

2021 Cascadia Blockchain Council

Impact Summary



Cascadia **Blockchain** Council

Powered by  WTIA

Mission Statement

The WTIA Cascadia Blockchain Council is helping blockchain companies from across Cascadia reach their full potential. We serve as the subject matter experts and collective voice to better advocate for constructive public policy and educate key stakeholders, especially policymakers.

We do this by:



Proactively communicating with and engaging all interested blockchain companies and stakeholders.



Creating and maintaining a strong, supportive regulatory environment at the city, state, and federal level.



Producing events to share lessons learned and successful use cases of blockchain technology across the entire economy.



Providing benefits and services designed to support the growth of blockchain companies.



Maintaining an active database of blockchain related companies and activity in Washington state.



Documenting, benchmarking, and publishing blockchain application impacts and outcomes targeted to investors, entrepreneurs, and policymakers.

Steering Committee Members

Arry Yu

Chair of Cascadia
Blockchain Council and
Managing Director,
Yellow Umbrella Ventures

Brigitte Piniewski

Strategic Advisor,
Nex Cubed Fintech

Chris Ingraoo

COO, Lumedic

Cindy Ryu

Washington State
Representative 32nd District

Dr. Joseph Williams

Director, Pacific
Northwest National
Laboratory (PNNL)

Jeff Guas

Founder/CEO,
The Provenance Chain Network

Jennifer Mace

Shareholder, Clark Nuber

Jesse Proudman

CEO, Strix Leviathan

Jill Williamson

Managing Attorney, Gravis Law

Joe Cutler

Partner, Perkins Coie

Joe Honan

Founder at Yunity

Joe Roets

CEO, Dragonchain

Kristy Leigh-Minehan

Advisor, Edge Data Solutions &
ArcherDao

Marco Daoura

Innovation Leader

Mark Mueller-Eberstein

CEO, Adgetec Corporation

Martina Welkhoff

Managing Partner,
Women in XR Fund

Mayor Lynne Robinson

Mayor of City of Bellevue

Michael Schutzler

CEO, WTIA

Michelle O'Connor

CMO, TaxBit

Molly Jones

Vice President of
Public Policy, WTIA

Pamela Dingle

Director of Identity
Standards, Microsoft

Paul Rapino

Leadership Team at
Interwork Alliance

Ray Walia

CEO, Launch Academy

Rex St. John

Jetson Software
Ecosystem, NVIDIA

Richard Wang

CEO, Coding Dojo

Robert Mao

CEO, ArcBlock

Sharon Brown

Washington State Senator,
8th District

Skip Newberry

CEO, Tech Association
of Oregon

Tim Davis

Principal, Deloitte

Thank you to our Steering Committee members,
who met quarterly to help advise on the
Council strategies and initiatives!



Media Coverage

The Cascadia Blockchain Council is a recognized thought leader on blockchain, and this was showcased in the listed media during 2021:

[Robinhood, GameStop frenzy players face Congressional questioning](#)

[Crypto Regulator Sends Strong Signal to Foster Innovation](#)

[The Global Currency is Bitcoin](#)

[Washington state launches center to cater to — and potentially regulate —crypto and fintech companies](#)

[What You Need To Know About Non-Fungible Tokens \(NFTs\)](#)

[WTIA: Fundamentals of Why Bitcoin and AMA \(Ask Me Anything\) with Arry Yu](#)

[New Tech Talk: Fundamentals of Why Bitcoin, Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain](#)

Events

The Council procured a number of educational events during 2021 to help inform the public about new trends, regulations, and innovations in the blockchain sector.

January 21: [Change, Resilience and All About Bitcoin/DeFi](#)

March 17: [WTIA: Fundamentals of Why Bitcoin and AMA \(Ask Me Anything\) with Arry Yu](#)

April 20: [New Tech Talk: Fundamentals of Why Bitcoin, Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain](#)

July 9: [AMA with Maggie Xu, Founder of Metaspace](#)

July 23: [AMA with Alex Mashinsky, CEO of Celsius](#)

August 6: [AMA with Alex Christian, CEO of DataMynt and \\$BYOB](#)

August 10: [Blockchain State Associations Roundtable](#)

August 20: [Ethereum L2+ AMA with Mark Anstead, Co-Founder of Numio](#)

September 3: [Crypto Tax AMA w Jennifer Mace \(Clark Nuber\)](#)

September 17: [OKCoin CEO, Hong Fang AMA](#)

September 24: [AMA w an OG Bitcoiner, Jerry David Chan](#)

October 1: [Crypto Tax AMA with TaxBit](#)

October 8: [Nick Soman, CEO of Decent AMA: The Future is Decentralized](#)

October 15: [Coinme ATM CEO, Neil Bergquist AMA](#)

October 22: [AMA with Jesse Proudman, CEO of Makara](#)

November 5: [Reverse token AMA with Stefan Renton: Head of Product & Sustainability](#)

November 12: [Super Blockchain AMA with @OhGodAGirl](#)

November 19: [Policy AMA with CA's Ally Medina](#)

Podcasts

In 2021, cryptocurrency, blockchain, and bitcoin were some of the most talked-about topics in the tech world. Chair of Cascadia Blockchain Council Arry Yu hosted a number of experts on her podcast to talk about trends and topics related to blockchain.



