

Grandpa's Garage

Roadmap for today's conversation

Motivation

History

Grants

Plans

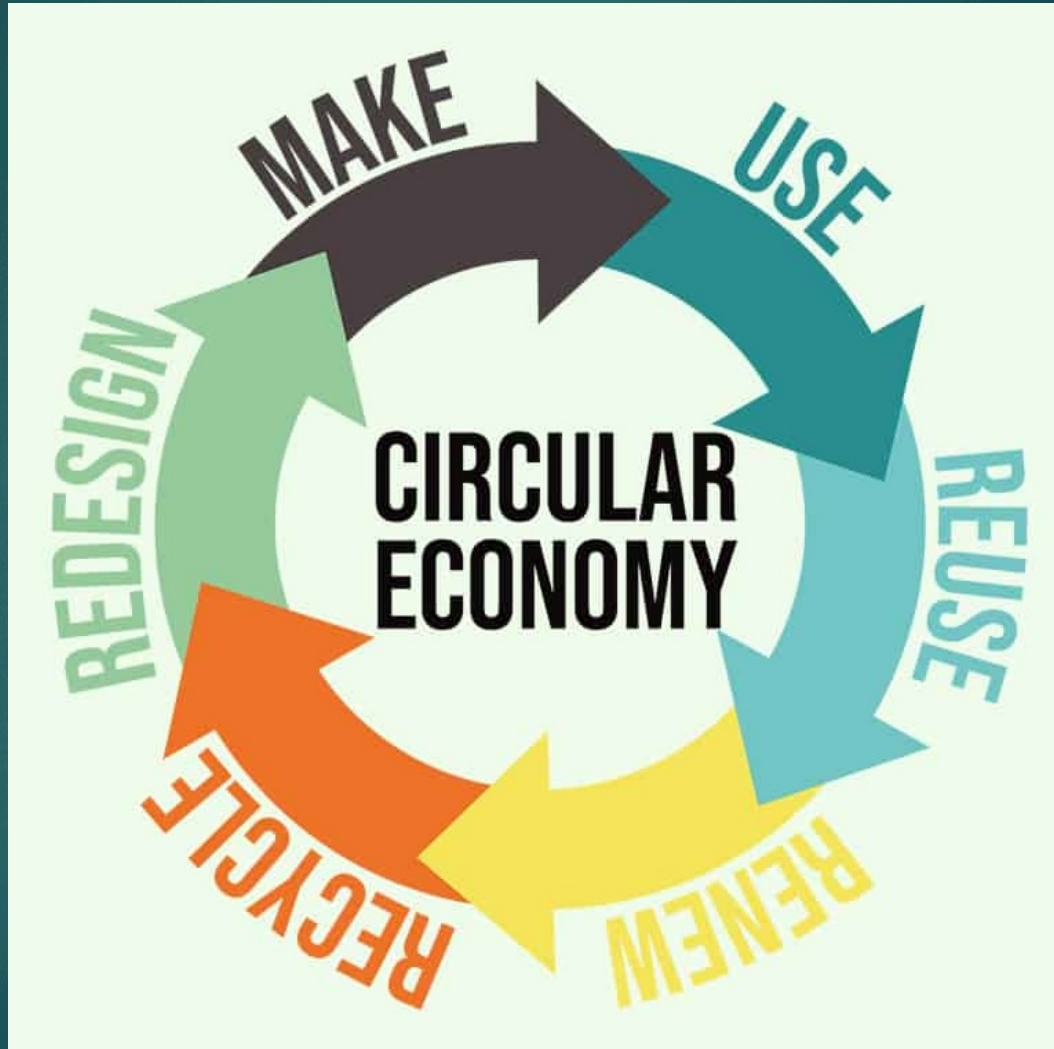
Community
Help



The Big Picture - why

The single biggest thing I learned was from an indigenous elder of Cherokee descent, Stan Rushworth, who reminded me of the difference between a Western settler mindset of "I have rights" and an indigenous mindset of "I have obligations." Instead of thinking that I am born with rights, I choose to think that I am born with obligations to serve past, present, and future generations, and the planet herself.

