

Vashon MakerSpace Annual Report 2022



Vashon MakerSpace is a 501(c)(3) serving the Vashon Island community with three operating units; Vashon Tool Library, Vashon MakerSpace, and Vashon Fix-It Café.



Mission Statement:

The Vashon MakerSpace empowers the Vashon community to promote sustainable and equitable practices by providing access to shared resources and learning.

Letter from Board

To our community -

2022 was a year of major growth and accomplishment for our organization. From developing the Vashon Library Coalition to building our first ever physical MakerSpace, we have used every tool in our toolbox this year!

The Vashon MakerSpace is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that runs three programs: The Vashon Tool Library, the Vashon Fix-It Cafe, and the Vashon MakerSpace. We are entirely volunteer-run by committed community members who are truly interdisciplinary. Our board members are also our builders, our fixers, our teachers, and our tool librarians (affectionately known as the “Toolies”). We need and seek additional board and committee members and welcome your involvement in this vibrant organization.

In 2022, we led the formation of Vashon’s first library coalition, gathering representatives from eight different lending institutions to celebrate International Library Week on April 3-10 2022. Thanks to the support of Vashon Events, there’s now a webpage with information on all eight libraries! <https://www.vashonevents.org/the-library-coalition>

Our volunteers borrowed the tools and put in many months of physical labor and expertise to help Vashon Care Closet finish constructing their two new sheds and deck in early spring.

In July, once again, the Vashon Tool Library Drill Team marched in the Strawberry Festival Parade, sounding off the benefits of fixing, borrowing, and reusing while celebrating two ethics: “tools rule” and “tools are cool”.

Thanks to additional space from the Open Space for Arts and Community, we completed a fifty percent expansion of the Tool Library with increased safety elements and much needed additional storage space.

Letter from Board

We participated in the Annual Repair Summit in Dec 2022 sponsored by Zero Waste Washington, a spinoff of the first Pacific NW regional Tool Library Conference held at Mukai Farm and Gardens here on Vashon and organized by our own founder, Steve Graham in 2019. The Repair Economy Hylo platform is the new collaboration tool.

We completed the new MakerSpace Classroom, next to the Tool Library, constructing walls, benches, tables, lighting and opened by offering several new sewing, spoon carving and other classes. Thanks to Tom Bangasser for donating the modular walls, Open Space for the space and all the volunteers that built it.

The sharing economy is what drives our organization and helps us achieve our mission of empowering sustainability and equity through accessible resources and learning. We welcome and need your help in building a vibrant Vashon community.

The board tanks our volunteers, supporters and donors for all the help and support.

Board Members:

Alexander Giron, President
Michael Sperazza, Treasurer
Steve Jones, Secretary
Michelle Lassaline,
Neil Wiesblott
Steven Bergman
Kevin Grayum
Louis Webster

Tool Library Report: Borrow It!

The Tool Library is the largest of our operating units, and our first program that started in 2014. After extensive research, we believe it is the largest rural tool library in the USA (perhaps because most of them are urban fixtures)!

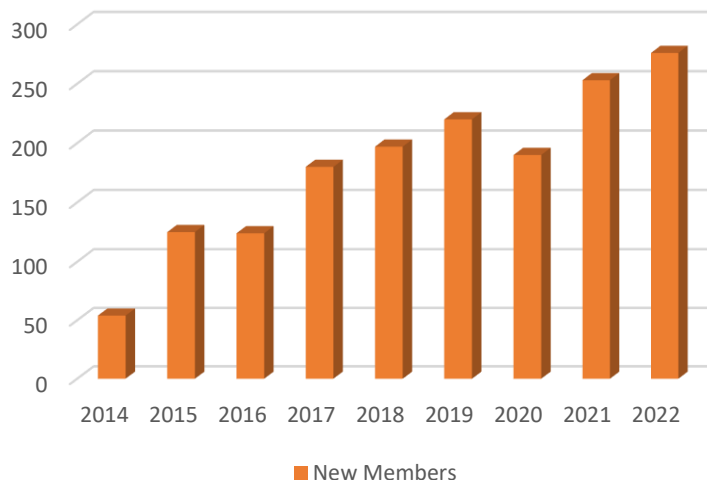
Our inventory includes over 1500 tools, all viewable on our website. In the past year member loans included over 700 different tools, totaling over 3,000 loans.

