

PHLUSH Annual Report 2016

The human right to a toilet informs every aspect of our work.

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Human beings are united in their daily efforts to meet essential physiological needs. Among these is the right to urinate and defecate with dignity and in privacy. We need to appreciate and make salient this universal right which unites us all, whether we live in poverty, are displaced from our homes by crisis, or live in communities with treatment systems which allow us to flush and forget.

Our Mission

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Through education and advocacy, PHLUSH helps local governments and citizen groups to provide equitable public restroom availability and to prepare for a pipe-breaking seismic event with appropriate ecological toilet systems.

Our Vision

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Toilet availability is a human right and well-designed sanitation systems restore health to our cities, our waters and our soils.



PHLUSH incorporates as a non-profit in 2016.

Over the years, we'd outgrown our role as a citizen's initiative based in Portland, Oregon's Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood and the geographically-focused mission of our longtime fiscal sponsor, Neighbors West-Northwest. With their help, we rehosted our website in our own name at the end of 2015 and rolled up our sleeves for the hard work ahead.

In early 2016, a team of ten mostly long-time PHLUSH volunteers sat down to write a business plan and draft governance documents. Our business plan built upon our work in public toilet advocacy and disaster sanitation preparation. We assessed business opportunities in training, facilitation and consulting with communities in the Pacific Northwest.

We studied best practices in nonprofit management, the steps for incorporation in Oregon and Washington, and the regulations that allow an organization to win and keep tax exempt-status under federal tax law. Our research lead us to decide that Washington was the best place to officially house PHLUSH as a non-profit organization.

Our business plan wins pro bono legal assistance.

In order to re-launch an independent PHLUSH on a firm institutional footing, we sought assistance through Wayfind, a consortium of young activist lawyers in Washington State who help launch initiatives that address the growing needs of contemporary society. We were awarded support and Zainab Hussain, a bright attorney with Seattle's Foundry Law Group stepped up to support us.

Suddenly PHLUSH was blessed with a published scientist with credentials in climate change and environmental chemistry and a law degree to boot. Zainab has stood by to answer our questions and dispatched our documents off to the authorities with efficiency and aplomb.



Zainab Hussain

Meet our Board of Directors.

The governance of PHLUSH is in the capable hands of five Directors. All of them are dedicated young professionals who have contributed in past years to making PHLUSH what it is today.

In September 2016, founding Directors Hayley Joyell Smith, Abigail Brown, and Poonam Sharma formally endorsed the Articles of Incorporation in Washington State, adopted the Bylaws, and stepped up in the roles of President, Vice President and Secretary, respectively. Angela Southwick joined the Board in October bringing her expertise in nonprofit financial management to the position of Treasurer. In December, long time PHLUSH volunteer and sanitation entrepreneur Kyle Earlywine stepped up to complete the current Board. Meet our Directors [here](#).

PHLUSH Public Toilet Advocacy Toolkit is a hit.



The Toolkit is available free online.

Released at the end of 2015, [PHLUSH Public Toilet Advocacy Toolkit](#) spells out the steps required to provide and maintain public toilets that make communities livable, respect human dignity and promote health and well-being. Throughout 2016, planners, architects, city officials, and urban residents in cities across North America downloaded and used the 65-page manual.

The Toolkit has guided the People for Fairness Coalition, for example, in their work with the DC District Council to introduce legislation to create a

Public Restroom Facilities Task Force to generate options

for public toilet provision. The Coalition's activists, including those experiencing homelessness, studied best practices, inventoried existing restrooms, presented petitions and testimony, mobilized community support, and issued media releases, including on the PHLUSH blog. By the end of 2016, they were working the DC District Council to introduce legislation to create a Public Restroom Facilities Task Force to generate options for public toilet provision.

The Toolkit also served architects and planners. A design team was tasked by Seattle Parks with the renovation of a park restroom to meet the city's new All-Gender requirements. This design team used our Toolkit, and we also visited them for direct consultation.

With its assessment checklists, design tools, and case studies, the Toolkit is valued by journalists covering livability, health, transit issues, and local government matters. The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance lists the toolkit among its top five resources on awareness and advocacy.

PHLUSH volunteers join city officials to observe designation of 600 All-User Restrooms in Portland Parks.

In August, PHLUSH volunteers Anna Preble and Carol McCreary joined Portland City Commissioners Nick Fish and Amanda Fritz at a ribbon cutting to designate two of more than 600 All-User city-owned restrooms. New signage indicates not who should use the restroom but what is inside. In late 2015, Anna had assisted Commissioner Fish in drafting Portland's landmark resolution to convert single stall facilities into All-User restrooms and to lay the groundwork for eventual conversion of multi-users facilities to serve users of any gender.



