mission to “promote social justice within the practice of public administration.” This policy would be used to inform decisions regarding the other four vision statements and allows for avenues for multiple forms of knowledge.
- **Vision 2.0**— The ASPA Cascade Chapter will hold two events each year that will be considered the premier Public Administration events in the Pacific Northwest region.
- **Vision 3.0**— The ASPA Cascade Chapter will have a full twelve-member Board that, with support from other Chapter members, is active and engaged in planning and implementing programs and events.
- **Vision 4.0**—The ASPA Cascade Chapter has a smoothly functioning, regularly reviewed and updated, highly regarded mix of programs and activities that evolve to meet the needs of its members.
- **Vision 5.0**— The ASPA Cascade will be the primary professional organization for public administration practitioners and academics in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

## ASPA Cascade Chapter Guiding Principles:

1. Employ an equity lens: Social injustices and racial inequities are not random; they have been created and sustained over time. Inequities are complex and entrenched, and they will not disappear on their own. It is essential to consider equity when changing the policies, programs, and practices that perpetuate inequities, and when developing new policies and programs.
  - a. *Organizational Action:* Work with the awareness that, under our working definition of social justice and in the context of public administration, special attention to racial equity will serve in the design of organizational systems that remedy historical inequities and benefit the least advantaged in society.
  - b. *Organizational Action:* Apply pro-equity tools to develop structures, policies, practices and procedures that sustain social justice.
2. Build organizational capacity: Commit to the breadth and depth of institutional transformation so that impacts are sustainable. While the leadership of electeds and officials is critical, changes take place on the ground, through building infrastructure that creates social justice experts and teams throughout the organization.
  - a. *Organizational Action:* Increase awareness of racial inequity, how it operates in institutions and the harm it does.
  - b. *Organizational Action:* Develop strategic plans and tools and resources for advancing social equity goals.
3. Be data driven: Measurement must take place at two levels—first, to measure the success of specific programmatic and policy changes; and second, to develop baselines, set goals, and measure progress. Using data in this manner is necessary for accountability.



- a. *Organizational Action:* Establish baseline measurements, targets/benchmarks and tracking processes for outcomes.
4. Partner with other institutions, organizations, and communities: Organizational work on social justice is necessary, but insufficient. To achieve social justice in the broader community, organizations must work in partnership with communities and institutions, other organizations, and communities to achieve meaningful results.
  - a. *Organizational Action:* Collaborate with community-based organizations and other institutions to identify and address cumulative impacts of structural racism.
  - b. *Organizational Action:* Mobilize engage advocates by organizing and supporting for furthering building spaces of dialogue for a shared vision of social justice through leadership teams and member engagement.
5. Operate with urgency and accountability: When change is a priority, urgency is felt and change is embraced. Building in institutional accountability mechanisms using a clear plan of action will allow accountability. Collectively, we must create greater urgency and public commitment to achieve social justice.

# GOVERNING BOARD

## 2022 Elections

A call for nominations went out in the fall. Thanks to all who voted in our chapter election. We are so pleased to welcome Ina Kokedhima, Alexandra Fercak, Jennifer Joyalle, Joshua Fisher, and Autumn Cowell to the board as Members-at-Large. Autumn will be Secretary for the 2023-2024 year and Diane Odeh will serve as ASPA Cascade President for the 2023-2024 year.

## Meet the 2023 Board:



**Diane Odeh, M.P.A.—Board Vice President (2022-2023); Board President (2023-2024):** Diane is a Ph.D. student in the Public Affairs and Policy program of the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University. Diane studies ethics, civic engagement, and organizational behavior with a social equity framework. She has been working in the public sector since 2010. As a graduate research assistant with Portland State University's Center for Public Service, Diane works on various projects related to local government. In addition, she works with the Portland Downtown Neighborhood Association on various projects related to working with houseless individuals in the area. She holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a Master of Public Administration degree. Pronouns:

she/her/hers



**Autumn Cowell – Board Secretary (2023-2024):** Autumn previously studied at University of Oregon and obtained a bachelor's degree in General Social Science with an emphasis on Crime, Law and Society and a minor in Sociology. Autumn is currently in the Nonprofit Leadership and Management certificate program at Portland State University with the plan to apply to the full Master in Public Administration program. Autumn worked as an early childhood educator in a large nonprofit for a few years before deciding to learn more about the logistics that go into nonprofit work. Pronouns: she/her/hers



