

The background of the entire page is a dark blue gradient. On the left side, there is a white network diagram consisting of numerous small circles (nodes) connected by thin white lines. A hand, shown from the side, is pointing its index finger towards one of the nodes in the network. The node being pointed at is glowing with a bright white light, creating a lens flare effect. The text is positioned on the right side of the page.

# 2022 Cascadia Blockchain Council

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## Impact Summary



Cascadia Blockchain Council

Powered by  WTIA

# Mission Statement

The purpose of the WTIA Cascadia Blockchain Council is to help blockchain companies from across the Cascadia region to reach their full potential. We serve as the subject matter experts and collective voice to advocate for constructive public policy and educate key stakeholders, especially policymakers, about blockchain technology and its applications and impact.

## We do this by:



Communicating proactively 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



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



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

# Advanced Technology Cluster



Advanced  
Technology  
Cluster

The Cascadia Blockchain Council is now a part of the WTIA Advanced Technology Cluster, a grant-funded program through the Economic Development Administration and WA State Department of Commerce. The creation of the Cluster is a first step toward helping provide additional support for the expansion of blockchain and related technologies and innovation in the state.

## Events

The Council hosted several educational events during 2021 to inform the public about new trends, regulations, and innovations in the blockchain sector:

**March 29th:** Blockchain GameFi panel

**June 15th:** Verifiable Credentials panel

**June 23rd:** Private dinner for industry leaders and policymakers

**July 22nd:** Networking event for local blockchain stakeholders

**July 28th:** New Dimensions in Cyber Security panel

**September 14th:** Blockchain 101 with the King County Library System

**October 4th:** USBC Blockchain Policy UNconference with other state blockchain associations

**October 20th:** Academia and Blockchain industry roundtable to discuss curriculum development and talent needs

**Nov 1st:** State of Blockchain Town Hall with WA State Department of Financial Institutions

**October 25th:** Tour of Bitfarms Bitcoin Mining facility

**Dec 7th:** Mining roundtable

In addition, Arry Yu, Chair of the Cascadia Blockchain Council and US Blockchain Coalition produced weekly Ask-Me-Anything events, which can be [found here](#).



# Conferences Attended

We spoke at and attended several conferences to provide thought leadership, grow partnerships, and build relationships within the blockchain industry across the U.S.:

Speaker	Attendee
Tech Alliance Policy Summit	Consensys Blockchain Conference
Cascadia FinTech Forum	ETH Seattle
California Municipal Trasurerer's Association Conference	
NFT Seattle	Launchable Web3 Startups
Texas Blockchain Summit	Commerce Chain Summit by Tech Association for Oregon
	Pacific Bitcoin Conference Bitcoin

# Podcast Recordings

In 2022, cryptocurrency, blockchain, and DLT were some of the most talked-about topics in the tech world. Cascadia Blockchain Council Chair Arry Yu hosted numerous experts on her podcast to talk about trends and topic related to blockchain. **Check them out.**

# Steering Committee Members

- Arry Yu**  
Cascadia Blockchain Council  
Chair and Managing Director,  
Yellow Umbrella Ventures
- Brigitte Piniewski**  
Strategic Advisor,  
Nex Cubed Fintech
- Brittany Jarnot**  
Public Policy Manager, WTIA
- Brook Riggio**  
VP of Education, Code Fellows
- Chris Ingrao**  
COO, Lumedic
- Cindy Ryu**  
Washington State  
Representative, 32nd District
- Dana Lawrence**  
Director of Fintech Compli-  
ance, Pacific NW Bank
- Jeff Guas**  
Founder/CEO,  
The Provenance Chain Net-  
work
- Jennifer Mace**  
Shareholder, Clark Nuber
- Jesse Proudman**  
VP of Crypto Investing,  
Bettermint
- Jill Williamson**  
Managing Attorney, Gravis  
Law
- Joe Cutler**  
Partner, Perkins Coie
- Joe Honan**  
Founder at Yunity
- John Bender**  
Lawyer, Corr Cronin
- Kelly Fukai**  
VP of Government and  
Community Affairs, WTIA
- Kristy Leigh-Minehan**  
Advisor, Edge Data Solutions  
& ArcherDao
- Marco Daoura**  
Innovation Leader
- Mark Mueller-Eberstein**  
CEO, Codex
- 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
- Pamela Dingle**  
Director of Identity  
Standards, Microsoft
- Paul Rapino**  
Chief Growth Officer, GBBC
- Ray Walia**  
CEO, Launch Academy
- Rex St. John**  
Founder, ReFi Summit
- Robert Mao**  
CEO, ArcBlock
- Sharon Brown**  
Washington State Senator,  
8th District
- Skip Newberry**  
CEO, Tech Association  
of Oregon
- Sonja Rogneby**  
Data Architect, Expedia  
Group
- Tim Davis**  
Principal, Deloitte

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

# Activities and Outcomes

## Legislative Activities

The purpose of the WTIA Cascadia Blockchain Council is to help blockchain companies from across the Cascadia region to reach their full potential. We serve as the subject matter experts and collective voice to advocate for constructive public policy and educate key stakeholders, especially policymakers, about blockchain technology and its applications and impact.

- [The Blockchain Working Group legislation passed, and the group kicked off in December 2022.](#)
- We responded to Requests for Information from the U.S. Department of Treasury, U.S. Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, U.S. Commerce International Trade Administration, and Washington State Department of Revenue and worked with our industry partners to formulate responses. Our responses are linked below:
  - [U.S. Commerce International Trade Administration](#)
  - [U.S. Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network](#)
  - [U.S. Department of Treasury](#)

- We also coordinated with other state blockchain associations to discuss national strategy and state, regional, and national partnerships.