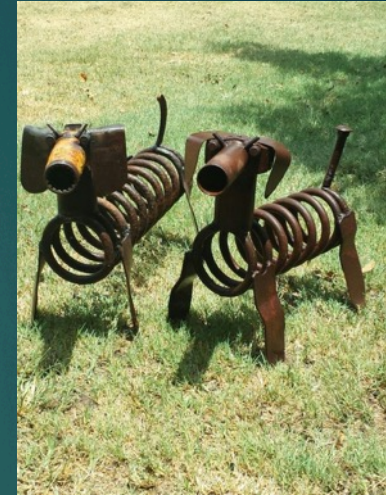
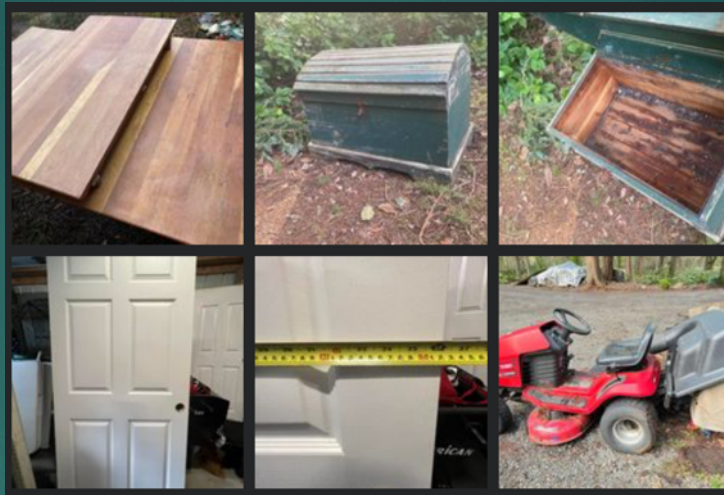
The Big Picture - why



Vashon's #1 Export Is Garbage



Our Community is Creative



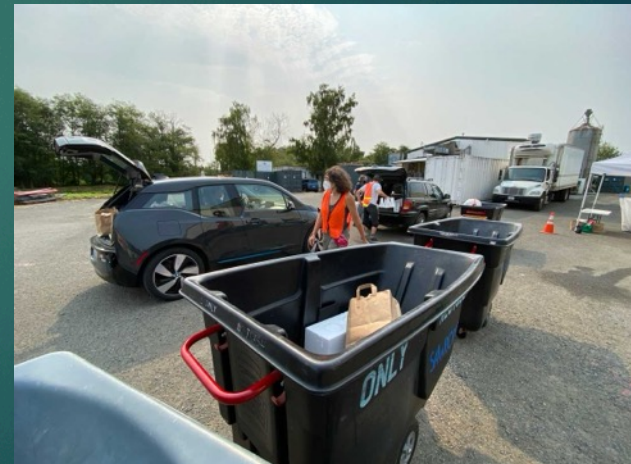
Some used items find new life in art projects. Others can be reused in construction and remodeling

