

Thomas Bruner

Nationally-recognized leader in building, growing, and repairing mission-focused businesses and organizations, mobilizing communities around important issues and needs, and marshalling the resources of the public, private, and social sectors.

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EXPERIENCE

Bruner Strategies, LLC, Portland, Oregon — *Principal*

Consulting firm helping mission-focused businesses in six states and four countries do great work in leadership and governance, strategic planning, financial development, and equity and inclusion. Sample clients include: Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Health & Science University, Northwest Natural, Energy Trust of Oregon, U.S. Alliance on Alcohol Policy, Multnomah Athletic Club, Portland Trailblazers, San Antonio Area Foundation, Leadership Fort Worth, San Antonio Nonprofit Council, San Francisco Zen Center, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas.

Oregon Ballet Theatre, Portland, Oregon — *Interim Executive Director (via Bruner Strategies)*

Successfully led the country's 15th largest classical ballet company through the tumult of COVID, resulting in record levels of artistic, financial, and organizational health. Facilitated the Board of Trustee's continued transition from management to governance. Partnered with the artistic director to program the company's most successful season in its 35-year history. Elevated and integrated the previously siloed school and community outreach programs as core elements of the organization's mission. Advanced equity and inclusion in programming, policy, and staff and board representation. Left this historically financially-stressed organization debt-free and with \$7.4 million in net assets.

Dharma Rain Zen Center, Portland, Oregon — *Capital Campaign Manager*

While living at the temple discerning ordination as a monk, led individual fundraising for a \$6 million campaign to develop a 14-acre former brownfield for a new campus, including: training leadership on strategy and financial asks; securing an anonymous matching challenge gift of \$250,000; and, developing first-ever crowdfunding campaign. Exceeded goal by 35%. Helped expand under-leveraged social media presence to increase visibility and access. Consulted on marketing a new preschool program and invigorated communications with 3,000 constituents.

HONORS & RECOGNITION

Community Service Award
Profile Theater

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

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

Led the turnaround of a leading affiliate of the country's largest breast cancer charity following a national public relations crisis. Turned a \$1.4 million deficit into a balanced budget. Secured \$1 million in state funds for cancer screening. Created major donor program, exponentially increased foundation funding, and grew annual luncheon by 83%. Transitioned grant making from activity- to outcomes-based targeting geographic and racial disparities. Launched a \$2.5 million Latina initiative with foundation, media, and healthcare partners. Negotiated naming rights of research labs at two regional healthcare institutions. Took local conference statewide with 40% increase in attendance. Increased racial 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 underperforming department. Developed and launched national programming, including: employee resource groups with over 1,000 participants; monthly cultural competency trainings with nationally-known experts; identification and support of 90 previously-disconnected diversity field workers; launch of new behaviorally-based training module for cultural competence; reengineered partnerships model from relational-only to outcomes-based; and, increased spend with diverse suppliers by 20%.

Vice President, Northeast Division: Led 60 chapters across New England and New York with 1,400 employees, 40,000 volunteers and \$150 million in expenses during a time of radical organizational change. Reduced largest-in-nation annual operating deficit by 60%. 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 tracking prospect pipeline, moves management, and ask outcomes.

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 regionalized shared services model among previously autonomous business units, decreasing territorialism and competition. Created staffed Communities of Color initiative to advance diversity and cultural competence. Developed partnership with City of Portland to operate Emergency Warming Centers with thousands of overnight stays and unprecedented media exposure.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors
Soto Zen Buddhist Association of North America

Board of Directors
Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon

Board of Directors
All Classical Radio 89.9

Advisory Board
Portland Parks & Recreation

Commissioner
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Transition Team
Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski

Steering Committee
Nonprofit Association of Oregon

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

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 zero-based budgeting model. 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 108-unit county building to advance the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Provided \$5 million to distressed schools to incentivize support from other governmental entities.

Cascade AIDS Project, Portland, Oregon — Executive Director

Led the turnaround and professionalization 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 major donor and foundations programs. Reengineered fundraising event model from six competing events grossing \$300,000 to two differentiated events grossing \$1 million. Increased frequency of earned media dramatically. Created statewide HIV public policy collaborative, including hiring professional lobbyist. Developed innovative children's services and back-to-work programs. Launched culturally specific programs for African Americans in partnership with region's faith-based leaders. Strengthened governance with creation of highly influential Board of Advisors.

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

Built an all-volunteer organization into one of the most successful HIV/AIDS organizations in the country, mobilizing a conservative urban county around HIV in the process. Grew budget from \$60,000 to \$4 million, net assets from \$0 to \$1 million, staff from one to 55, and volunteers from 30 to 1,200. Produced year-end surpluses for 10 years. Opened three satellite offices. Built one of the most influential boards in the region. Leveraged print and broadcast media to build community momentum, resulting in exceptionally high levels of visibility. Created partnerships with opinion leaders to increase acceptability of a then-controversial issue. Developed innovative programs for children, culturally-specific outreach to African Americans, and reemployment. Co-founded Texas AIDS Network to advance public policy advocacy.

Graduate
Leadership Fort Worth

Camp Counselor
Campfire First Texas Council

Board of Directors
Contemporary Dance Fort Worth

Board of Directors
Tarrant County Lesbian/Gay
Alliance

SAMPLE PRESS

"Turnaround Thomas."
Portland Business Journal

"A rising civic star."
The Oregonian

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

"Usually the smartest person in
the room."
The Oregonian

"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

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, Clinical Psychology — *Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas*

Bachelor of Science, Psychology — *Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas*

CERTIFICATION

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

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

LICENSURE

Licensed Professional Counselor (voluntarily lapsed) — *Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors*

GLOBAL TRAVEL & STUDY

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