



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Our Valley to unveil 156 community action projects on Tuesday

WENATCHEE — A list of 156 community improvement projects developed by Our Valley What's Next/Nuestro Valle Que Sigue will be unveiled to the public for the first time from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, at Pybus Public Market.

People who show up anytime during that time period will be able to vote on which projects should be the highest priority for the community. They also will learn more about the Our Valley What's Next initiative, which is meant to sustain and revitalize local communities and to improve the lives of residents.

The projects, also known as action items, originated from extensive community outreach that Our Valley conducted last fall. The action items address the local economy and jobs, education, health care, public safety, arts and culture, land use, transportation, outdoor recreation, the environment, and governance.

A community online survey, with a similar focus as the open house, will be launched the day after the open house and will run through mid-July. Check the Our Valley Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ourvalleywhatsnext/>) and website (www.ourvalleywhatsnext.com) for links to the survey.

Earlier this month, Our Valley held a Lead Partner Orientation. A total of 76 agencies and organizations have been identified as potential lead partners for the 156 action items being sought by the community. The potential lead partners have until the end of July to commit to leading the implementation of the action items.

Our Valley also has appointed a 23-member Think Tank to vet, amend and develop major "game-changer" projects. The Think Tank will have until the end of August to deliver a final report

Last year, Our Valley What's Next surveyed more than 1,500 residents (including 23 percent who self-identified as being Hispanic), interviewed 36 community leaders, received feedback at 50 meetings and events, and brought together more than 100 residents at a summit to brainstorm initial project ideas. The outreach explored community values, strengths, weaknesses, challenges and vision ideas. Reports on the findings from the community outreach can be found at www.ourvalleywhatsnext.com.

Our Valley What's Next, formed in 2015, is overseen by a steering committee that includes representatives from the business community, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. The effort is the first time community planning and development have been undertaken across multi-jurisdictional boundaries in Chelan and Douglas counties. The name, Our Valley, was intentionally chosen to reflect this collaborative approach.

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