

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 • 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting • PSRC Board Room • 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle 98104

The meeting will be streamed live over the internet at <https://www.psrc.org/boards/watch-meetings>.

Attend, watch or listen

Members of the public can attend meetings at PSRC's offices, watch the meeting live at <https://www.psrc.org/boards/watch-meetings>, or listen by phone at 833-548-0282 or 877-853-5257 and enter Meeting ID: 857 4994 1735 and Passcode: 489026.

PSRC's office is open to the public for board meetings. PSRC will continue to monitor public health guidance from the Washington State Department of Health and Seattle-King County Public Health Officer. Should there be any major changes to guidance, this meeting may be held virtually only.

Provide public comment

PSRC's boards value public comment. Members of the public may provide public comment in multiple ways:

- Written comments may be submitted via email to msvob@psrc.org by 8:00 am the day of the meeting. Comments will be emailed to board members. Comments received after that deadline will be provided to board members after the meeting.
- Public comment may be made via Zoom or by phone. **To allow staff time to process requests, registration is required and closes at 8:00 am the day of the meeting.** Late registrations will not be accepted. [Register here](#). You will have 2 minutes to address the board.
- Public comment may be made in person at PSRC's office.

Public comments are public records and may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act, RCW Chapter [42.56](#). For further information regarding public comment, see our [website](#).

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (10:00)

2. Communications and Public Comments

3. President's Remarks

4. Staff Report

5. Consent Agenda (10:20)

- a. Approve Minutes of Meeting held February 2, 2022
- b. Approve Vouchers dated February 7, 2022 thru April 18, 2022 in the amount of \$38,993.01

6. Discussion Item (10:30)

- a. Washington Workforce Development Coordination -- *Katie Condit, CEO, WorkForce Central*

7. Discussion Item (11:00)

- a. Arts & Culture Recovery Strategy Update -- *Sarah Sidman, ArtsFund, and Vivien Savath and Katherine Goetz, BERK Consulting*

8. Discussion Item (11:40)

- a. Regional Economic Data Trends -- *Noah Boggess, Associate Planner*

9. Information Item

- a. PSRC Staff Report

10. Next Meeting - July 13, 2022

11. Adjourn (12:00)

Board members please submit proposed amendments and other materials prior to the meeting for distribution.

Organizations/individuals may submit information for distribution. Send to Mikayla Svob at msvob@psrc.org, fax 206-587-4825, or mail.

Sign language and communication material in alternate formats can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling 206-464-7090 or TTY Relay 711.

العربية | Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Français | French, 한국어 | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng Việt | Vietnamese, visit <https://www.psrc.org/contact-center/language-assistance>.

MINUTES

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board Wednesday, February 2, 2022 Hybrid Meeting

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Tom Florino, President. To determine attendance and that a quorum was present, a verbal roll call was conducted by staff.

[To watch a video of the meeting and hear the full discussion, please go to: <https://www.psrc.org/boards/watch-meetings>].

CPSEDDB MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

See attached attendance roster.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENT

No requests to provide virtual video, written, or in-person public comment were submitted to staff.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Tom Florino welcomed everyone to the February 2, 2022 meeting and thanked the board members for their attendance.

STAFF REPORT

Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, told the board that staff finalized and submitted the adopted Regional Economic Strategy to the EDA for final approval. He also briefed the board on work related to the board focus areas for 2022. Within the Analysis and Strategy Development component, work to date includes finalizing an update to the PSRC's Space Economy Report from 2018. In the Technical Assistance focus area, Jason reminded members of the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, an EDA program to develop and strengthen regional industry clusters across the country, embracing equitable economic growth, good-paying jobs, and enhancing U.S. global competitiveness. He offered staff assistance to jurisdictions or organizations interested in applying for EDA funds. Within the Amplifying Regional Efforts component, staff will be working to identify more opportunities for board members and others to see businesses, educational programs, and other key spaces. Jason asked to hear from

members about ways that PSRC can be helpful to highlight their economic development priorities and successes this year. He noted to members information items in the agenda packet, including the PSRC Draft Supplemental Biennial Budget and Work Program FY2022-2023 and the briefing on PSRC work to facilitate the development of a recovery strategy for the region's arts and culture industry along with ArtsFund. To close, Jason reminded the board that the draft Regional Transportation plan has been released for public comment and the public comment period goes through February 28, 2022.

CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION: It was moved (Nelson) and seconded (Wright) to: (a) approve the minutes of meeting held December 1, 2021 (b) approve the vouchers dated November 29, 2021, through December 27, 2021, in the amount of \$51,192.50. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEM

Election of Economic Development District Board Officers

ACTION: It was moved (Stern) and seconded (Assefa-Dawson) to approve the Nominating Committee's recommendation of Commissioner Axel Strakeljahn as President, and Councilmember Conrad Lee as Vice President for the 2022-2024 term. The motion passed.

Tom Florino ended his time as the EDD President, and Commissioner Strakeljahn began to lead the meeting as the new President.

ACTION ITEM

Ratification of Presidential Appointments for the 2022-2024 Term

ACTION: It was moved (Lee) and seconded (Wright) to ratify the proposed list of Presidential Appointment seats on the board, for the 2022-2024 term. The motion passed.

The ratified Presidential Appointments are below:

- Tom Florino, Amazon
- Alex Pietsch, WSU
- Terry Ryan, Snohomish County
- Michael Greer, ArtsFund
- Emily Wittman, Aerospace Futures Alliance

ACTION ITEM

Ratification of the Economic Development District Board Executive Committee for the 2022-2023 Term

ACTION: It was moved (Bushnell) and seconded (Assefa-Dawson) to ratify the Executive Committee appointed by the President. The motion passed.

The ratified Executive Committee members are below:

- Councilmember Conrad Lee, City of Bellevue, EDD Vice President
- Tom Florino, Amazon
- Terry Ryan, Snohomish County
- Councilmember Ed Stern, City of Poulsbo
- Andrea Reay, Seattle Southside Chamber of Commerce
- Katie Condit, WorkForce Central
- Councilmember Dave Morell, Pierce County
- Commissioner Kristin Ang, Port of Tacoma

DISCUSSION ITEM

Industrial Lands Analysis Update

Paul Inghram, PSRC Director of Growth Management, briefed the board on an update to the inventory of industrial lands and to research changing conditions related to industrial uses. He asked for board feedback on the scope of the industrial lands update, which will be coordinated with the Economic Development District Board, PSRC's Freight Advisory Committee, and the Growth Management Policy Board.

Councilmember Stern stated for the record that the scope of Greater Seattle Partners is limited to King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, and therefore not representative of the PSRC four county region. He noted that the largest greenfield for industrial development in the PSRC region is in Kitsap County, located in the Port of Bremerton. He thus stated that if Greater Seattle Partners, and their goal of business expansion, continued to successfully recruit, Kitsap County would potentially be affected, and that greater coordination with Greater Seattle Partners, PSRC, and Kitsap County would be needed. Councilmember Stern also stated that the original decision by Challenge Seattle to not include Kitsap County within the Greater Seattle Partners framework was shortsighted.

Councilmember Lee commented that the analysis was great, and that recognizing the interconnectedness of the region is important. He stated that even though City of Bellevue doesn't have a large amount of industrial land, that the city is also analyzing the use of the land and how to protect that designation. Councilmember Lee also commented that freight and supply chain issues contribute to the overall picture of how these industries are able to thrive.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Regional Workforce Recovery Planning Project Update

Tim Griffith, with MEF Associates, briefed the board on work completed on the Regional Workforce Recovery Planning Project. He provided an update on recent analysis and

the development of the final report detailing project findings along with occupational profiles summarizing key labor market indicators for selected promising occupations.

