Community supporters gather to celebrate and share thoughts.

PHLUSH volunteers and supporters spent a pleasant June evening on the rooftop of Portland’s Society Hotel. The informal event was made possible through the generosity of our friends at Madden Fabrication and hosted by Board President Hayley Joyell Smith and Vice-President Kyle Earlywine. Over refreshments they had prepared, the pair asked participants to introduce themselves and to share their thoughts on what PHLUSH was doing right and on what we should work on to forward our mission in the coming years.

Hats off to Kyle Earlywine for leading our website overhaul.

After a decade of heavy use, our website was due for an overhaul. PHLUSH Vice President Kyle Earlywine stepped up to convene a Portland-based committee of experts in information technology. Meeting throughout the latter half of 2018, these volunteers put together a request for proposals for a site with a clean, responsive design. It was agreed that the new site needs to provide visitors up-to-date information on recent sanitation issues: the vulnerability of conventional wastewater treatment facilities to climate change and sea level rise; threats of anti-microbial resistance to human health; and the new demand for well-designed restrooms that allow people of all gender identities to meet their needs in safety and comfort. The committee shortlisted three top design firms that fit our budget and the Board signed the contract for a new www.phlush.org which will launch at the end of 2019.

National and International media help amplify our voice.

In our day-to-day work at PHLUSH, we respond to inquiries from people throughout North America. Fellow advocates for public toilets ask for our help. City officials breathe more easily when we link them to the PHLUSH Public Toilet Advocacy Toolkit. Reporters with profound, difficult questions often call us on tight deadlines. 2018 saw the release of No Place To Go: How Public Toilets Fail our Private Needs. Canadian journalist Lezlie Lowe wrote a fine account of PHLUSH after interviewing Carol McCreary about approaches to increasing toilet availability and Anna Preble about her work on Portland’s groundbreaking 2015 All User Restroom Ordinance and its implementation.
Carol McCreary remains active in the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance.

As PHLUSH representative to the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance, Carol completed her work on the Project Advisory Group for its multi-year Knowledge Management Project. With Jack Sim, Founder of the World Toilet Organization, she continues to co-lead Working Group 9 for Public Awareness, Advocacy and Civil Society Engagement. SuSanA has more than 330 partners and 10,000 sanitation practitioners. The network develops ideas to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, which apply to all United Nations member countries.

GDPR compliance now protects the privacy of everyone in our network.

PHLUSH achieved compliance with the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) even before it was rolled out in May 2018. We continue to maintain GDPR compliance through regular process reviews and data audits.

Sound governance is the foundation of our program.

As a small organization without paid staff, PHLUSH depends on the talents of volunteers. Thanks to Washington Nonprofits and Jefferson Community Foundation, we have access a variety of professional development resources that help us stay up-to-date in the dynamic nonprofit sector. Washington Nonprofits offers PHLUSH Board free online professional training in strategic planning, financial management, advocacy, and the legal matters that are part of nonprofit governance. In 2018 the Nonprofit Resource Center at the Jefferson Community Foundation lent a hand with sophisticated grants research and helped us write a more compelling case statement.

Our end-of-year campaigns link to the generosity of our communities.

PHLUSH was recognized by United Good Neighbors (UGN), the United Way of Jefferson County, Washington. We are honored that this campaign recognizes access to toilets and hygiene as a human need and basic right. Following a virtual meeting with our Board, UGN invited us to participate in their annual campaign and to introduce our program to the public online and at events. Other news in 2018 was our authorization by the Oregon Department of Justice to engage in fundraising in Oregon.