Our Community Wants Solutions

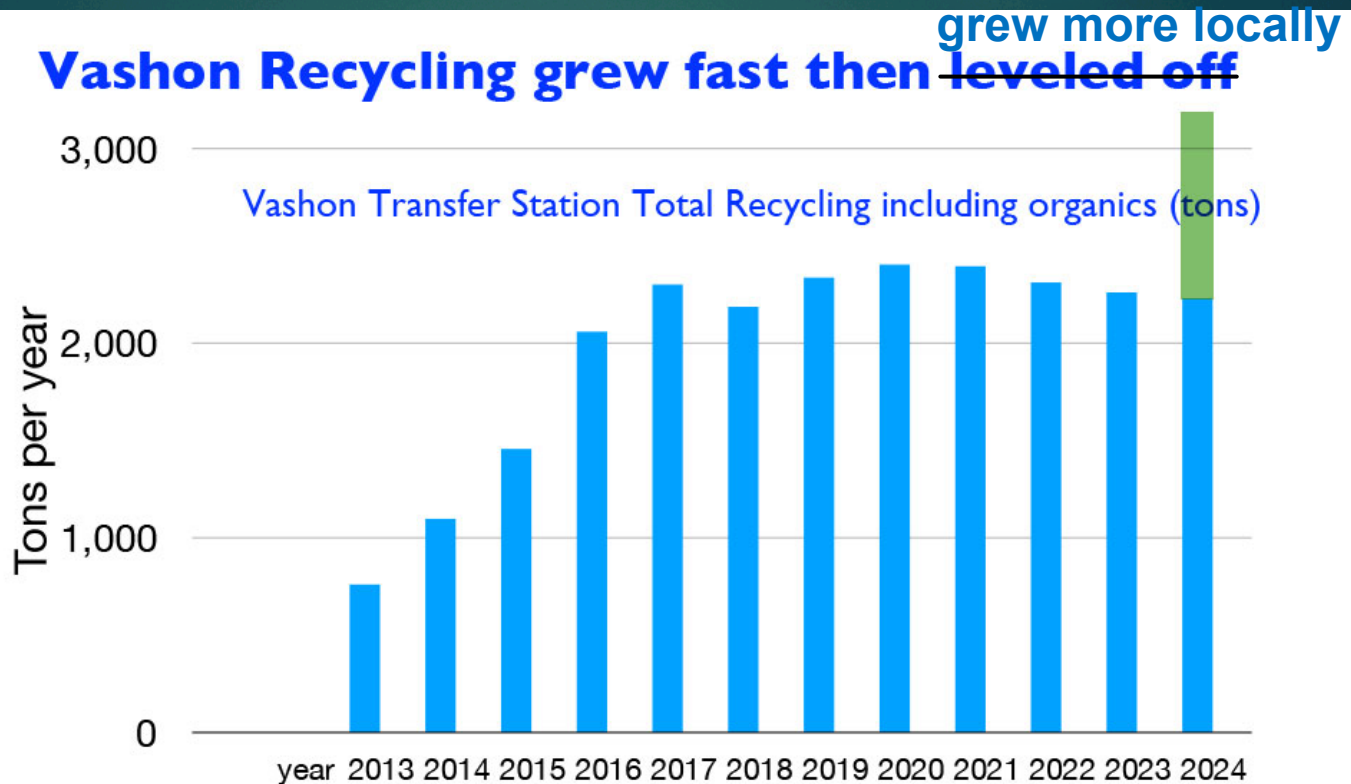


Zero Waste Vashon has collected over 5 tons per year of electronic waste from the island for the past 7 years.

The Sunday Styrofoam and Plastics program was exceptionally popular. Serving hundreds of Vashon households and also businesses, it helped keep several tons of plastic out of the landfill every month. Ridwell now collects these hard to recycle items.



ZWV Works to Provide Solutions



Strong local support-

no drop charge (except organics) yet plateau started 2020, and COVID hit.
Formerly to Recology MRF for separation & recycling; organics to Cedar Grove.

(does not include Murrey's Disposal curbside commingled blue bin data, approx. 500-700 tons/yr, ZWV programs/events, or Ridwell) (in green)

Data source-King County Solid Waste (2025)

Research

ZWV visited and investigated several communities and stores in WA state to look at how they were addressing the issue of building materials waste.

- ▶ **Sequim - Around Again**
- ▶ **Lopez Island - Take It Or Leave It (TIOLI)**
- ▶ **San Juan Island - Community Treasure**
- ▶ **Leavenworth/Cashmere – Eastside Rebuild**

Around Again



TIOLI - Take It Or Leave It



Eastside Rebuild



Eastside Rebuild

- ▶ Started in April 2024 in Cashmere, WA. Open 4 days a week.
- ▶ The non-profit's focus is repurposing constructionware to keep it out of the landfill.
- ▶ In 2024 they reported 20 tons diverted, 194 material donors, 1,527 store visitors.
- ▶ Also salvage, repair workshops, and run a tool library.
- ▶ <https://www.wasteloop.org/eastside-rebuild>

A common thread with all of these facilities: they serve a larger purpose than just being thrift stores.

- ▶ Offer employment and training
- ▶ Focused on social equity and returning value to the community
- ▶ Help reduce our carbon footprint, turning waste into resource, and support a circular economy
- ▶ Many started out small and often were an offshoot of a larger plan
- ▶ Many ways to measure success



On Vashon?

- ▶ Vashon currently has several entities that are part of the confluence of the circular repair and reuse economy.
- ▶ Parts of this ecosystem are:
 - ▶ Granny's Attic
 - ▶ Zero Waste Vashon – Dish library
 - ▶ The Tool Library/Makerspace/Fix-It Café
 - ▶ Ridwell

On Vashon?

