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2018 NCSHA Awards

Wyoming Community Development Authority *"WCDA Brings You Home" Website Design & Development* Category: Communications Subcategory: Creative Media



"WCDA Brings You Home" Website Development

Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA) has been working towards modernizing and updating its technologies and services. One of these major technologies is the WCDA public webpage. The last website had been created and updated over five years ago leaving a huge gap between what WCDA provided, and what was available in terms of web technology. The previous WCDA webpage was dated, difficult to navigate, and lacked features for ease of use for our customers. With these issues and challenges in mind, WCDA set forth to develop a new website.

In the initial stages of development, WCDA knew it needed a webpage that positively reflected its image and campaigns, was easy to navigate, and ultimately mobile friendly. Over 60% of WCDA web traffic comes from mobile and tablet devices. Knowing this, an easy to navigate mobile friendly site was crucial.

WCDA partnered with a local marketing firm to begin the web development process in September of 2017. Over the course of the next 6 months, WCDA drafted its new website. The internal Marketing and Communications Manager worked with each department to review and update all current content on the webpage to ensure that the material and content carried over, and the new design would be accurate, relevant, and condensed wherever possible.

After over 6 months of work, WCDA launched its new and updated website on March 22, 2018.

Innovative

WCDA's new website reflects and represents modern web technology. Using WordPress as the engine, WCDA's page features easy navigation and resources for our customer and business partners.

On the former website, WCDA's participating lenders were available only as a list. On the new webpage, these participating lenders are viewed through an interactive Google map. The Real Estate Owned (REO) properties on the former webpage were also available only as a list. This former list made it difficult to distinguish regions in which the homes were located. On the new webpage, these REO properties are featured on an interactive map that allows for consumers to pick a portion of the state they're interested in and explore available properties.

Another feature of the new WCDA website is an updated Human Resources field. The old site contained dated recruitment information on WCDA, lacked cultural resources, and supplied a dated paper application. The updated website features a "recruitment" video where potential employees can learn more about WCDA and its culture. In addition to the updated information and video feature, an online application fits seamlessly with the webpage allowing potential applicants to easily apply and learn about WCDA.



One issue with the former website was that it was difficult to find contact information to reach out to WCDA staff whether the visitor was a borrower, lender, or realtor. On the new site, WCDA added a "Ready to Connect?" box which populates no matter where a person lands on the site allowing the visitor to fill out brief information and submit their inquiries.

In addition to these new features, WCDA also added an interactive dashboard under its Multifamily section for its Demographics information. WCDA partners with Western Economic Services to provide statewide and regional data on demographics and economics. On the former website, this information was provided through multiple PDF's. Now, this information is available through a streamlined interactive dashboard embedded directly on WCDA's site allowing consumers to interact and decide which data they would like to view.

WCDA added navigation from the homepage for prospective homebuyers, current homeowners, multifamily partners, lenders, contractors, and realtors. Each of the subpages within these categories is designed for easy access to information pertinent to the individual. For example, under "Lenders", quick links to our Lender Online system, Seller Guide, Interest Rates, Purchase Price & Income Limits, and Loan Product Matrix are available.

Replicable

WCDA's website was designed with WordPress featuring the latest widgets and site capabilities which can be easily used on and within other sites. The new website was designed with ease of use in mind, not only for our consumer and business partners, but also internal customers. The ease of use allows internal marketing and IT individuals to update and adjust content in a timely and efficient manner.

Reach Targeted Audience

With mobile friendly at the heart of the design process, WCDA was able to design its site to work well with mobile technologies. This allows us to reach a mobile driven market and especially those of the millennial demographic along with incoming homebuyers in Generation Z.

Measurable Results

WCDA has seen a positive increase in web traffic since the launch of the new website. Looking back a year, WCDA has seen a 158.4% increase in web traffic and a 110% increase in website sessions. As anticipated, there was a large spike in use when the website launched which dropped off some, but we are seeing higher use and interactions than where we were a year ago. In addition, WCDA has seen a spike in communications coming from web traffic. With our "connect now" box, individuals are reaching out with their questions, averaging around 6 per day compared to 1-2 per week prior.



Provide Benefits that Outweigh Costs

The total cost for our new website development was \$8,000. This cost included the design, edits, and support throughout the development process.

Demonstrate Effective Use of Resources

To create this website, WCDA partnered with a local marketing agency to help design the website. Internally, WCDA used its employees as the primary resource for content generation.

