

# Thomas Bruner

Nationally-recognized leader with demonstrated success building and strengthening mission-focused businesses and organizations, mobilizing communities around critical 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 governance and leadership, 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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***

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 social media presence to increase visibility and access and invigorate communication with 3,000 constituents. Consulted on marketing a new preschool program. Lived and worked at the temple fulltime while discerning ordination as a monk.

## 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

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

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

## TRAINING

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

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

## LICENSURE

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

## 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