With generous support from Open Space for Arts and Community and tool donations from community members, we expanded the Tool Library footprint by over 50% to increase safety and manage our growth. Thanks to our volunteers for repairing lots of tools and remodeling the tool library footprint.

Throughout the COVID pandemic we were mostly able to still keep our 12 hours of weekly operation to serve the community. This was accomplished by moving our tool pickup location to the side loading dock. Thanks to our team of volunteers donating over 1,600 hours to keep the Tool Library open three days a week.



Photo: April Tool Sale

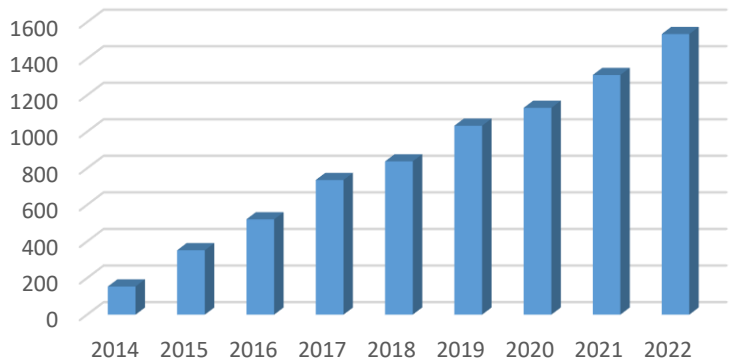


New memberships initially dipped during the first year of COVID, but has returned to a growth pattern with a record of 276 new members in 2022.

Tool Library Report: Borrow It!

In 2022 we continued to increase the diversity of tools available. Expanding battery operated tools, improving tool quality and our maintenance programs will be our focus in the coming year.

Active Inventory



Top 10 loaned Tool Groups in 2022

Chainsaws	142
Pressure Washers	134
Weed Wrench	115
Electric Hedge Trimmers	94
Table Saws	94
Garden Tools	82
Quick Grip Clamp	80
Bits, Drivers and Accessories	77
Electric Leaf Blower	76
Corded Trimmers	64



The Tool Library continues to grow in 2022 with member loans totaling 3,787 over 756 different tools.

Fix-It Café Report: Fix-It!

Fix-It Café has been operating since March of 2017 focusing on the repair and reuse of items, thus diverting them from landfills. These fifteen Fix-It Café events were staffed by members of the Vashon Tool Library and other community volunteers that act as fixers or instructors to help community members repair items for continued use. In 2022 we held three Fix-It Cafes, repairing 111 items and diverting over 1,400 pounds from the landfill. Events are typically in-person to enhance community exchange and sharing of knowledge. However, due to COVID, we held events that were limited in-person, drop off fixes, and zoom advice to assist folks to fix their own items.



Photo: Dennis Chien working on home electronics at the Eagles

The Vashon Fix-It Café's are hosted by the Vashon Eagles Aerie # 3144 and Vashon Island Time Exchange, with support from the King County Eco-Consumer Program and Zero Waste Vashon.

Over the past year three Fix-It events had volunteer fixers contributed over 300 hours to help repair a wide variety of items including lamps, vacuums, small home electronics, lawnmowers, sewing machines and fabric repair.



Photo: MaryEllen Walker sewing a fabric repair

MakerSpace Report: Learn It!

The MakerSpace unit has the vision of offering classes on a wide range of tool use topics and possibility offering workspace for community use. In the last three years the MakerSpace has started with the class offerings in woodworking, chainsaw safety, fly casting, and shed building.

