



Vermont Businesses
for Social Responsibility

2023 VBSR Legislative Breakfast





VBSR: People. Planet. Prosperity.

THE
ALCHEMUS

Thank You!



The Vermont Professionals of Color Network

Thank You!



Thank You!



Thank You, Supporting Sponsors!



Thank You, VBSR Champion Members!



**Thank You to our Beverage Sponsor
for donating today's coffee!**



Thank You to Our Host Sponsor!



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Vermont Businesses
for Social Responsibility

2023 Legislative Progress

- **Businesses for Climate Action** lobby day succeeded at the State House, delivering an urgent call for bold climate action.
- **Passed Act 76**, a historic bill that will invest an additional \$125 million *annually* in Vermont's **child care** system.
- **Passed S.5, the Affordable Heat Act**, designed to ease the transition to clean energy; helps ensure that every Vermonter can access cleaner, more affordable heat.



Vermont Businesses
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2023 Legislative Progress

- **Passed H.66, Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance** through the VT House overwhelmingly vote.
- **Passed S.135, establishing VTSaves**, making saving for retirement easy and automatic; no cost to employers, no ongoing cost to taxpayers.
- **Passed H.165, the bill would make Universal School Meals** permanent in Vermont.



Vermont Businesses
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2024 VBSR Legislative Agenda

- Housing
- Care Economy (Paid Family and Medical Leave & Child Care)
- Climate and Clean Energy
- Healthcare



Mickey Wiles,
Working Fields,
Chair

Rebecca
Copans, Blue
Cross Blue
Shield

Liz Schlegal,
The Alchemist

Jason Williams,
UVM Health
Network

Abbey Duke,
SugarSnap
Catering

Kate Ogden,
Seventh
Generation

Candace
Morgan, Green
Mountain
Power

Pat Heffernan,
Marketing
Partners

David
Blittersdorf, All
Earth
Renewables

Mike Kiernan,
Bee the
Change

Sasha Meyer,
Mamava

Kelly Klein,
Groennfell
Meadery

Molly
Lawrence, King
Arthur Baking

Thank you, VBSR Public Policy Committee!

Level of VBSR's Support

Champion

Steering committee, testify, member mobilization, public support/leadership, staff lobby time

Coalition Member

Participate in strategy, mobilize members where possible, track issues, staff lobby time, public support

Supporter

Public support, track issues for members

2024 VBSR Legislative Agenda

Housing:

Creating Strong
Community
Foundations

Level of Support:
Champion

Care Economy:

(Paid Family and Medical Leave &
Child Care)

Building an Economy
that Works for
Everyone

Level of Support:
Champion
- PFML
Coalition Member
- Child Care

Climate and Clean Energy:

Building for Our
Future

Level of Support:
Coalition Member

Healthcare:

The Intersection of
Economics and
Wellbeing

Level of Support:
Supporter

Champion

Steering committee, testify, member mobilization, public support/leadership, staff lobby time

Coalition Member

Participate in strategy, mobilize members where possible, track issues, staff lobby time, public support

Supporter

Public support, track issues for members

Housing

Creating Strong Community Foundations

Anticipated Legislation

- Act 250 Reform
- Housing Bill TBD
- VBSR Housing Study Group's recommendations (pending review)

Care Economy (Paid Family and Medical Leave and Child Care)

Building an Economy that Works for Everyone

Anticipated Legislation

- H.66: Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Implementation of the 2023 Child Care Bill



Climate and Clean Energy

Building for Our Future

Anticipated Legislation

- H.320: Renewable Energy Standard
- H.242: Thermal Heat Networks
- S.42: An act relating to divestment of State pension funds of investments in the fossil fuel industry
- Make Big Oil Pay Campaign



The Intersection of Economics and Wellbeing

Anticipated Legislation

- H.181: Increase the income eligibility threshold for Medicare Savings Programs
- S.18: To eliminate the sale of menthol and flavored tobacco

VBSR

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VBSR Legislator of the Year Award

**Representative
Emilie Kornheiser**

**Brattleboro
(Windham-7)**





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Looking Ahead with Leadership





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THANK YOU!