## Partnering with Government Leader

- We have grown relationships with several legislators and agencies including the WA State Department of Financial Institutions, WA State Department of Commerce, and WA State Department of Revenue.
- We continued to provide education to policymakers and regulatory agencies.
- We offered a Blockchain 101 session at the Technology Alliance Policy Summit.

## Workforce Development

- We produced a roundtable between blockchain industry members and academia that included representatives from University of Washington, Washington State University, Seattle University, Bellevue College, City University, Northeastern University, Peninsula College, Portland State University, Yakima Valley College, and Grays Harbor College.

Other participating workforce partners included Code Fellows, Apprenti, Apprentices.work, and the WA State Workforce Education and Training Board.

- We have had preliminary conversations about providing guest lectures, advisory committee members, and other resources to schools to inform students about opportunities in blockchain.

## Coordination with Other States

- We participated in monthly meetings with the U.S. Blockchain Coalition, a federation of 40+ state blockchain associations.
- We participated in the U.S. Blockchain Coalition Policy UNconference, which brought states together to share best practices, build partnerships, and align strategies.

## Startups

- We produced 99 startup workshops and events in 2022. These events were open to startups in any technology sector, and included representation from several blockchain and web3 startups.
- We accepted eight blockchain startups into our Founder Cohort Accelerator in 2022.

## Community Building

- We were excited to get back to in-person activities in 2022. We attended a number of events and hosted our first in-person networking event since before the pandemic. We look forward to more in-person activities in 2023.
- Additionally, we grew our online community to nearly 1,300 members in the U.S. Blockchain Coalition Slack channel.





# Media Coverage

The Cascadia Blockchain Council is a recognized thought leader on blockchain, as demonstrated by our media presence in 2022 (Note: The below is a representative list and does not include every media mention received):

Date	Publication	Author	Title + Link
8/19/22	VIP Posts	Samuel	<a href="#">A Beginners' Guide To Blockchain Technologies and NFT</a>
7/21/22	Blockchain Magazine	Diana Ambolis	<a href="#">What Is The Importance Of Blockchain Technology Without Cryptocurrency?</a>
7/19/22	The Bharat Express News	Staff	<a href="#">Blockchain Without Crypto: Adopting Decentralized Technology</a>
7/19/22	CoinTelegraph	Francisco Rodrigues	<a href="#">Blockchain without crypto: Adoption of decentralized tech</a>
4/18/22	Mobylak	Staff	<a href="#">Washington state passes new blockchain law</a>
4/10/22	BlockGates.IO	John	<a href="#">New Bill establishes group to recommend policies for blockchain tech in Washington state</a>
4/4/22	Geek Wire	Charlotte Schubert	<a href="#">New Bill establishes group to recommend policies for blockchain tech in Washington state</a>
4/2/22	Crypttheory	Staff	<a href="#">Washington passes bill to accelerate state blockchain adoption</a>
4/1/22	American Crypto Association	Staff	<a href="#">US State Approves Blockchain Initiative Amid Rising Crypto Interest From Local Governments</a>
3/31/22	Last Cryptocurrency	Staff	<a href="#">Washington Governor Signs a Bill to Accelerate In-State Blockchain Adoption</a>
3/31/22	Currency.com	Darius McQuaid	<a href="#">State of Washington sets up State Blockchain Work Group</a>
3/31/22	Crypto Potato	Dimitar Dzhondzhorov	<a href="#">Washington Governor Signs a Bill to Accelerate In-State Blockchain Adoption</a>
3/31/22	The Street Crypto	Sabrina Toppa	<a href="#">Washington State Begins Bill to Study Blockchain Technology</a>
3/31/22	Bitcoin Insider	Dimitar Dzhondzhorov	<a href="#">Washington Governor Signs a Bill to Accelerate In-State Blockchain Adoption</a>
3/31/22	Bitcoin Ethereum News	Staff	<a href="#">Washington Governor Signs a Bill to Accelerator In-State Blockchain Adoption</a>
2/24/22	GeekWire	Taylor Soper	<a href="#">A list of startups in Seattle building crypto, blockchain, and Web3 technologies</a>
1/12/22	StateScoop	Emily Bamforth	<a href="#">Washington state bills push for blockchain group, digital credentials</a>
1/12/2022	Washington News	Emily Bamforth	<a href="#">Washington state bills blockchain group, push for digital credentials</a>
1/11/2022	425 Business	John Stearns	<a href="#">Washington Tech Group Gets \$550K State Grant to Advance Blockchain, Quantum Computing</a>
1/11/2022	San Francisco Tribe	Staff	<a href="#">Blockchain Adoption In Washington State Is On The Rise As It Passes Blockchain Bill 5544</a>
1/11/2022	GeekWire	Taylor Soper	<a href="#">Washington state Dept. of Commerce commits \$3M for 'Innovation Cluster Accelerator'</a>

# Objectives for 2023

-  Participate in the Washington state Blockchain Working group to drive recommendations for the 2024 legislative session
-  Develop Continuing Professional Education resources related to blockchain
-  Produce in-person networking and panel events
-  Continue to build relationships with and provide education for policymakers and regulatory agencies
-  Grow our partnerships, especially with other state blockchain associations to influence more national strategy
-  Support academic institutions by providing guest lectures, advisory committee members, and other resources to help with curriculum development and inform students about opportunities in blockchain

# Contact Us

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