Portland Commissioners Fritz and Fish at restroom ribbon-cutting.

Our Disaster Sanitation outreach helps communities prepare for a pipe-destroying seismic event.

Communities lying along 1000 miles of coastline from Northern California to British Columbia are at risk of a 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. The last such event occurred in 1700 and has been documented through archeological evidence, the oral histories of Tribal Nations, and Japanese maps that charted shorelines altered by an "orphan tsunami". Massive destruction of transportation, water, and sanitary infrastructure is predicted. We need to be prepared. PHLUSH trains communities in the use of the [Twin Bucket Emergency Toilet](#), and other waterless, urine-diverting technologies. Our volunteers make presentations to emergency officials, and citizen groups, set up displays at preparedness fairs and make available on loan Disaster Sanitation kits consisting of nested 5-gallon buckets with instructions, samples of carbon additives, gloves, hand sanitizer and other supplies.

President Hayley Smith meets with city and county officials and tours Madden Fabrication and Kailash EcoVillage.

In November, our new PHLUSH Board President Hayley Smith visited the Pacific Northwest to connect with the people and places that shaped PHLUSH into what it is today.

Accompanied by Program Manager Carol McCreary and others, Hayley met with Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz, emergency management and public health officials from Oregon's Multnomah and Washington Counties, and Port Townsend, Washington Mayor Deborah Stinson.



Portland Loo

At Madden Fabrication, Greg and Evan Madden explained the manufacturing process of the City of Portland-patented Portland Loo. They shared thoughts about future adaptations and the exciting news of Loo purchases by cities in the US, Canada and New Zealand.

Hayley and Carol were also welcomed by Kailash EcoVillage founder Dr. Ole Ersson, who is documenting the efficacy of community-scale ecosan composting in an urban environment. The earthquake-proof concrete block bins are lined, covered and regularly monitored. The state-of-the-art system heats the compost to pasteurization temperatures (161 degrees Fahrenheit) killing all pathogens.

PHLUSH celebrates World Toilet Day in Oregon and Washington.

During her week-long visit to Pacific Northwest, Hayley Smith not only met officials and visited projects but facilitated two World Toilet Day celebrations.

At the first event, PHLUSH honored nine Portland area toilet entrepreneurs. On November 15th a convivial crowd of 40 people gathered at McMenemy's Ringler Pub in downtown Portland. It was a delightful evening where we cheered on the work of the following:

1. [Nature Commode](#) for bringing composting toilets to the festival scene and educating people about the nitrogen cycle as they contribute a deposit to the soil making process.
2. [GreenFlush Technologies](#) for its innovative off-grid flush toilet designs that help meet the cultural standards of a water closet while also protecting the environment.
3. [Recode](#) for their tireless work with regulatory agencies and promotion of ecosanitation in the US is a critical part of addressing limited resources and code and regulation.
4. [Madden Fabrication](#) for their production of the [Portland Loo](#) and collaboration with communities looking to install a safe and savvy public toilet option.
5. [FlushCheck!](#) for its app that allows people to report the cleanliness of a restroom facility.
6. [Toilet Tech Solutions](#) for their innovative urine diversion toilet design.

7. Rodney Haven for his dedication to keeping the restroom facilities in the Portland parks clean and inviting.
8. [Kailash Ecovillage](#) for their steadfast development and implementation of sanitary, community-based composting systems.
9. Carey White for his unwavering efforts and success in keeping sanitary options available to those living in one of the homeless communities.



A second World Toilet Day event was a ribbon-cutting celebrating PHLUSH's incorporation in Washington State. On November 19, PHLUSH supporters gathered at the Tin Brick in Port Townsend on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Guests included local environmental activists, a septic tank specialist, and a representative of a portable restroom business. We all agreed that Port Townsend is a good PHLUSH base as it is a progressive area that is working toward more comprehensive disaster sanitation preparedness and public toilets.

Ribbon cutting to celebrate PHLUSH's incorporation

Join us as we look to the future.

We have been studying sanitation issues in North America for over ten years as an all-volunteer grassroots organization. Our work fills an important niche for cities and communities across the nation. To meet these expanding needs, we are now a fledgling 501c3 ready to fly. Our goals include securing grant and project funding to help us collaborate more effectively with community groups and governmental entities.

We invite you to join us. We are looking for members interested in [volunteering](#) and donors who want to help sustain our organization. Donations by [PayPal](#) or check are tax deductible. We look forward to working towards a brighter future together!

Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human

PHLUSH



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PHLUSH is a World Toilet Organization member and a Sustainable Sanitation Alliance partner.