In early 2021 we conducted a survey to assess community interests in courses and having access to workspace. The overall response was very positive.

Class topics with the strongest interest included woodworking, metal working, home repair and fabric

arts. Respondents showed similar interest in workspace for these topics.



In early 2022, the Vashon MakerSpace Board began the buildout of our very first physical MakerSpace Classroom. Located inside of the O2 warehouse at Open Space, our new 680sq. ft. multi-use classroom is powered up and illuminated, and stocked with donated tools. Resulting from the efforts of our volunteers the space is lined with custom made maple-edged workbenches and work tables. This major step forward in our organization was made possible by the many thoughtful and riveting discussions of our board members, the countless hours of labor and craftsmanship of our volunteers.

In addition to the generous support from Open Space for Arts & Community, and our collective underlying belief in a shared economy and equitable learning on Vashon Island the project was able to move forward.

MakerSpace Report: Learn It!

Our MakerSpace Classroom has already hosted two router seminars taught by Kevin Grayum, a hand tool class by Erik Mortensen, a greenwood spoon carving class by Brendan McGarry, and the first session of a series of classes in Sewing Basics by Michelle Lassaline. During the first sewing class topics included the operation and maintenance of sewing machines and basic sewing techniques. More advanced classes are already being planned.



Photo: Spoon carving class

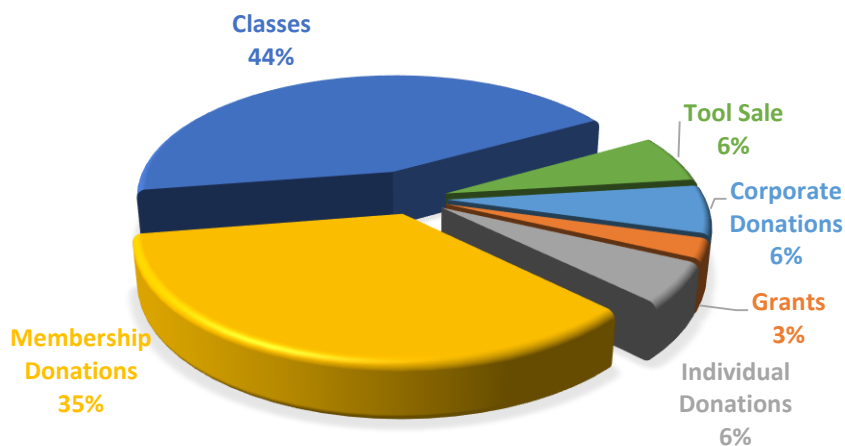
In 2023 we hope to expand our programming to offer more frequent classes in a broad range of subjects from home repairs to tool use and maintenance. Our organization is thrilled to have made such giant steps toward expanding our educational offerings to the community through scholarships and classes for varying skill levels and interests.

Additionally, we have established several workgroups to determine need and viability of obtaining space for some community studio / workspaces.

Financial Report:

The consolidated financial summary of the MakerSpace units show that our primary support is now from our MakerSpace education programs, a tremendous increase from only 1% of last year's income. While the impact of our retained earnings is less due to class expenses, it still represents a significant expansion of our services to the community. Income from classes is expected to increase in the coming years as the MakerSpace expands educational programs. Donations (individual or corporate) and grants to the Tool Library still contribute the dominate portion of our bottom line. A small amount of income is generated from the sale of excess and surplus tools. In 2022 membership donations increased over the prior year as membership continues to grow.