Councilmember Hougardy commented that this work is incredibly valuable in her jurisdiction, and that access to affordable childcare is a priority.

Pamela Banks, City of Seattle, updated the board that Markham McIntyre will be replacing her at City of Seattle, and she commented that the city plans to focus on workforce development efforts.

Councilmember Lee commented that training providers and community colleges are integral to improving our region's workforce skills. He questioned if the study would identify possible actions these organizations could take to anticipate future workforce needs, as well as these organizations responses. He also questioned what role cities can play in connecting into the existing ecosystem without duplicating efforts. Tim Griffith responded that training providers were contacted and engaged in the study in outreach efforts, and that once the recommendations are finalized, it would provide a point to re-engage with community colleges and training providers. He recognized Councilmember Lee's point that many workforce development structures are already in place, and that this project highlights specific options that are readily available for workers.

Emily Wittman, Aerospace Futures Alliance, commented that she was intrigued by the findings on manufacturing, that there was a ready supply of first year workers, and a lack of workers with 5-10 years of experience. Tim Griffith responded that the current structure of workforce development in the region focuses heavily on getting individuals connected to initial workforce opportunities, but much less focused is placed in industries on continued career development.

Councilmember Nelson stated that the City of Seattle could work to improve on connecting individuals to high wage training programs and wanted to connect to see the compilation of these resources. She questioned what role municipalities could play in providing this workforce information to constituents. Cynthia Forland, of Forland and Wheeler Consulting, responded that the Occupational Profiles in the project should be of use when connecting constituents to these opportunities.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Adopted this 4th day of May, 2022.

Commissioner Axel Strakeljahn, President
Central Puget Sound Economic Development District

ATTEST:

Josh Brown, Executive Director

Attachments:
edd2022feb02-attendance

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board					
Voting Members		Voting Members			
King County	2	EXEC Dow Constantine	Ports		
		Vacant Alt	Port of Bremerton	1	COM Axel Strakeljahn*
		Ashton Allison Alt			COM Cary Bozeman Alt
		CM Reagan Dunn			COM Gary Anderson Alt
		Vacant Alt	Port of Everett	1	COM Tom Stiger
Seattle	2	CM Sara Nelson	1		COM Glen Bachman Alt
		Vacant Alt	Port of Seattle	1	COM Hamdi Mohamed
		Jeremy Mohn Alt			Vacant Alt
		MYR Bruce Harrell			Eric ffitich Alt
		Vacant Alt	Port of Tacoma	1	COM Kristin Ang*
		Pamela Banks Alt	1		COM Deanna Keller Alt
Bellevue	1	CM Conrad Lee*	1	Commerce	
		Deputy MYR Jared Nieuwenhuis Alt	WA Dept. of Commerce	1	Chris Green
Cities/Towns	2	CM Ed Prince, Renton	1		Lisa Brown Alt
		CM Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Federal Way	1	Chambers of Commerce	1
		CM Kathy Hougardy, Tukwila Alt	1		Vacant Alt
		CM James Mayhew, Snoqualmie Alt	1	Economic Development	
Kitsap County	1	COM Charlotte Garrido	1	EDC - Seattle & King	1
		COM Edward Wolfe Alt			Rachel Smith
Bremerton	1	MYR Greg Wheeler	1	KEDA - Kitsap	1
		CM Michael Goodnow Alt			Markham McIntyre Alt
Cities/Towns	1	CM Ed Stern, Poulsbo*	1	EASC - Snohomish	1
		CM Shawn Cucciardi, Port Orchard Alt			Joe Morrison
Pierce County	1	CM Dave Morell*	1	EDB - Tacoma & Pierce	1
		CM Marty Campbell Alt			Kathy Cocus Alt
Tacoma	1	CM Joe Bushnell	1	Workforce Development Councils	
		CM Keith Blocker Alt	1	WDC - Pierce	1
Cities/Towns	1	CM Shannon Reynolds, Fircrest		OWDC - Kitsap	1
		CM Jason Whalen, Lakewood Alt			Garry Clark
Snohomish County	1	CM Stephanie Wright	1	WSLC	1
		CM Megan Dunn Alt			Terrie Battuello Alt
Everett	1	MYR Cassie Franklin		Organized Labor	
		Vacant Alt			Larry Brown
		Dan Eernisse Alt	1	Presidential Appointments	
					Chelsea Mason-Placek Alt
Cities/Towns	1	CM Tom King, Marysville			1
		MYR Brett Gailey, Lake Stevens Alt			Alex Pietsch, WSU Foundation
		CM Vivian Olson, Edmonds Alt	1		1
					Tom Florino, Amazon*
					Emily Wittman, President & CEO, Aerospace Futures Alliance
					1
					Terry Ryan, Snohomish County*
					1
					Michael Greer, President & CEO, ArtsFund
					1
Federally Recognized Tribes				1	Tony To, Homesight
	1	Vacant		Non-voting Members	
Puyallup Tribe of Indians		Vacant Alt		PSRC President, Ex-Officio	Bob Drewel
Suquamish Tribe	1	CHR Leonard Forsman		PSRC President	Claudia Balducci
		CM Jay Mills Alt		Navy Region NW	Patricia lolavera
					1
					Tom Knight Alt
Voting	34	(Quorum = 14) Quorum Total	24	Abbreviations	
	35			CM Councilmember	* Executive Committee
After the Presidential Appointments for the 2022-2024 term were ratified, the voting member total went from 34 to 35.				COM Commissioner	1 = Voting Member for Meeting
				CHR Chair	