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Vermont Businesses
for Social Responsibility

2023 VBSR Annual Report





Kristin Warner
Public Policy Manager



Roxanne Vought
Executive Director



Linda Racine
Finance Manager



Thea Heck
Communications &
Outreach Coordinator



Talley Summerlin
Communications
Manager



Molly Rand
Education &
Events Manager



Our Team

VBSR Board

Jed Davis, Cabot Creamery Cooperative
Kehvon Didehbani, Solidarity of Unbridled Labor
Abbey Duke, Sugarsnap
Adeline Druart, Lawson's Finest Liquids
David Epstein, *Past Chair*,
TruexCullins Architecture & Interior Design
Anore Horton, Hunger Free Vermont
Dana Kaplan, Outright Vermont
John Kim, University of Vermont Grossman School
of Business
Karen Lawson
Sascha Mayer, Mamava
Rob Miller, VSECU
Noah Miller, Rho Impact
Kate Ogden, Seventh Generation
Duane Peterson
Beth Rusnock, National Life Foundation, *Chair*
Frank Sadowski, Sadowski Consulting Services, LLC
Sas Stewart, *Secretary*, Adventure Dinner

Mara Neufeld Rivera, Chroma Technology Corp. *Vice-Chair*
Tina de la Torre, Tina S. de la Torre, LLC
Mickey Wiles, *Treasurer*, Working Fields LLC

VBSR Research and Education Foundation Board

Jeffrey Hollender, Hollender Sustainable Brands
Julie Lineberger, LineSync Architecture
Markey Read, MRG Inc.
Mathew Rubin, Vermont Independent Power Producers
Jacob Park, Vermont State University

Thank you to our outgoing Board Members!

Frank Sadowski, Kehvon Didehbani & Tina de la Torre

Welcome to our new Board Members (expected)!

Kelly Clements, Gordon's Window Decor
Chad Farrell, Encore Renewable Energy
Mel Hall, Global Village Foods
Ruchi Nadkarni, Karni Consulting Bazaar

Our Board Members

Transformative Business Education



- Hosted **webinars and virtual trainings** reaching over 400 individuals from 260 organizations across Vermont including Mental Health First Aid, Changes in Employment Law, Child Care in Vermont, and the core competencies of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI).
- Partnered with UVM Sustainable Innovation MBA (SI-MBA) Program to connect SIMBA students and alumni with VBSR members for knowledge sharing and experiential learning opportunities.
- Hosted 4 Peer Learning Cohorts serving 75 individuals from 64 organizations: CEO Solidarity Circle, ESG Learning Cohort, Vermont Changemakers Table, ClimateReadyVT
- Our 33rd Annual VBSR Conference: **Here and Now: Seizing this Moment for Business with Dignity, Empowerment, and Imagination**, drew over 400 people from a variety of industries and geographies to discuss Humane Workplaces, Focusing Our Impact, and Economic Equity at Hula