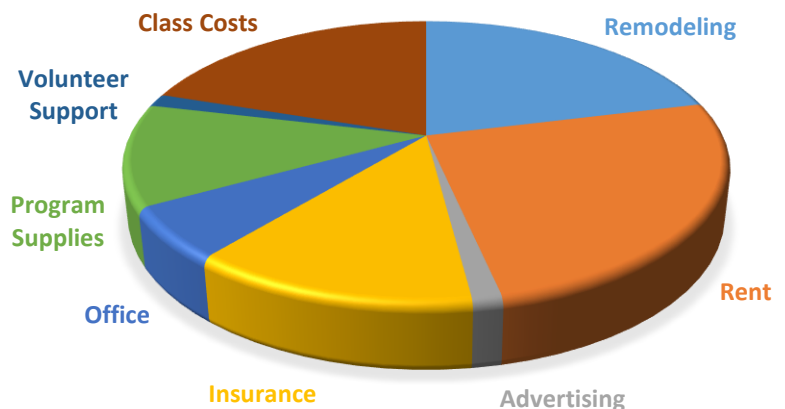
INCOME



Income data does not include a dollar value of tools donated to the Tool Library or the MakerSpace. Gross income for all MakerSpace programs was \$39,350 for the year.

Expenses are dominated by rent costs and support for the programs. Remodeling costs are associated with the MakerSpace Classroom buildout and included a number of safety upgrades for the Tool Library. Spending on tool purchases from our budget was down do to the tool purchases from grants received and tool donations from our members.

EXPENSES



Volunteers:

The core of the success of the MakerSpace programs is our volunteers, without them we cannot proceed. As an all volunteer organization nothing can get done without them. Our volunteers fill needs for tool librarians, fixers, educators, organizers and board members. COVID has added new challenges to serving the community, but our volunteers stepped up to keep the operations of the Tool Library at our normal hours. MakerSpace Classroom was planned, built, and started offering classes, while the Fit-It Café was offered at a slightly reduced schedule.

We would like to recognize those that volunteered time and energy to keep our service to the community.

Tool Library 2022

Sara	Barry
David	Becker
Steve	Bergman
Bob	Blauvelt
Forest	Boyd
Creighton	Chamberlain
Nate	Clark
Brian	Cox
Stephen	Dockter
Dennis	Drewes
Will	Firch
Alex	Giron
Hannah	Hirse Korn
Liz	Illg
Steve	Jones
Dave	Kearney
Niall	King
Michael	Koetje
Michelle	Lassaline
Nan	Leiter
Roger	Leverette
Cliff	Marks
Stacey	Peyer
Adam	Schofield
Michael	Sperazza
Brian	Tvedt
Ray	Weber
Louis	Webster
Mike	Weller
Neil	Wiesblott

Fix-It Café 2022

Tim	Baer
Steve	Bergman
Justin	Brandimarte
Dennis	Chien
Bryan	Cox
Lou	Fezio
Alex	Giron
Amy	Greenberg
Hannah	Hirse Korn
Liz	Illg
Roger	Leverette
Michael	Ligrano
Will	Lockwood
Amy	Morrison
Kim	Nelson
Cynthia	Padget
Deborah	Perpetua
Robert	Piston
Dan	Schueler
Terry	Sullivan
Kate	Thompson
Brian	Tvedt
Mary Ellen	Walker
Louis	Webster
Neil	Wiesblott

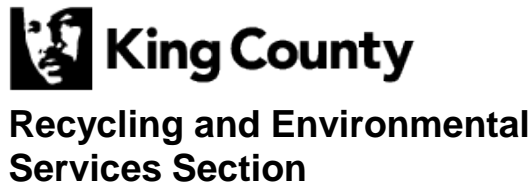
MakerSpace 2022

Steve	Bergman
Brian	Cox
Alex	Giron
Kevin	Grayum
Liz	Illg
Steve	Jones
Michelle	Lassaline
Roger	Leverette
Brendan	McGarry
Eric	Mortenson
Adam	Schofield
Michael	Sperazza
Ray	Weber
Louis	Webster
Lori	Weed
Neil	Wiesblott



Community Partners:

The MakerSpace units, Vashon Tool Library, Fix-It Café, and MakerSpace Classroom, collaborate and support many other Vashon community groups. These relationships benefit each of the groups and community as a whole. The MakerSpace units have shared knowledge, surplus equipment, provided physical labor, and expanded tool inventory to support partner programs.



Vashon Eagles