Attachment: edd2022feb02-attendance (3416 : Minutes)

CONSENT AGENDA

April 27, 2022

To: Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

From: Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager

Subject: **Approve Vouchers dated February 7, 2022 thru April 18, 2022 in the amount of \$38,993.01**

IN BRIEF

PSRC vouchers are reviewed by the Operations Committee and approved by the Executive Board. To comply fully with RCW 42.24.080, vouchers for the Central Puget Sound Economic Development District (CPSEDD) should be approved by the EDD Board as well.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The EDD Board should approve the following vouchers:

Approved Vouchers dated February 7, 2022 thru April 18, 2022 in the amount of \$38,993.01			
REQUESTED			
<u>WARRANT DATE</u>	<u>VOUCHER NUMBER</u>		<u>TOTALS</u>
2/7/2022	AP 12298	\$	16,668.50
3/7/2022	AP 12334	\$	2,145.00
3/7/2022	AP 12335	\$	5,000.75
3/15/2022	AP 12354	\$	181.56
4/4/2022	AP 12374	\$	12,014.45
4/18/2022	AP 12390	\$	2,982.75
		\$	38,993.01

For more information, contact Andrew Werfelmann, Budget Manager, at 206-971-3292, or awerfelmann@psrc.org.

Attachments:
A/P Check Batches



Puget Sound Regional Council

Date: May 4, 2022

A/P Check Batches		
Dated	Check Numbers	Amount
02/07/22 – 04/18/22	12298, 12334, 12335, 12354 12374, 12390	\$38,993.01
Hand Checks		\$0.00
Total		<u>\$38,993.01</u>

Payment Certification RCW(42.24.080)

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty of perjury, that the materials have been furnished, the services rendered, the labor performed as described, or that any advance payment is due and payable pursuant to a contract or is available as an option for full or partial fulfillment of a contractual obligation, and that the claim(s) is(are) just, due and unpaid obligations against the above-named governmental unit, that we are authorized to authenticate and certify to said claim(s).