- ▶ Commercial enterprises on Vashon also are part of this repair and reuse economy
 - ▶ Vashon Estate Sales
 - ▶ Treasure Island
- ▶ Many Vashon businesses are active recyclers
- ▶ What is not being addressed and what can we do about it?

Reusable Building Material Stores

- ▶ **Bellingham, The RE Store**
<https://re-store.org>
- ▶ **Second Use**
 - ▶ <https://www.seconduse.com>
- ▶ **Ballard Reuse**
 - ▶ <https://ballardreuse.com>
- ▶ **Earthwise**
 - ▶ <https://ewsalvage.com>
- ▶ **Habitat for Humanity**
 - ▶ <https://www.habitat.org>

Reusable Building Materials Store



Reusable Building Materials Store

- ▶ What materials?
 - ▶ Accept the kinds of materials one might find on a construction or deconstruction site, including doors, windows, cabinetry, fixtures, flooring and tile overages, lumber, and perhaps, even some appliances.
 - ▶ Must be in good, clean, reusable condition.
 - ▶ Flooring, tile, etc. should be enough for finishing a small room (100 sq ft minimum)
 - ▶ Items should be currently in demand. Cabinets and flooring sell well.

Reusable Building Materials Store

Other bits of advice we've received:

- ▶ Size the store according to demand
- ▶ Start out small with limited hours until momentum builds.
- ▶ Keep costs low to keep prices low
- ▶ Volunteers will help make this happen
- ▶ Adjust seasonally, furniture sells during fall/winter
- ▶ Grow to meet community demands

2026 – Grants



King County

CalendarEnglish

HOME / NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS / PROGRAMS / RE+ (ZERO WASTE) / RE+ (ZERO WASTE) GRANTS

Re+ (zero waste) grants

King County offers funding opportunities for non-profits, businesses, entrepreneurs, educational institutions, and local governments to support innovative projects that further King County's commitment to zero waste of resources by 2030.

A photograph showing two people standing in a large warehouse or industrial space. They are surrounded by numerous cardboard boxes, some of which are open and filled with various items, including what appears to be clothing. The setting suggests a recycling or reuse facility.

Ravel

Ravel's innovative technology will transform end-of-life clothing into like-new textiles

Chomp

Chomp has provided biofertilizer from their food waste processing plant to over 25 farms in King County, including the Matsuda

CONTACT

Circular grants

Phone: [206-477-4563](tel:206-477-4563)

TTY Relay: 711

[Send us an email](#)

The Re+ logo, featuring the letters "Re" in green and a plus sign in pink, all enclosed within a pink circular border.

Feasibility study to evaluate if a Reused Building Materials Store could successfully operate on Vashon Island and divert reusable materials from landfill.

Re+ Seed Grant

- ▶ 6-month award from March 11, 2026 to Sept. 11, 2026
- ▶ Requirements:
 - ▶ Develop core team
 - ▶ Host reuse collection event
 - ▶ Waste stream characterization at transfer station
 - ▶ Contractor survey, site selection, infrastructure research,
 - ▶ Community engagement and public input
 - ▶ Full business plan
 - ▶ Final feasibility report

Re+ Seed Grant

- ▶ Core Teams created for:
 - ▶ Business
 - ▶ Quantification
 - ▶ Contractor survey
 - ▶ Location
 - ▶ Community engagement and public input
 - ▶ Consultant hired to develop full business plan and prepare a final feasibility report

Re+ Seed Grant - Business



Re+ Seed Grant Business

- ▶ Seek a consultant for feasibility and business plans
- ▶ Funding
- ▶ Administration
- ▶ Many parts need to come together
 - ▶ Feasibility
 - ▶ Lease
 - ▶ Manager and assistant
 - ▶ Volunteer Coordinator
 - ▶ Insurance
 - ▶ Equipment
 - ▶ Bookkeeping, Accounting, Payroll
 - ▶ Inventory

Re+ Seed Grant

► Quantification

- Vashon Recycle and Transfer Station (VRTS)
- Collection Events
- Facebook Buy Nothing study
- Realtor input