Summary

WCDA's new website has been a success. With increased web traffic, higher inquiries, and growing new business, WCDA believes it made the right decision in updating its website.

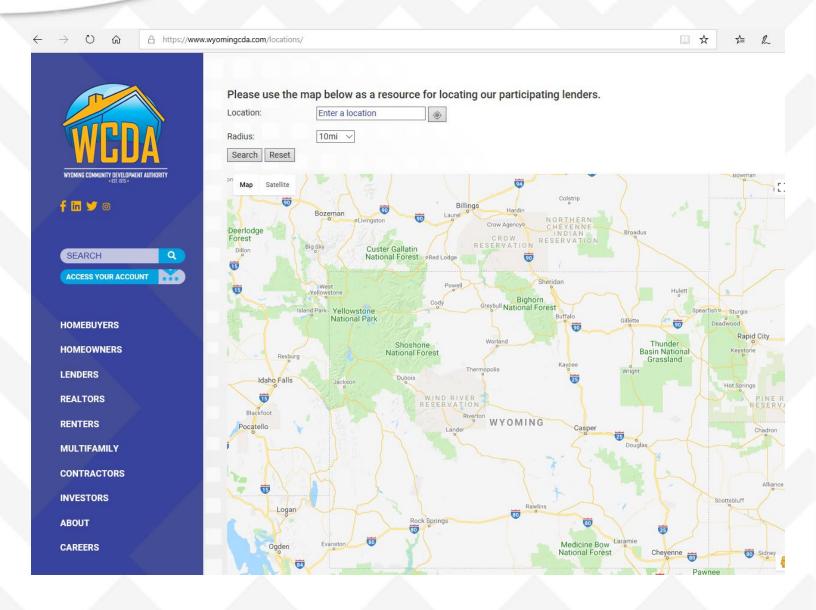
Continuing to partner with our website developer, WCDA will stay current on web trends and updates to ensure that our target demographic's needs are being met. Ensuring our customers have what they need will ensure WCDA's future success.



Visual Aids



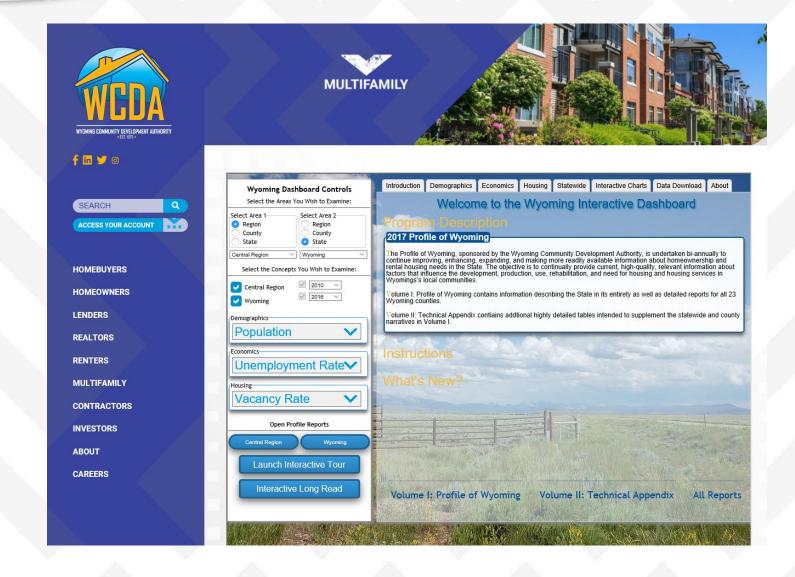




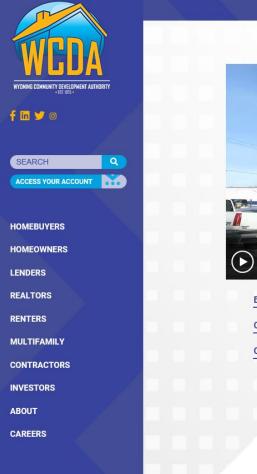
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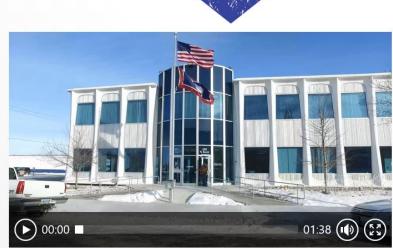
Loga











BENEFITS

CURRENT JOB OPENINGS

CONTACT HUMAN RESOURCES

We currently have no open positions. Please check back as we will most certainly be looking for great people to join our team in the future.

Open Positions

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