Authorized District Signature(s) for Payment Claims (Auditing Officer(s) or Board Member(s)):



Authorized District Signature

04/15/2022

Date

Authorized District Signature

Date

Authorized District Signature

Date

Authorized District Signature

Date

Attachment: A/P Check Batches (3417 : EDD Vouchers)

Check Summary Report

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board Meeting - May 4, 2022

Check Number	Date	Vendor	Description	Amount
12298	2/7/2022	MEF Associates	Workforce Recovery Contract	16,668.50
12334	3/7/2022	BERK Associates	Workforce Recovery Contract	2,145.00
12335	3/7/2022	MEF Associates	Workforce Recovery Contract	5,000.75
12354	3/15/2022	US Bank - WEDA	Conference Registration - Thibedeau	181.56
12374	4/4/2022	BERK Associates	Workforce Recovery Contract	12,014.45
12390	4/18/2022	MEF Associates	Workforce Recovery Contract	2,982.75
Total				38,993.01

Attachment: A/P Check Batches (3417 : EDD Vouchers)

Date: Friday, April 15, 2022
 Time: 10:22AM
 User: AWERFELMANN

Puget Sound Regional Council
Check Register - APPROVAL
 Periods: 07-22 Through 10-22 As of: 4/15/2022

Page: 1 of 1
 Report: 03630_OPSAPPROV, W.r.p
 Company: PSRC

Check Nbr	Check Type	Check Date	Vendor Name	Period To Post	Ref Nbr	Doc Type	Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Amount Paid		
Acct / Sub: 11000 00000											
012298	CK	2/7/2022	MEF Associates	08-22	117329	VO		1/31/2022	MEF; Workforce Recovery	16,668.50	
Check Total									16,668.50		
012334	CK	3/7/2022	BERK	09-22	117376	VO		2/16/2022	BERK; CARES Recovery Strategy	2,145.00	
Check Total									2,145.00		
012335	CK	3/7/2022	MEF Associates	09-22	117379	VO		2/15/2022	MEF; Workforce Recovery	5,000.75	
Check Total									5,000.75		
012354	CK	3/15/2022	US Bank	09-22	117395	VO	February 2022	2/25/2022	Conference-Thibedeau WEDA22	181.56	
Check Total									181.56		
012374	CK	4/4/2022	BERK	10-22	117421	VO		3/24/2022	BERK; CARES Recovery Strategy	12,014.45	
Check Total									12,014.45		
012375	-	012389	Missing								
012390	CK	4/18/2022	MEF Associates	10-22	117441	VO		4/12/2022	MEF; Workforce Recovery	2,982.75	
Check Total									2,982.75		
Check Count:		6								Acct Sub Total:	38,993.01

Check Type	Count	Amount Paid
Regular	6	38,993.01
Hand	0	0.00
Electronic Payment	0	0.00
Void	0	0.00
Stub	0	0.00
Zero	0	0.00
Mask	0	0.00
Total:	6	38,993.01

Attachment: A/P Check Batches (3417 : EDD Vouchers)

DISCUSSION ITEM

April 27, 2022

To: Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

From: Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager

Subject: **Washington Workforce Development Coordination**

IN BRIEF

The Washington Workforce Association (WWA) is a membership organization of Washington's Local Workforce Development Boards, which coordinate workforce investments to advance the economic health of their respective communities through a skilled and competitive workforce. Katie Condit, CEO of WorkForce Central and WWA Vice Chair will provide an update on current workforce coordination efforts of the WWA.

DISCUSSION

The Washington Workforce Association (WWA) is a nonprofit nonpartisan membership organization of the Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) of Washington State. The LWDBs are business-led boards that coordinate and leverage workforce investments and strategies with stakeholders from education, economic development, labor and community-based organizations to advance the economic health of their respective communities through a skilled and competitive workforce. The central Puget Sound region is served by four LWDBs: Seattle-King County WDC serving King County, Workforce Snohomish serving Snohomish County, WorkForce Central serving Pierce County, and Olympic Consortium WDC serving Kitsap, Clallam, and Jefferson counties.

