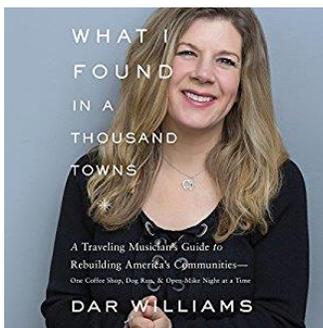


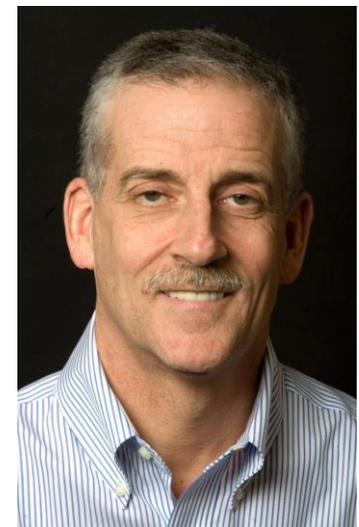
I had an opportunity to meet with Rufus Woods to discuss the [CiVIL Project](#), a joint effort led by the Wenatchee Diversity Advisory Council in partnership with the Wenatchee World. Having a conversation with Rufus is always exhilarating, often inspirational, never boring, and this one was no exception. Of late, he's been very focused on a "community first" initiative that dovetails very nicely with the CiVIL Project that was initiated by the City of Wenatchee's Diversity Advisory Council. Be sure to check out his [Art of Community website](#) for a glimpse into his thoughts on civic engagement. When I'm lucky enough to get Rufus' undivided attention, the first question I like to ask is, "What's your next big thing?" Eighty percent of the people that you talk to might be stumped by that question, but that's never the case with Mr. Woods, because he's ALWAYS got 'the next big thing' on his mind. Asking the question is like using a kid's wind-up race car. The question is the wind up, set him down, and then off he goes!



Since the CiVIL Project was already on his mind, he immediately brought up a book that has been HIS most recent inspiration, "[What I Found In A Thousand Towns](#)" by Dar Williams. The author, a singer-songwriter, has spent her career playing music in small towns around the country, and in the course of her travels has gained valuable insights on why some small towns flourish, while others fail. Most importantly, she doesn't just share her insights, she offers some real solutions for supporting and rebuilding communities just like ours. As we discussed communities and what the [CiVIL Project](#) is all about. It

became clear that the path to CiVIL Discourse is through creating community and to create community, we all must strive to PARTICIPATE in that community. Yes, it's probably a shock, but it's true...communities don't just "happen", people **work** to make them happen. That work is often a labor of love, because people want to have a vibrant downtown, an art walk, music in the park, a harvest festival, kids' recreational sports teams, and every other event and activity you can possibly think of that is run by....you guessed it, volunteer community members.

If you're on the 'volunteer circuit' you've come to expect to see the same faces volunteering and organizing our community events. If you're a participant, you may see those faces and be thankful that they are willing to help. But maybe it's time to take that thought one step further and wonder how YOU can help. Aw snap, yep, there it is. Turns out that there's nothing magical about building a community. All it takes is a bunch of community-minded people. Also, there is no "community-minded" or "volunteer" gene either. Well, actually maybe there is, but we all already have it. We just need to switch it to ON.



So here's your call to action. The next time you're at an event you like, find the organizer and tell them you'd like to help. Imagine if every single person in our community donated one hour per month to a cause they loved. Really..., one hour per MONTH...you most likely spent more time than that staring at your phone TODAY! All those hours, dedicated to building fantastic, community-oriented

activities right here in Wenatchee. Think of the people you'd meet, the goodwill you would spread, and the example we would be modeling for the next generation! So on second thought, maybe a community IS magically created. People become community-minded individuals, then the community appears!

Wondering where you can find out more about volunteer opportunities in our community? Check out [Non Profit Day at Pybus Public Market!](#)