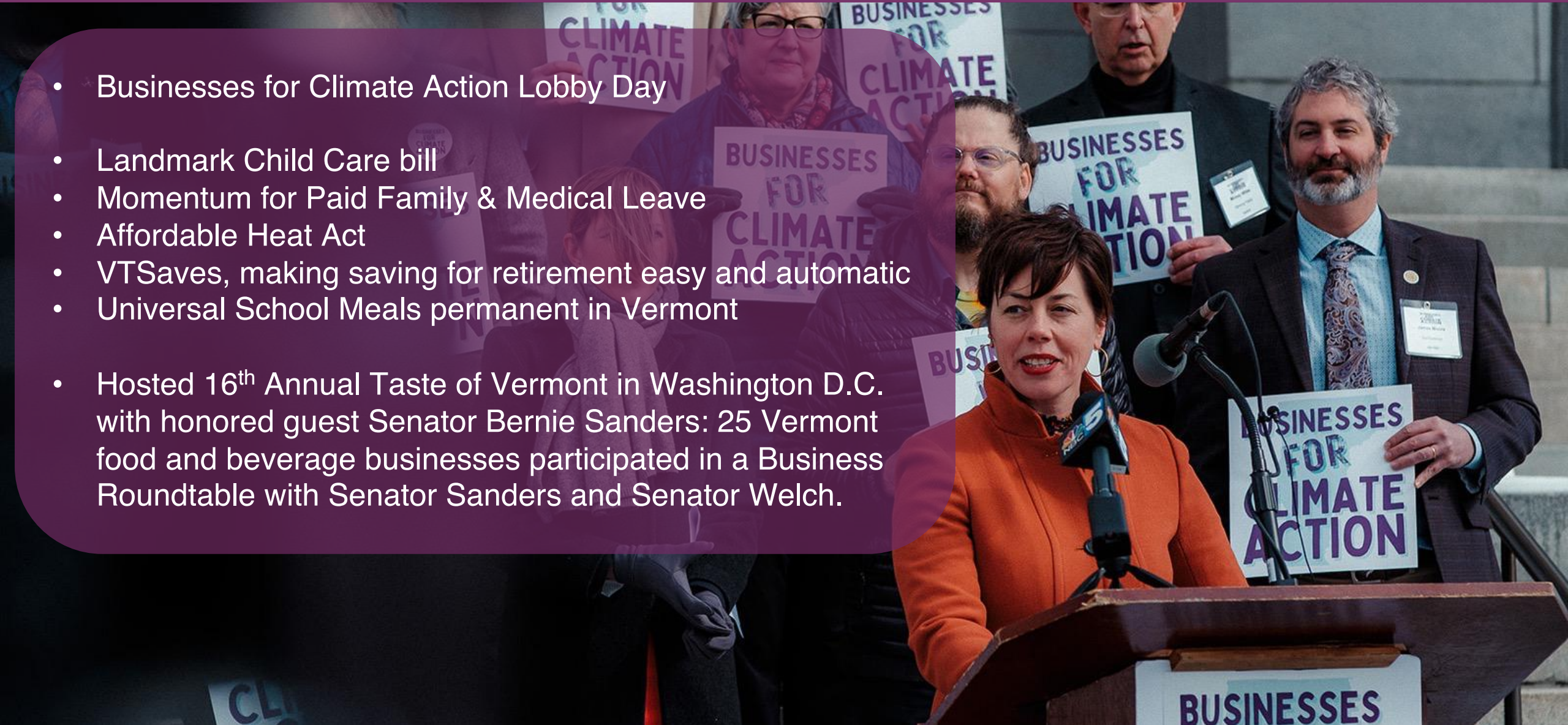
Partnerships & Community Building



- **People. Planet. Prosperity. Speaker Series –**
 - Exploring Leading-Edge Technology in Vermont at Black River Innovation Campus (BRIC)
 - Strengthening Vermont's Grid: Electrification, Equity & Resilience at Green Mountain Power
 - Fortifying the Future of Vermont's Downtowns at Vermont Public
- **In-Person Connection is essential!** Over 500 people registered for our networking events in 2023
 - Burlington, Colchester, Montpelier, Rutland, Springfield, St. Albans, Williston
- **Strategic Partnerships**
 - Hula, UVM Sustainable Innovation MBA, Vermont B Corp Collective, Vermont Professionals of Color Network, LGBTQIA2S+ Pride & Prosperity Network

Progressive Public Policy

- Businesses for Climate Action Lobby Day
- Landmark Child Care bill
- Momentum for Paid Family & Medical Leave
- Affordable Heat Act
- VTSaves, making saving for retirement easy and automatic
- Universal School Meals permanent in Vermont
- Hosted 16th Annual Taste of Vermont in Washington D.C. with honored guest Senator Bernie Sanders: 25 Vermont food and beverage businesses participated in a Business Roundtable with Senator Sanders and Senator Welch.



Fostering Business Leadership

- 21st Annual VBSR Awards Ceremony honored changemakers in our community who bring ambitious purpose to the world: **Jed Davis, Director of Sustainability, Cabot Cooperative Creamery; Beta Technologies; Bee the Change; Aly Richards, CEO, Let's Grow Kids; Rainbow Bridge Community Center**
- Launched the **VBSR CEO Solidarity Circle**, a new program for executive leaders navigating constant and complex change in partnership with Jason Lorber, from Aplomb Consulting
- Hosted the 6th cohort of the **Vermont Changemakers Table**, a program supporting young Vermonterers seeking to drive positive change in Vermont and its communities through relationship building and collective action, a partnership with Vermont Community Foundation