As Washington continues to respond to the talent crisis brought about by COVID-19, the LWDBs are positioned to enhance the mechanisms that will upskill and reskill individuals for the future of work. WWA guides the design and implementation of programs and initiatives to maximize equitable opportunity. Existing programs and available jobs can be leveraged to mitigate worker displacement by using data to identify trends to provide individuals with the best information on career pathways and invest in what works. WWA is the driving force in the cohesive union of state and local government agencies, and the tool in building a stronger and more informed workforce-centered network.

WWA provides information, training, tools, and recommendations to policy makers, workforce development professionals, Local Workforce Development Board members, and the community at large to help make informed decisions about how to invest in workforce strategies. WWA works in partnership with other statewide, regional and national organizations advocating for a coordinated, funded system focused on the

needs of job seekers and businesses. WWA brings together the leadership of Local Workforce Development Boards to craft policy, create solutions, and advocate to ensure that the workforce system is positioned to address the economic challenges faced by workers and businesses in our state. At the federal level, The WWA is working to support Congressional reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) to support the continued transformation of Washington's workforce development systems. Katie Condit, CEO of WorkForce Central and WWA Vice Chair will provide an update on current workforce coordination efforts of the WWA.

For more information contact Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, at jthibedeau@psrc.org or (206) 389-2879.

DISCUSSION ITEM

April 27, 2022

To: Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

From: Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager

Subject: **Arts & Culture Recovery Strategy Update**

IN BRIEF

PSRC is managing a project led by BERK consulting to assist in economic recovery and resiliency for the nonprofits arts and culture industry in the central Puget Sound region. BERK staff will provide an update on the project including initial data analysis and key findings.

DISCUSSION

The Arts & Culture Economic Recovery Strategy is leveraging funding from the CARES Act to develop strategies to help the arts & culture industry and workforce recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on the region's economy, with the arts and culture industry being highly impacted due to the in-person nature of activities and events that are critical to their business models and revenue streams.

The Arts & Culture Economic Recovery Strategy kicked off in February 2022 and is set to be complete in Summer 2022. Early phases of the strategy development have been guided by an advisory committee of representatives from across the region. The strategy builds off the ArtsFund COVID Cultural Impact study, released in January of 2022 and available [on the project website](#).

Staff from ArtsFund will give a brief presentation on the COVID Cultural Impact Study including key findings and relevant data points which informed the scope of the PSRC Arts & Culture Economic Recovery Strategy. Following this, staff from BERK consulting will provide a status update on recent strategy development and data collection efforts. The EDD board will be asked to provide feedback on initial findings that the consultant team will incorporate into the strategy. The consultant team has begun outreach to inform the strategy through key stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and surveys.

For more information contact Noah P. Boggess, Associate Planner, at nboggess@psrc.org or (206) 464-6170.

DISCUSSION ITEM

April 27, 2022

To: Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board
From: Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager
Subject: **Regional Economic Data Trends**

IN BRIEF

PSRC staff will provide an update on recent data highlighting demographic and economic trends in the region since the onset of COVID-19, including work status and teleworking trends from the 2021 Household Travel Survey.

DISCUSSION

As part of its long-range performance-based planning process, PSRC is involved in an ongoing effort to track a variety of demographic and economic trends across the region. PSRC also collects data through a [Household Travel Survey](#), which is done on a biannual basis and was performed most recently in Spring of 2021.

Results from the Household Travel Survey provide context for changes from pre-pandemic baselines. In the survey, 73% of adults reported their work status for pre-March 2020 as working full-time, part time or self-employed, which dropped to 65% in April 2021. This coincided with an increase in those reporting their work status as retired, not employed, or employed but not currently working from 22% to 28% over the same period. Telecommuting also increased substantially during this time, with the estimated share of workers in the region who teleworked at least part time increasing from 16% before March 2020 to 37% in April 2021. The share of workers telecommuting in April 2021 varied across industries, with approximately 80% of workers in the construction, health care, hospitality and retail industries working outside the home. Conversely, most workers in the technology, finance, communications, professional and business services, media and entertainment industries worked from home at least part time.