Re+ Seed Grant

► **Quantification** – VRTS survey

- Steve Bergman and Nancy O'Connor on April 25, 2026 from 10:30AM-3PM, stopping 173 cars.
- Will Lockwood and Michael Laurie on May 8, 2026 from 10:00AM-4:30 PM, stopping 225 cars.
- Survey coming in October from KCSW Cascadia Consulting



Re+ Seed Grant

► Quantification – Collection Events



Re+ Seed Grant

► **Quantification** – Collection Events

- Partnered with Second Use Seattle. Filled 2 trucks at each 5-hour event.
- September 7, 2025: Total of 129 items
- April 25, 2026: Total of over 60 items

Re+ Seed Grant

- ▶ **Quantification** – Facebook Buy Nothing Group
 - ▶ Analysis of 11.5 weeks in 3 intervals over a 9-month period (from 11/25 to 7/26)
 - ▶ Average of 18 items listed per week (ave. price \$48)
 - ▶ Wide diversity of items- filling 14 of 17 categories
 - ▶ Total asking price value of 392 items=\$8390 (average \$21/item)

Re+ Seed Grant

► Quantification – Realtor feedback



Re+ Seed Grant

- ▶ **Quantification** – Realtor feedback
 - ▶ 3 top island realtors contacted
 - ▶ During the last several years, >165-200 homes have changed hands every year.
 - ▶ Many sellers live off island, and locals usually have less than 30 days to clean out the property.
 - ▶ Realtor-related sources of materials could form a significant volume of materials with a good collection service.

Re+ Seed Grant

► **Contractor Survey**

- 9 island-based contractors contacted
- Eight said they would welcome an alternative to landfilling good, reusable items
- Several have customers that are open to using salvaged materials
- Site pickup welcomed, if well-organized
- According to Eastside Rebuild, contractors are responsible for almost all of their premium content
- If you have a contractor friend that we should contact, let us know.

Re+ Seed Grant

► **Community Survey**

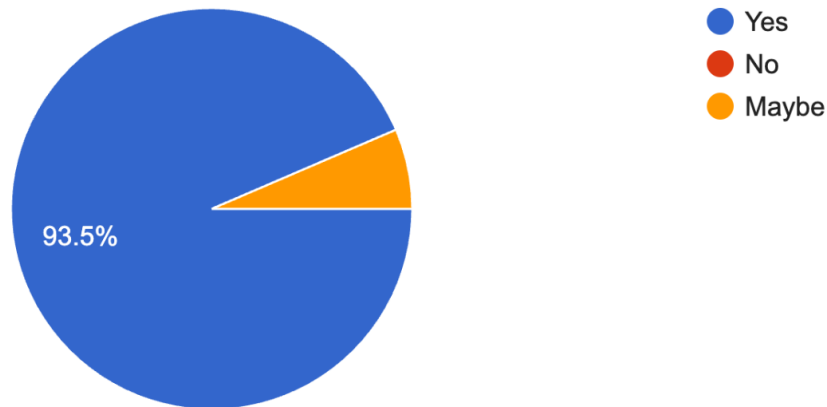
- Conducted across 4 primary Facebook groups and via a poster campaign in town
- Almost all respondents said they would welcome an alternative to landfilling good, reusable items
- Reduced environmental impact the most important reason for shopping at a reuse store
- Results posted on the website

Re+ Seed Grant

► Community Survey

1) Would you use a local, used building materials store?

