

# Thomas Bruner

A nationally-recognized leader in building and repositioning complex mission-focused organizations and foundations, mobilizing communities to respond to urgent issues and needs, and marshalling the resources of the public, private and social sectors.

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Bruner Strategies, LLC, Portland, Oregon — *President***

Consulting firm helping businesses and organizations in five states and three countries do great work. Practice areas include financial development, leadership and governance, and diversity, equity and inclusion. Clients in Oregon, Texas, California, Minnesota, Alabama, Venezuela and India include: Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Health & Science University, Northwest Natural, Energy Trust of Oregon, Elevate Oregon, Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, Vision Action Network, HomePlate Youth Services, San Antonio Area Foundation, Leadership Fort Worth, The Nonprofit Council, Houston Zen Center, Magic City Harvest, Soto Zen Buddhist Association, Nagaloka College and Primeros Auxilios LUZ.

### **Dharma Rain Zen Center, Portland, Oregon — *Fundraising Manager***

Led individual fundraising for a \$6 million campaign to restore and develop a 14-acre former brownfield for the temple's new campus, including: training and coaching temple leadership on strategy and financial asks; securing an anonymous matching challenge gift of \$250,000 to incentivize giving; and, developing and managing first-ever crowdfunding campaign. Exceeded goal by 35%. Helped invigorate and expand under-leveraged social media presence to increase visibility, access and relevance. Consulted on marketing of the temple's new preschool program and ongoing communications with its 1,500 constituents. As a Postulant, explored the possibility of ordaining as a monk.

### **Susan G. Komen Oregon, Portland, Oregon — *Chief Executive Officer***

Led the successful turnaround of a leading affiliate of the country's largest breast cancer charity following a national public relations crisis resulting in reputational, financial and organizational tumult. Turned a \$1.4 million projected deficit into a balanced budget. Secured \$1 million in state funds for cancer screening. Grew and diversified revenue by creating major donor program, exponentially increasing foundation grants received, and increasing annual

## HONORS & RECOGNITION

Equality Award  
Human Rights Campaign, Oregon

Perfect Party Guest  
Portland Monthly

Turnaround Thomas  
Portland Business Journal

Winners  
Portland Business Journal

Hercules Award  
United Way of Tarrant County

Big Shoes to Fill  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Editorial Board

Administrators Achievement Award  
U.S. Health Care Financing Administration

40 Under 40  
Tarrant County Business Press

Spirit of Fort Worth  
City of Fort Worth

Emerging Leader  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

## CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors  
All Classical 89.9

luncheon by 83%. Transitioned external grant making from activity-based to outcomes-based measures linked to disparities. Launched a \$2.5 million Latina initiative with 10 foundations, Spanish language media and \$1 million in donated cancer screening. Partnered with state broadcast association to air 52,000 educational spots valued at \$300,000. Negotiated naming of research labs at two leading regional healthcare institutions. Took local conference statewide via simulcasts with 40% increase in attendance. Increased diversity of Board from 11% to 40% and staff from 0% to 37%.

**American Red Cross, Washington, D.C. and Portland, Oregon — Vice President and Regional Executive**

*Vice President, Diversity & Inclusion:* Invigorated and expanded diversity and inclusion programming nationally, including: creation and launch of employee resource groups with over 1,000 participants; development of monthly cultural competency trainings with nationally-known experts; identification, coordination and support of 90 previously disconnected diversity field workers; beta testing of a new behaviorally-based training module for cultural competence; reengineering external partnerships model from relational-only to outcomes-based; and, partnering with supply chain management to increase spend with women-owned, minority-owned and emerging small businesses 20%.

*Vice President, Northeast Division:* Led 60 chapters across New England and New York with 1,400 employees, 40,000 volunteers and \$125 million in expenses during a time of dramatic organizational change. Reduced largest-in-nation annual operating deficit by 60% and exceeded nationally-assigned add-on fundraising target of \$17 million. Implemented new shared services model for finance, human resources, information technology, marketing, and health and safety services within a matrixed management structure. Implemented new donor-centric fundraising model that tracked donor prospect pipeline, moves management activity and financial outcomes weekly.

*Regional Executive, Oregon:* Led chapters in Portland, Salem, Eugene, Medford, Bend and Baker City, with 5,000 volunteers, 17 offices, 175 employees and \$14 million in expenses. Implemented new national model of regionalization among previously autonomous business units, decreasing territorialism and competition. Created staffed Communities of Color initiative to improve workforce diversity and cultural competence. Developed partnership with City of Portland to operate Emergency Warming Centers for homeless, with thousands of overnight stays and unprecedented levels of media exposure. Appointed by national Board of Governors to the National Diversity Advisory Council.