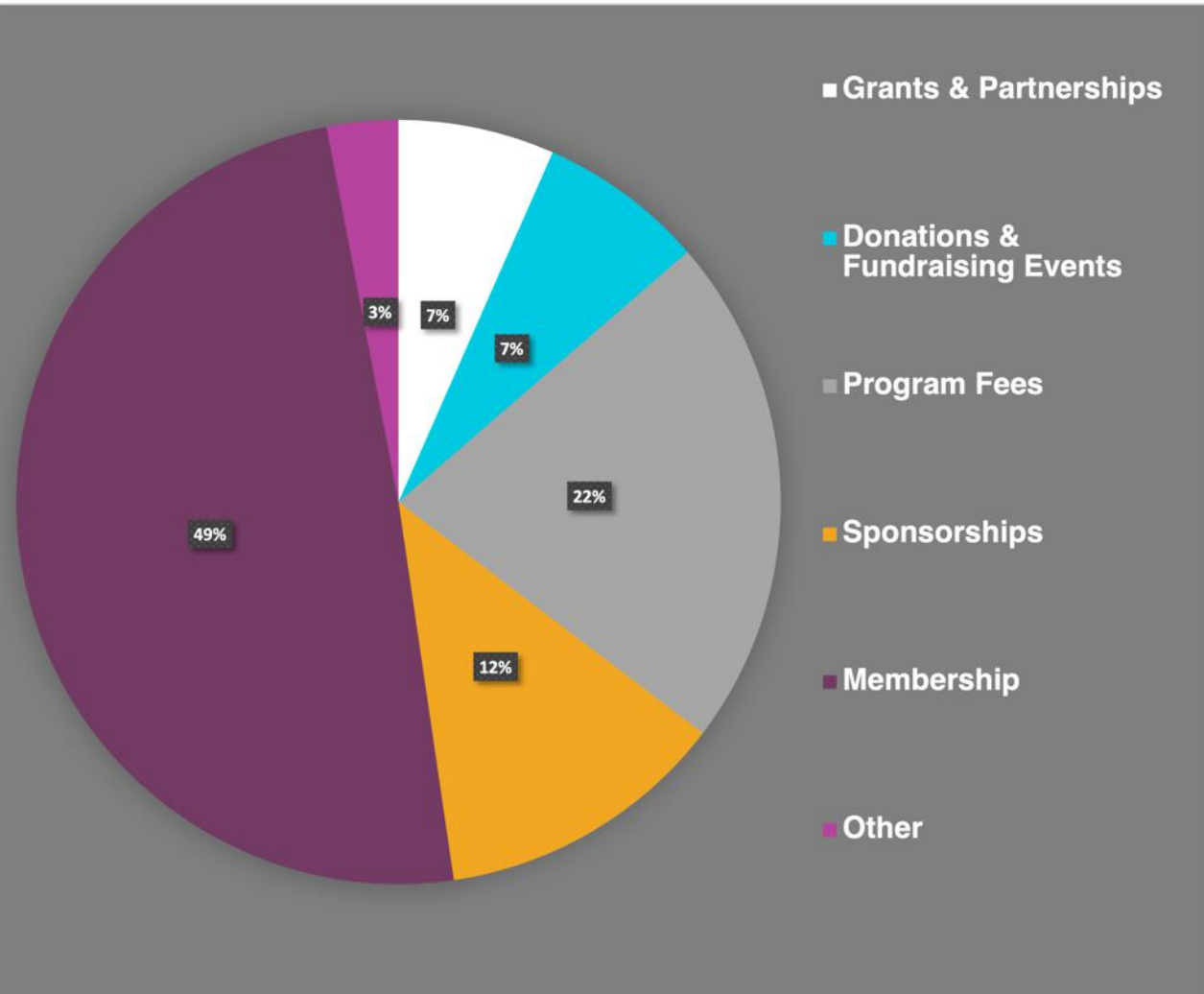
Flood Response, Recovery & Resilience



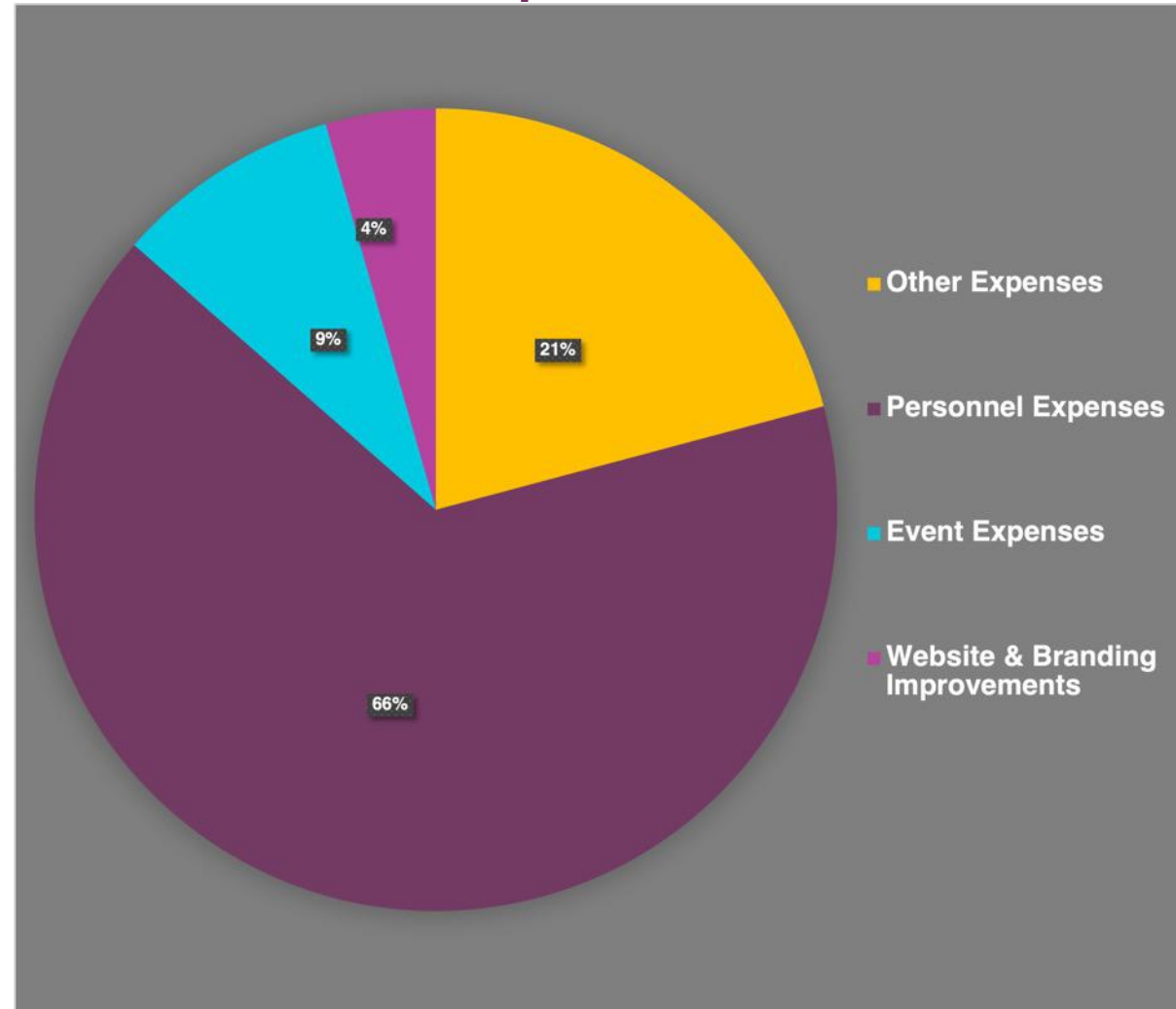
- VBSR Flood Recovery Guide for Businesses
- Organizing downtown Montpelier businesses at the street level
- Directed funds to VT Professionals of Color Network BIPOC Relief Fund and Vermont Main Street Flood Recovery Fund
- Hosted a benefit for flood-impacted businesses with Folino's Pizza
- Launched ClimateReadyVT
- VT Economic and Community Development Recovery Task Force

2023 Revenue and Expenses

Revenue



Expense




Fy24 Budget & Fy23 EOY Projections

Fy24 Budget = \$750,859

Currently projecting to end Fy23:

- 17K unfavorable to budget
- 6 months of cash on hand



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Knoxville, Tennessee, featuring a prominent domed building (the State Capitol) and surrounding urban and forested areas. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

EXPANDING **OUR** MOVEMENT

VBSR's Expanding Our Movement Fund

EXPANDING
OUR
MOVEMENT



Expanding Our Movement Fund makes possible:

- Free and discounted VBSR memberships
- Leading-edge business education
- Values-driven leadership development
- Students, startups, small and rural businesses, BIPOC changemakers, and BIPOC and LGBTQ+ organizations.
- Contributions also advance progressive policy issues through business influence and action.

*Help bring **new voices and greater access** to our important work while ensuring that VBSR continues to push the boundaries of what business can be.*

2023 Expanding Our Movement Silent Auction

EXPANDING OUR MOVEMENT





Vermont Businesses
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Upcoming VBSR Events

Tuesday, December 12th

VBSR Networking Get-Together at Lake Champlain Chocolates
5:30-7:30 PM, Burlington

Wednesday, December 13th

Policy Webinar: The Impact of Paid Family & Medical Leave
Insurance on Vermont's Businesses, 12-1 PM, Virtual



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THANK YOU!