PSRC staff will provide an overview of initial findings to the EDD board and discuss future analysis which will include analyzing disparate employment impacts based on gender, race and ethnicity.

For more information contact Noah P. Boggess, Associate Planner, at nboggess@psrc.org or (206) 464-6170.

INFORMATION ITEM

April 27, 2022

To: Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

From: Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager

Subject: PSRC Staff Report

Save the Date - Regional Connections: Kitsap County on Friday, June 17, 2022

On Friday, June 17, the Economic Development District will be hosting a Regional Connections: Kitsap event for board members and alternates. This is the first in a series of day-long mobile events that will be held in each of the region's four counties and will provide an opportunity for board members to see and hear firsthand about local businesses and economic assets across the region and build connections to collaborate on economic development efforts.

Space Economy Update Released

In February, PSRC released an update to the Washington State Space Economy report, found [here](#). The study found that business activities tied to the space economy contributed an estimated \$4.6 billion in economic activity to Washington communities in 2021. This supports a total of 13,100 jobs and \$1.6 billion in labor income in the state, a doubling of impact since 2018.

Arts & Culture Economic Recovery Project Kicks Off

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate effect on the region's arts and culture industry, due to the importance of in-person experiences. PSRC [kicked off a project](#) to assist in economic recovery and resiliency for the nonprofit arts and culture industry in the central Puget Sound region. The EDD Board will receive an update on this project at its May meeting.

Regional Economic Strategy Approved by U.S. Economic Development Administration

The region's Economic Development District Board adopted the new [Regional Economic Strategy](#) in December 2021. In March, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) approved this work as the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This approval makes regional jurisdictions and certain organizations eligible to qualify for funding under U.S. EDA programs.

Economic Development Element Guide Released

PSRC released an Economic Development Element Guide in February to assist local jurisdictions with the upcoming 2024 comprehensive plan update process. The guide explains the utility of the economic development element, describes the development of a SWOT analysis, details common data metrics and how to access them, and briefs

planners on the policy-making process. The guide is part of a suite of [VISION 2050 planning resources](#). PSRC staff are meeting with local planners to inform technical assistance that will be offered later in the year.

Regional Housing Strategy Adopted

In February, PSRC's Executive Board adopted the [Regional Housing Strategy](#), which lays out regional and local actions to preserve, improve, and expand housing availability in the region and help guide and support upcoming local comprehensive plan updates.

Workforce Recovery Planning Project Being Finalized

The Workforce Recovery Planning project was designed to provide actionable labor market information to a broad array of stakeholders on in-demand occupations and available training programs in the region. The project identified four key industries showing high demand over the next decade: construction, manufacturing, healthcare, and information. Within these industries, the project identified a set of twelve occupations that provide higher-wage and industry-demanded opportunities for the region's jobseekers. Occupational profiles have been developed to provide easy-to-use information for job seekers in the region to pursue these careers. The final report and profiles for the identified opportunity occupations are being prepared for release in May.

Industrial Lands Update Progressing

PSRC is developing an update to the [Regional Industrial Lands Analysis](#), last performed in 2015. Currently, PSRC staff are meeting with local planning and economic development staff to better understand issues in trends across the region, as well as working to update metrics on industrial lands to evaluate the inventory, characteristics, and impacts to the region's economy and communities. A project update will be provided to the EDD Board at its July meeting.

Tax Increment Financing Event

On April 29, 2022, PSRC and ULI Northwest will be co-hosting the [Incentives for TOD: TIF and Other Financing Tools](#) event. The event will include experts and practitioners discussing financing tools, including tax increment financing (TIF) - a financing tool that local governments use to fund public infrastructure in targeted areas to encourage private development and investment.

For more information, contact Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, at jthibedeau@psrc.org or (206) 389-2879.