February 10: [DEFI Panel with Arry Yu and guests, Sam Banman-Fried, Kory Hoang, and Tomasz Wojewoda](#)

February 10: [Bitcoin Fundamentals AMA with WTIA Michael Schutzler](#)

May 26: [Bitcoin Crypto Tax AMA with Patrick Larsen, hosted by Arry Yu](#)

June 6: [DEFI & NFT AMA with Arry Yu and Guests, Ray Monner, Jamiel Sheikh, and Alex Wick](#)

July 7: [NFT AMA w Maggie Xu of MetaSpace](#)

July 27: [AMA with Arry Yu and Guest Alex Mashinsky](#)

September 11: [AMA with Arry Yu and Guest Alex Christian \(DataMynt\)](#)

September 24: [Crypto Tax AMA with Arry Yu and Guest, Jennifer Mace from Clark Nuber](#)

September 26: [AMA with Arry Yu and Guest, Hong Fang, CEO of Okcoin](#)

October 6: [AMA with Arry Yu and Guest, an OG Bitcoiner @Digitsu](#)

October 22: [AMA with Arry Yu and Guest, Nick Soman, Decentralized Healthcare](#)

October 26: [Crypto Tax AMA with Arry Yu and Guests from the TaxBit Team](#)

November 18: [AMA with Arry Yu and Guests, Jesse Proudman, CEO of Makara](#)

November 23: [AMA with Arry Yu and Guest, Stefan Renton, REVERSE Token](#)

November 26: [AMA with Arry Yu and Guest, Kristy-Leigh Minehan, Blockchain Extraordinaire](#)



Activities and Outcomes

Engaging with Policymakers

Identified opportunities to strengthen the blockchain ecosystem in Washington through legislation and advocated for key bills, including creation of a blockchain working group and a verifiable credentials trust framework.

Expanded policymaker education on blockchain and cryptocurrency issues.

Increased thought leadership on blockchain and cryptocurrency priorities in Washington, including through op-eds and blog posts.

Advocated for key priorities at the federal-level in partnership with other blockchain associations.

Led two bills in the legislative session to help grow the blockchain sector in Washington.

Partnering with Government Leader

Strengthened partnerships with policymakers and state regulators, worked with the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) to create the Center for FinTech Information and addressed priorities from Washington's blockchain business community.

Led the WTIA - DFI Town Hall to enable Cascadia Blockchain Council members to discuss priorities directly with the DFI, as well as for DFI to share key regulatory updates.

Coordination with Other States

Proactively coordinated and connected with other states to share best practices, coordinate on national strategy, and find opportunities to work together. There are now more than two dozen states engaged in these conversations.

Cluster Grant

WTIA was one of six organizations awarded a \$550,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce to build technology clusters in the region. WTIA received funding to build an Advanced Technology Cluster in which blockchain will be a prime focus.

Community Building

Grew the Cascadia Blockchain Council Slack group to 900+ members.

Engaged with a number of other states to drive a more coordinated national strategy.

Pilot Projects

Continued to explore how blockchain can support the King County Regional Homelessness Authority for some of their projects and resources.

Connected the American Association for the Blind and the Helen Keller museum to blockchain experts to discuss how non-fungible tokens (NFTs) can be used in their organizations.



Objectives for 2022

Looking ahead to 2022, our priorities will be to:



Form and grow the Advanced Technology Cluster with a focus on blockchain and quantum computing



Create a landscape report on the blockchain industry in Washington with recommendations on how we can increase global competitiveness



Produce more events including panels, workshops, and networking events



Develop startup resources focused on blockchain startups



Build continuing professional education (CPE) curriculum focused on blockchain



Objectives for 2022

Looking ahead to 2022,
our priorities will be to:



Continue working with policymakers and legislators to provide education and recommendations. Related to this, we were able to get three bills included in the 2022 legislative session:

[SB 5544](#) - This Blockchain Working Group bill, sponsored by Senator Sharon Brown, creates a work group to examine applications to grow blockchain technology in Washington state. Members of the work group include a technology trade association, as well as representatives from banking, insurance, and health-care trade associations. The work group is tasked with making recommendations on policies that will facilitate the development of blockchain applications in Washington state, with a report due to the Legislature by December 1, 2023.

[HB 1729](#) - This Blockchain Working Group bill, sponsored by Representative Tana Senn, also creates a blockchain work group. Its goals are the same as SB 5544, and a report is still due to the Legislature by December 1, 2023. The primary difference between this bill and 5544, is that it specifies additional members for the work group, including representatives from the Cascadia Blockchain Council, county governments, public utility districts, and those with experience working with blockchain applications. Sen. Brown and Rep. Senn are working together on these bills.

[SB 5534](#) - This Verifiable Credentials bill, also sponsored by Senator Sharon Brown, requires the Washington State Secretary of State, public universities, WA Tech, Department of Health, and Department of Licensing, by December 1, 2022, to report on which of each agency's programs would be well-suited for use of verifiable credentials. It also requires WA Tech, by October 1, 2022, to establish a process for creating a trust framework for use of verifiable credentials, and the framework is due to the legislature by December 1, 2023.

Thank you to our Sponsors



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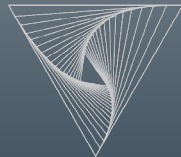
Clark Nuber_{PS}

DRAGON  **CHAIN**



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