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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Potential new Our Valley Our Future partners to pitch their projects at Pybus

The public is invited to attend the program and provided feedback on projects

WENATCHEE — The *Our Valley Our Future / Nuestro Valle Nuestro Futuro* community development initiative is seeking feedback from the public on potential new projects for its Action Plan during a program at 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, at the Pybus Public Market Annex.

Each organization seeking inclusion in the 2019 version of the Our Valley Action Plan will pitch their project during the program. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions of the organizations and to rank their favorite projects at the end of the program.

The potential new projects will be unveiled at the July 18 program.

The Action Plan, Our Valley's guiding document, was first released in November 2016 following two years of community outreach, visioning and planning work. The plan has a five-year window, meaning most of the 149 projects and programs and seven game-changers are to be worked on during that time period.

During the planning phase in 2016, Our Valley Our Future told residents it would be updating the plan once a year.

At the July 18 event at Pybus, Our Valley also will cast the spotlight on lead partners of projects added to the Action Plan earlier this year. Here is the list of those projects, followed by the new lead partners:

- **Career & Technical Education Programs:** Washington Association of Career and Technical Administrators

- **Community Conversation on Educational Quality:** Columbia Prep
- **New School Facilities:** Columbia Prep
- **Forum for Civic Engagement and Civil Dialogue:** Wenatchee Diversity Council
- **Immigrant Citizenship:** Hand in Hand Immigration Services
- **Multiculturalism & Community Celebrations:** Wenatchee Valley Chamber
- **Expanded & Improved Public Transit:** Link Transit
- **Recreational Stewardship of Open Space and Natural Habitat:** Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and Chelan County Department of Natural Resources
- **Farm Preservation:** Cascadia Conservation District
- **Improved Fish Habitat:** Entiat Watershed Planning Unit
- **Waterfront Destination:** Cities of Rock Island and Entiat
- **Corridor Beautification:** SCJ Alliance
- **Local Venture Capital:** GWATA
- **The Bridge Research & Innovation Center:** Apple STEM Network, WVC, OVOF
- **Technology Hub:** Port of Chelan County, WVC
- **Early Childhood Learning:** North Central Early Learning Collaborative

The Action Plan projects are led by lead partners — a combination of public agencies, businesses, nonprofit organizations and community groups. The lead partners have committed to championing and implementing the actions, which gives the overall plan teeth. By working on these projects, the partner organizations share responsibility in bringing Our Valley's long-term, grassroots vision — developed by residents during 2015-16 — to fruition.

Our Valley Our Future is set up organizationally to help lead partners facilitate, organize, plan, communicate, connect, market, trouble-shoot, and track progress. Our Valley, with assistance from the Community Foundation of NCW, also administers a small grants program for lead partners.

Our Valley arose in 2015 out of a desire by the community to develop an overall vision and strategic action plan for the region, and to tackle big challenges — the curtailment at Alcoa, threats from catastrophic wildfires, a restructuring economy, lagging wages, rising poverty rates, and a growing housing crisis.

During 2017, the first full year of implementation phase, more than 75 percent of the Action Plan's projects and programs got underway, led by partnering organizations. About 7 percent were completed last year. Several of the big 'game-changer' projects — such as the Regional Housing Approach, The Bridge Research & Innovation District, and the new Wenatchee Valley TREAD organization — have shown good movement.

For more information on Our Valley Our Future: www.ourvalleyourfuture.org.

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