COVID-19 forced Washington Nonprofits to make a decision: either cancel the conference—or move forward in a new way. The ability to pivot to a virtual event demonstrated commitment and ingenuity across the nonprofit community. The conference went from a one-day in-person event to two full days of online programming. Thirty-three sessions covered advocacy, equity, fundraising, finance, leadership, and organizational transformation. Included were daily opening plenaries, webinars, and meeting spaces led by content experts and peers—with a focus on Washington-based practitioners.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

- 33 sessions
- 85 scholarships awarded
- 450 attendees
- 7 volunteer-led peer learning groups
- 38 presenters
- 28 sponsors/exhibitors

“I wasn’t sure how a virtual conference would work, but I think this is even better than an in-person conference! I have been able to make notes and collect emails electronically that would have required hours of data entry. Way to go, Washington Nonprofits.”

- Mary Beth Harrington
Attendees joined from across Washington, and around the U.S. 49% were from outside of King County.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Sessions**
33 sessions over two days included long-standing best practices as well as responses to the pandemic. Themes included finance, fundraising, transformation, civic engagement, leadership, and equity.

“So impressed with the diversity of leadership represented and the depth of knowledge from each presenter.”
-Mary Broussard

**Virtual Office Hours/Ask an Expert**
Volunteers hosted four different sessions: fundraising (53 attendees), boards (30), accessibility (25), and human resources (25). Participants engaged with a content expert in real time.

**Peer learning Groups**
Seven topics—generated by conference registrants—were facilitated by volunteers. These included fundraising (87 attendees), advocacy (25), board engagement (65), self-care (35), finance (73), leadership (78), and volunteer management (43).

“I took so much away from the conference. I say that because I learned a lot, I found valuable resources, and I made amazing connections, but more than all of that I left with confidence and perseverance.”
-Amanda Miller

**Conference Special Features**

**Democracy Portal - 147 visitors**
Created in conjunction with partners Washington League of Women Voters and La Casa Hogar in Yakima, this portal helped viewers better understand how nonprofits can be involved in voter registration, census participation, and civic engagement.

**Break Room - 305 visitors**
This curated room provided restoration for attendees, who could watch a meditation tape, listen to music, read a poem, join a yoga session, or find resources to support recovery from trauma.

**Exhibition Hall - 515 visitors**
Videos and links to websites helped attendees learn more about the services and resources of our sponsors and exhibitors. Exhibitor Showcases were held during the lunch break each day; 88 people attended on day one and 67 on day two.

**Virtual Drop-in Tech Check**
We ensured attendees were set and ready to participate in a virtual event to the fullest extent. Presenters, volunteers, and attendees were given plenty of pre-conference tech support and practice connecting.

**Accessibility**
The majority of conference sessions were captioned thanks to partnership with ACS. In addition, we offered Virtual Office Hours/Ask ACS on Accessibility.