**Vincent Chirimwami, Ph.D.—Board Treasurer (2022-2024):** Vincent Chirimwami is an Associate Scientist at Oregon Research Institute (ORI). His background is in public policy and administration, with a focus on public management and leadership. His doctoral dissertation evaluated the influence of educational equity policies on graduation rates for Black students. One of Dr. Chirimwami's research interests focuses on understanding how social and educational policies improve or perpetuate disparities in communities of concentrated disadvantage. At ORI, he is developing and conducting community-based participatory research to address education and health disparities in refugees and other communities of color. Dr. Chirimwami is a graduate of Portland State University where he received his B.A. (2009), M.S. Ed (2011), and M.A. Conflict Resolution (2014). He obtained his PhD from Walden University (2019). Pronouns: he/him/his



**Jennifer Lee-Anderson, M.A.—Membership Chair:** Jennifer is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Public Affairs and Policy program of the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University. Jennifer has over 20 years of professional experience in a variety of public sector and nonprofit roles, with an emphasis on homelessness research and housing policy development. With a B.A. in Ethnic Studies from UC San Diego and an M.A. in Asian American Studies from UCLA, Jennifer began her career in the human relations and community organizing fields in Southern California. She developed extensive expertise in coordinating region-wide projects with a focus on interethnic relations, police-community relations, and faith-based community organizing. For 15 years, Jennifer was the president of the consulting firm she founded, which specialized in research, program implementation, and policy development for nonprofits and local government agencies. She has also taught introductory ethnic studies courses at the community college level and served as a senior staff advisor on housing policy and community relations to two local elected officials in Orange County, California. Jennifer’s research interests continue to lie in the areas of homelessness and housing policy development and the long-term impacts on low-income communities and communities of color. Pronouns: she/her/hers

### At-Large Board Members:



**Alexandra Fercak, M.P.A.:** Alexandra is an analyst at Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of Response and Recovery. Alexandra joined FEMA in May 2022 to lead performance measurement of recovery programs for disaster survivors. Prior to FEMA she served 12 years at the City of Portland Auditor’s Office where she managed projects evaluating various City services including 911 center operations, housing programs, multimodal transportation, and regulation of business districts. She also led the development of Auditor’s Office racial equity plans and co-founded the Slavic Empowerment Team to engage City staff with the Slavic community. Alexandra started her public service career at Oregon Secretary of State Audits Division evaluating state agencies including the Oregon Youth Authority and Oregon Liquor Control Commission. Her volunteer experience includes serving as board member of the Association of Local Government Auditors. Alexandra holds a B.A. in Economics and M.P.A. from Portland State University. Pronouns: she/her/hers



**Christopher Frost, J.D., M.P.A.:** As Chief Compliance Officer for the Bonneville Power Administration, Christopher is responsible for regulatory compliance, internal controls, and information governance. He has been with BPA for fifteen years working in the Agency Compliance and Governance organization, focusing on governance, policy, and risk management issues in a variety of areas. Prior to BPA he was an Assistant General Counsel at Louisiana-Pacific Corporation managing litigation and budget operations for the legal department. He is a graduate of PSU’s Executive Master of Public Administration with the 2013 cohort. Christopher’s EMPA capstone was titled “Electrons and Networks: Case Studies and Comparisons for Network Governance in Smart Grid Energy Policy and Implementation.” He is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at PSU’s Hatfield School of Government in Public Affairs and Policy with an emphasis on Public Administration. His research focus is on governance and meta-governance in administrative agencies. He also holds a J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School and is a Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional (CCEP) with the Society for Corporate Compliance and Ethics. Pronouns: he/him/his