62 responses

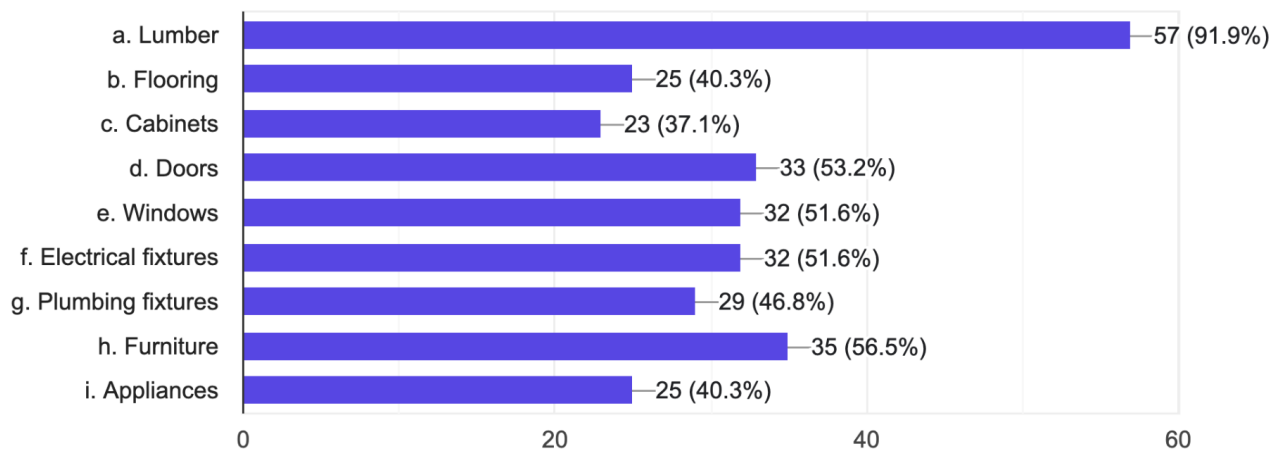


Re+ Seed Grant

► Community Survey – 62 responses

4) What materials might you interested in?

62 responses



Re+ Seed Grant

▶ **Locations**

- ▶ Seven locations considered

▶ **Final decision** - former Food Bank buildings (main building and office) at Sunrise Ridge

- ▶ Available
- ▶ Reasonable rent
- ▶ Room to grow
- ▶ History - Sunrise Ridge was old Granny's Attic location
- ▶ Adequate parking and truck access

And then...

The Circular Lumber Grant

Circular Lumber Grant

- ▶ Announced mid-May with June 12th submit date
- ▶ EPA funds administered by King County
- ▶ The funding, provided through the County's [Climate Pollution Reduction program](#), is aimed at supporting and growing markets for wood waste diversion, deconstruction, wood salvage, product development and reuse, or business development in these fields.
- ▶ Grant funding continues through December 2028
- ▶ Awards were announced at the end of July 2026. Grandpa's Garage is one of 11 recipients

Circular Lumber Grant

- ▶ **Zero Waste Vashon is announced as an awardee!**
- ▶ The Grandpa's Garage project is approved by the ZWV board
- ▶ \$170K grant covers salaries, equipment, and administrative expenses through Dec 2028
- ▶ Currently getting the contract set up with KCSW
- ▶ ZWV will be paying the rent until sales can cover it
- ▶ Now what?!

Circular Lumber Grant

Project Milestones from our Circular Lumber grant application:

Milestone	Start Date	End Date
Facility and storage prep, inventory accrual, and administration setup	Oct 2026	Jan 2027
Store opens, start collections at facility and then at building sites	Feb 2027	Dec 2028
Create space for large furniture items. Deconstruction training.	Aug 2027	Oct 2027
Furniture repair and refinishing classes added	Oct 2027	Winter activity thru 12/28
Deconstruction added to services	Jan 2028	Dec 2028
Store hours increased to 3 days/week	Mar 2028	Dec 2028

Grandpa's Garage - Business



Grandpa's Garage - Business

- ❖ ZWV focus has shifted to setting up a new pilot project
- ❖ The key tasks ahead:
 - ❖ Hiring a manager and assistant
 - ❖ Volunteer coordinator
 - ❖ Equipment purchasing
 - ❖ Setting up bookkeeping, accounting, payroll
 - ❖ Space development
 - ❖ Accruing inventory
- ❖ Community Outreach

Grandpa's Garage



We would not have gotten this far without a lot of help and advice from the reuse community in WA state.

Grandpa's Garage



A special thanks to:

Second Use Seattle – Calyn Hostetler

Eastside Rebuild – Luke Dixon

Granny's Attic – Brian Vescovi

Sunrise Ridge Association – Jim Hauser

Vashon Tool Library – Alex Giron

Vashon Estate Sales – Mike Urban

Ballard Reuse – Pat Finn

Zero Waste Washington – Heather Trim

Triangle Associates – Ariahna Jones

Grandpa's Garage



**A very special thanks to the teams that
helped make this happen!**

Nancy O'Connor

Alex Giron

Kristin Harrison

Steve Bergman

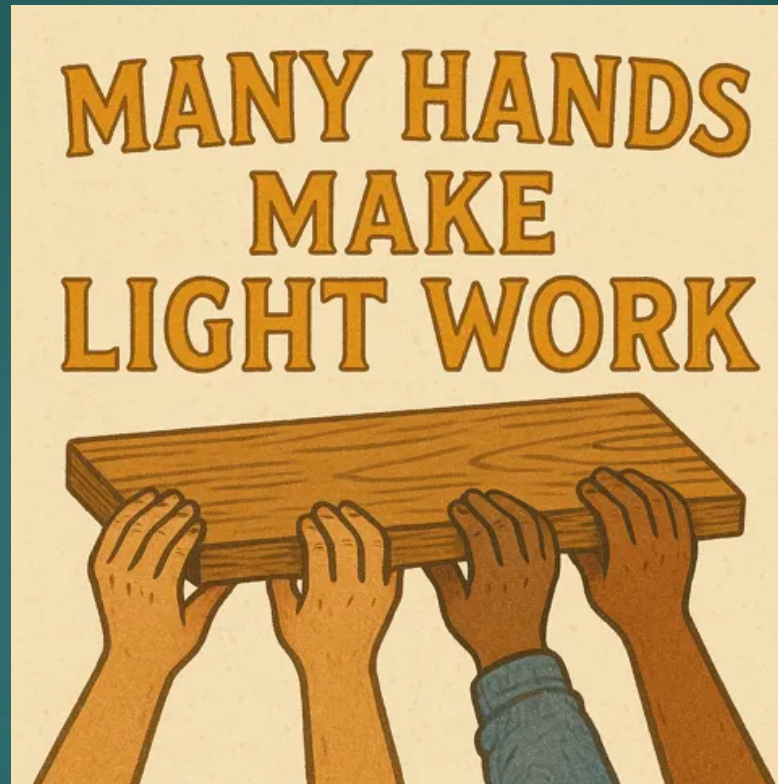
Jamie Dulfer

Colin Hanowell

Ben Slaughter

Andrea Walker

Grandpa's Garage



This will need a team effort. How can you help make this happen?

Grandpa's Garage



- ❖ **Startup** – October 2026 through January 2027
- ❖ **Help needed for:**
 - ❖ Facility Prep - cleaning, painting, building shelves and racks.
 - ❖ October Pre-opening Party/Collection Event
 - ❖ Collection-only days
 - ❖ Intake: Donated materials will need to be clean, priced, photo input into system, & placed on sales floor

Grandpa's Garage



- ❖ **Operations** – February 2027 on
- ❖ **Help needed:**
 - ❖ Assist in store on open days starting February 2027
 - ❖ Behind the scenes tasks on non-open days
 - ❖ Volunteer Coordinator
 - ❖ Communications outreach

Grandpa's Garage

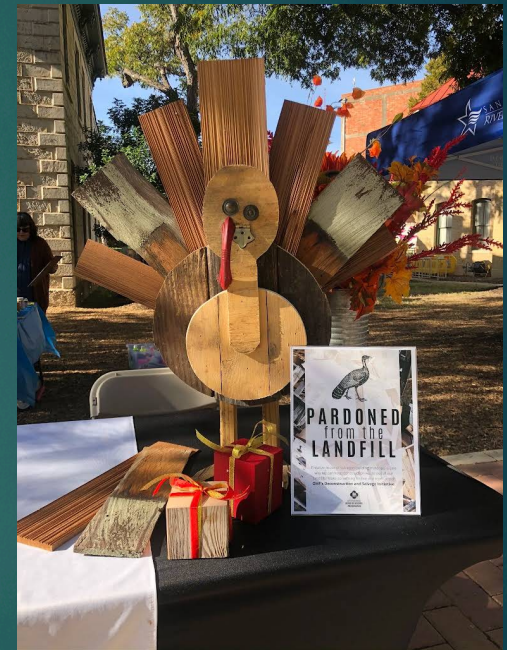


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Grandpa's Garage

- ❖ What day of the week are you most likely to shop?
- ❖ What time during the day are you most likely to shop?
- ❖ What skills can you offer to get the space ready?
- ❖ What would make it easy and useful to donate materials, shop, and participate?
- ❖ How could you or others in the community help Grandpa's Garage succeed?

Grandpa's Garage



Imagine what could grow from these seeds



Thank You

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