Advisory Board  
Portland Parks & Recreation

Commissioner  
Oregon Government Ethics  
Commission

Transition Team  
Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski

Steering Committee  
Nonprofit Association of Oregon

Fundraising Committee  
Dharma Rain Zen Center

Community Advisory Board Junior  
League of Portland

Graduate  
Leadership Portland

Board of Directors  
Jubilee Theater

Commissioner  
Fort Worth Human Relations  
Commission

Ambassador  
Fort Worth Museum of Science &  
Industry

Mayor's Vision Coalition  
City of Fort Worth

Camp Counselor  
Campfire First Texas Council

Graduate  
Leadership Fort Worth

**Multnomah County Chair's Office, Portland, Oregon — Senior Policy Director**

Senior advisor to the elected CEO of the second largest county government in the Northwest, with 5,000 employees and a \$1.5 billion budget. One of two lead budget writers crafting the Chair's \$350 million general fund budget using new national model of zero-based budgeting. Lead staff on joint public safety budgeting collaborative with City of Portland, identifying duplication and potential consolidations. Championed expansion of nationally-recognized Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) program for at-risk youth. Gifted a long-vacant county building to advance the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, adding 108 apartments to affordable housing stock. Strategized to provide \$5 million to distressed school districts in order to incentivize support from other governmental entities. Maintained county's exceptional bond rating despite significant revenue constraints.

**Cascade AIDS Project, Portland, Oregon — Executive Director**

Led the turnaround, professionalization and growth of one of the leading HIV organizations in the West. Grew contributed income by 300%, net assets by 330% and annual budget by 120%. Launched first major donor and staffed foundations program. Reengineered special events model from six competing events grossing \$300,000 to two differentiated events grossing almost \$1 million. Increased frequency of earned media dramatically, building community momentum and enhancing organizational credibility. Created first statewide HIV public policy collaborative, including hiring professional lobbyist. Developed innovative programming, including nationally funded children's services and employment initiative. Launched culturally specific programming for African Americans in partnership with region's faith-based leaders coalition. Strengthened governance with creation of highly influential Board of Advisors.

**AIDS Outreach Center, Fort Worth, Texas — Executive Director (founding)**

Led an all-volunteer organization to become one of the most innovative and respected HIV/AIDS organizations in the South and Southwest, successfully mobilizing a large conservative urban county around the HIV epidemic in the process. Grew annual budget from \$60,000 to \$4 million, net assets from \$0 to \$1 million, staff from one to 51, and volunteers from 30 to 1,200. Produced year-

Board of Directors  
Contemporary Dance Fort Worth

Board of Directors  
Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay Alliance

**SAMPLE PRESS**

"Bruner picks up the pieces at Komen."  
Portland Business Journal

"A rising civic star."  
The Oregonian

"Cascade AIDS Project thrived under Bruner's leadership."  
Portland Business Journal

"Bruner is adding statewide duties to his portfolio."  
Portland Business Journal

"What do you call someone who does all this? A hero."  
The Oregonian

"Who Can Replace Thomas Bruner, the visionary?"  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

"Thomas Bruner is raising hell and some serious cash."  
Willamette Week

"Turnaround Thomas."  
Portland Business Journal

"Diminutive, voluble, with a boatload of energy."  
Willamette Week

end surpluses for 10 years. Opened satellite offices in three fast-growing communities. Built one of the most influential Board of Directors among nonprofits regionally. Strategically leveraged print and broadcast media to build community ownership and momentum resulting in exceptionally high levels of visibility. Created partnerships with opinion-leaders to increase acceptability of a then controversial issue. Developed innovative programming for children, culturally specific outreach to African Americans, and employment services. Helped to found Texas AIDS Network, a public policy and lobbying organization.

## EDUCATION

**Cornell University**, New York, New York — *Diversity Management Certificate*

**Stephen F. Austin State University**, Nacogdoches, Texas — *M.A., Psychology*

**Abilene Christian University**, Abilene, Texas — *B.A., Psychology*

**Dharma Rain Zen Center**, Portland, Oregon — *Graduate, Lay Seminary Program*

## GLOBAL TRAVEL & STUDY

Sri Lanka  
Nepal  
India  
Ethiopia  
China  
Thailand  
Brazil  
Peru  
Ecuador  
Galapagos Islands  
Ghana  
Togo  
Benin  
Egypt  
Morocco  
Guatemala  
Mexico  
Hungary  
Czechoslovakia  
Portugal  
Spain  
Austria  
Germany  
The Netherlands  
France  
England  
Belgium  
Switzerland  
Canada