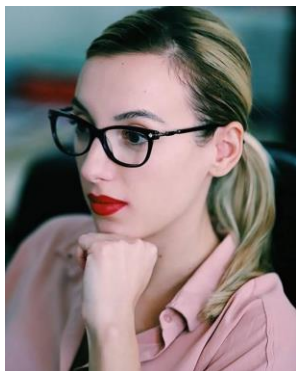


**Joshua Fisher, M.P.A.:** Joshua has been serving the people of Oregon for nearly eight years. They have served in a variety of roles across multiple agencies. Josh started their career as a Motor Carrier Enforcement Officer with the Oregon Department of Transportation in 2014. This gave them the chance to learn about state service and how to make an impact, no matter how small, on the people of Oregon. In 2018, Josh moved to the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission to join the Marijuana Technical Unit. This role involved setting up a robust cannabis tracking and audit system for the state's budding cannabis industry. Josh was instrumental in a number of investigations and public safety recalls during their time at OLCC. This taught Josh how to analyze trends and find ways to address systemic problems within an established system. In March of 2022, Josh made another change in their public service career and moved to the Oregon Health Authority's Licensing and Certification unit under the Health System's Division. In this role they assist with the licensing of residential mental health facilities, investigating complaints and allegations of abuse at these facilities, and ensuring that adults in Oregon who need mental health facilities are receiving services that treat them with care, dignity and respect. This work has Josh excited to make a difference in the everyday lives of their fellow Oregonians and apply what they have learned over the course of their career. Pronouns: they/them.



**Jennifer Joyalle:** Jennifer is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Public Affairs and Policy program in the Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University, in addition to spending the majority of her K-12 teaching career advancing social justice and equity by teaching in the unique learning environment of the Cedar Lodge Program housed at Mount Tabor Middle School. Jennifer is pursuing a doctoral degree to contribute to our understanding of the institution of K-20 education. Her goal is to promote and advance theories and practices for leadership and management that lead to more sustainable and resilient institutions. Jennifer's research ties into her mission to help strengthen the health

of K-20 education by identifying systemic factors that influence the processes and functions of public education. This work has led her to pay special attention to bureaucratic forms and sources of their potential dysfunction, networked forms of governance, and dynamic systems thinking which is especially applicable to K-12 education since the health of the system requires us to consider the multi-scale dynamics. This approach directs our attention to the local conditions of teaching and learning as well as the large-scale influences and pressures. Pronouns: she/her/hers



**Ina Kokedhima:** Ina is a graduate Fulbright student from Albania, studying for a Master of Public Administration degree with a specialization in Global Leadership and Management at Portland State University. Her professional experience in the public administration focused on ensuring the constitutional rights for protection, social inclusion and equal opportunities for disadvantaged groups, women, LGBTQ and children. Apart from the experience in public administration Mrs. Kokedhima has developed her managerial and analytical skills in European Policies thanks to her studies at École Nationale d'Administration (ENA) and SciencePo in Paris as well as at College of Europe in Bruges. Her professional experience also involves conducting research in the field of public administration, education, vocational education training and leading the work of "Sweden Institute of Alumni Network"

in Albania for two years. Pronouns: she/her/hers



**Masami Nishishiba, Ph.D.—Past President:** Dr. Nishishiba is Professor of Public Administration, Department Chair, and Associate Director of the Center for Public Service, at Mark O. Hatfield School of Government, Portland State University. Her academic expertise encompasses research methods, cultural competence in the public sector, local government performance management, and civic engagement. She has served as a principal investigator and a consultant for numbers of local government focused projects both in U.S. and overseas. Dr. Nishishiba’s publications have appeared in *State and Local Government Review*, *Journal of College and Character*, *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, *Journal of Applied*

*Communication Research*, *Journal of Public Affairs* and others. She is also a lead author of a Japanese/English bilingual book *Project Management Toolkit: A Strategic Approach to New Local Governance*. Dr. Nishishiba has a B.A. in Linguistics from Osaka University, Japan, M.S. in Communication and Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy from Portland State University. Pronouns: she/her/hers



## *Thank You for Your Service!*

The members and board of the ASPA Cascade Chapter would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the following outgoing board members:



Sara Friedman, Ph.D.  
President, 2022-2023  
Secretary, 2019-2021



Chris Page, M.A.  
Member-At-Large, 2019-2023  
Vice President, 2019-2021



Blair Thomas, Ph.D.  
Member-At-Large, 2020-2023



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Chapter's closing account balance as of December 31, 2022 was

*\$10,207.00*

## Significant Events:

- The Chapter received \$205 from ASPA National in July. These funds are paid annually and are based upon chapter membership (\$10/member for the 2022 fiscal year).
- The Chapter sponsored one ASPA student membership from among our 2021 Student Symposium presenters, totaling \$60.00.

## 2023 Commitments:

- ASPA Cascade will renew two Student Symposium speakers' memberships at \$60.00 a piece, in addition to two \$15.00 fees to join the Cascade Chapter, totaling \$150.00.