



2024 STEERING COMMITTEE

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facilitator:
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In 2023, Open & Local continued to emerge from pandemic disruptions. Building from the launch of our first website, the highly successful return of Celebration, and new steering members in 2022, Steering members focused on strengthening internal structures and priority activities outlined in our [2023 Work Plan](#). This report outlines Coalition highlights by Goal.

Goal 1. Influence Policy & Practices

- After consultation and encouragement from Open & Local members, the City of Bozeman released an RFP for the '*Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project*'. Contract awarded to Kate Burnaby Wright + Latta Consultants. Coalition members are guiding this project as Steering Committee members, discussion group participants, and interviewees.
- Co-organized tour of Producer Partnership facility with Gallatin Valley Farm to School. Tour participants included: BSD7 food service staff; Gallatin County Superintendent of Schools; MSU Extension; HRDC; Prospera; Montana Ale Works managing partner; Bozeman Chronicle reporter.
- Active member, Grow Montana.
 - ~ Shared opportunities for engagement with our network through eNews, and supported one network member to provide her first public testimony to the Montana Legislature (re: HB 276 Farm to Food Bank.)
 - ~ Communicated with Senator Esp and Representative Gillete in support for HB 276.
 - ~ Helped colleagues prepare guest column, [A way Montana can invest in the local food economy](#)
 - ~ Our liaison (Kate) was nominated Steering Chair, and began supporting this coalition through their annual Strategic + Action Plan process.
- Participant, Gallatin Watershed Collaborative (GWC)
 - ~ Our liaison (Kate) continued to learn and develop relationships with water-focused organizations engaged in local planning and policy, which directly parallels our interest in local planning and policy. Kate observed GWC structure, facilitation style, and process, and shared food system perspective when relevant.
- Participant, Health in All Policies training.
 - ~ This initiative was an outgrowth of the NutPA committee (temporarily renamed "5210+"). During the training, our participation led to school food being considered as an example by over 40 community leaders, including Superintendent Nielson.
- Initiated Policy Subcommittee.

Goal 2. Support Community Engagement

- Produced our annual [Local Farms + CSA Flyer — Greater Gallatin Area](#)
 - ~ distributed ~117 hard copies, online metrics unavailable
- Participated in three public festivals:
 - ~ Gallatin Valley Earth Day, 4/22
 - ~ Bodhi Farms' Farm to Table Food Festival, 7/26
 - ~ Festival, 9/23
- Sustained Community Harvest, a pilot initiative connecting community members with garden managers and farmers, providing time to evaluate long-term strategic value against the capacity needed to 'breathe life' into this engagement tool.
 - ~ Hosted spring volunteer social with Broken Ground and Story Mill Community Garden
 - ~ Sent 3 volunteer email alerts
 - ~ Grew volunteer alert network to 160 individuals (49.5% increase from 107)
- Hosted our 6th Annual Open & Local Celebration!



- ~ RSVP, including chefs/volunteers: 179
- ~ Theme: *"celebrating workers— farm hands, ranch hands, restaurant workers, etc— people who make fresh, delicious, nutritious local foods happen!"*
- Sustained communication via eNews (10/year) and website (minor updates.)
- Conducted our Annual Survey, designed to invite insights from our network. Survey responses help ground-truth Steering members' understanding of what is important to the people we serve, and why. Quotes:

"Community food systems are critical to the resiliency of our food sheds, equitable food access, and positive transformation of our destructive production system." — local farmer

*"I care about the local food system because food brings people together in a unique way. Food is universal and has such a large impact on the community, environmental, and personal health."
— student*

"I care because food is the center of our culture and when we have local + community based food systems it revitalizes the entirety of the community, even those parts not directly related to the food system." — former kitchen worker

"I want to see this community thrive. And the real working people of this valley. I want to be healthy and make the least amount of impact I can." — descendant of a dairy family

"Cause it will be fresh." — 6 year old

Goal 3. Coalition Development

- Network 'members' (individuals receiving eNews) grew to 790 (18% increase from 670)
- Formalized our nomination process, brought on six new Steering members, and hosted our first New Steering Orientation.
- Held two public 'friend- and fund- raisers':
 - ~ Give Big Donor Lounge with Gallatin Valley Farm to School at Feed Café, 5/5
 - ~ Sunday FUNDay at Bozeman Brewing Company, 8/6
- Hired our first part-time contractor to support coordination and facilitation.
- Tripled our budget.

	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2021 Est. Actual
REVENUE			
INDIVIDUALS	\$7,475	\$5,591	\$1,004
CORPORATIONS	\$6,737	\$4,000	\$1,764
GRANTS & FOUNDATIONS	\$0	\$2,000	\$0
total revenue	\$14,212	\$11,591	\$2,768
ASSETS			
account balance, January 1	\$15,212	\$7,748	\$5,912
total revenue + assets	\$29,424	\$19,339	\$8,680
EXPENSE*			
PERSONNEL	\$9,178	\$50	\$185
ADMINISTRATION	\$1,501	\$1,015	\$504
ENGAGEMENT + OPERATIONS	\$4,458	\$4,209	\$747
total expense:	\$13,636	\$4,259	\$932
BALANCE:	\$15,788	\$15,080	\$7,748