

THE CALYX FOUNDATION

Founding Business Alliance

Sponsorship Packet

Fifty Whatcom County businesses, each giving between \$500 and \$5,000 a year, helping put land into permanent community ownership so that the housing built on it stays affordable for good.

Charter cohort	50 places · numbered 001 to 050 in order of first payment
Charter closes	April 1, 2027
Places taken	_____ of 50 (as of _____)

The Calyx Foundation · 2219 Rimland Drive, Suite 301, Bellingham, WA 98226 · (844) 462-2599 · calyx-foundation.org

Thank you for considering the Alliance

Most of the people who work for businesses in Whatcom County cannot afford to buy a home here, and many struggle with rent. You know this better than most, because you see it in hiring and in turnover. The Founding Business Alliance is a way for local businesses to do something about it that lasts.

I want to be straightforward about where we are. The Calyx Foundation is a young organization. The land trust your membership helps fund is being formed now. Safeharbor Village, our planned supportive housing community, is a plan in development, not a building. You would be among the first fifty businesses to join, and we would not be asking if we were not prepared to account to you for every dollar.

This packet explains what we are building, what your membership pays for, how you would be recognized, and exactly how payment and recognition work. The commitment form is a separate page. Nothing here asks you to decide today; the first step is a conversation.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Taylor Allen".

Taylor Allen

Director of Community Outreach
The Calyx Foundation

Who we are

The Calyx Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Bellingham, Washington. It works to expand access to healthcare and behavioral health services, improve economic independence through workforce development, increase access to stable and affordable housing, and strengthen the pipeline of professionals working in these fields. Its central approach is to acquire land and hold it permanently, so that housing built on that land remains affordable for good rather than for the term of a subsidy.

What we will not claim

- Safeharbor Village is a plan in development. It is not funded or under construction.
- The Calyx Community Land Trust is being formed. It does not yet hold land.
- The Alliance is enrolling its first members. There is no existing membership base.
- We do not report outcomes we have not measured. When we have results, we will show you the records.

The gap in Whatcom County

Figure	What it says
4,998	additional affordable homes Whatcom County needs by 2030
~2,700	federally subsidized units that exist today
1 in 5	roughly the share of housing need currently met
58%	of Bellingham renters pay more than 30% of income toward housing
12 : 1	Bellingham median home price to median household income
68%	of people counted as homeless last held a permanent address here
\$27M / \$14M	requested for 2027 local housing funding, against what is available

Source: TCF 26-407.00-A, Whatcom Affordable Housing Market Brief, compiled from county and market sources. Sources available on request.

Why this is a business issue. When the people who staff a business cannot afford to live near it, the business pays through vacancies, longer commutes, turnover and the cost of hiring. Land is the part of housing cost that rises fastest and responds least to construction subsidy. It is also the only part that can be taken out of the market permanently.

What your membership does

Public loans for buying land are cheap and patient, but they do not pay for the things that come first: the appraisal, the survey, title and environmental work, holding costs, drafting a ground lease, and the equity a lender requires before it will lend. Unrestricted money from local businesses is the only kind that can pay for those things before a project exists.

How your contribution is held

- Memberships are **unrestricted charitable contributions** to the Calyx Foundation.
- The Board of Directors designates the net proceeds of the Alliance for land. Once the land trust's formation costs are paid, **70 percent** of net Alliance revenue goes to a Land Acquisition Fund and **30 percent** to the trust's operations and long-term stewardship.
- This is a decision of the Board, reviewed each year and reported to members. It is not a restriction attached to your gift.
- We will never tell you that your membership bought a particular parcel. Land is bought from the Fund as a whole, together with public loans, and every member shares in every acquisition.

At full enrolment, fifty memberships can contribute roughly \$42,000 a year to the Land Acquisition Fund. Used as the equity share of a 1 percent state land-acquisition loan, that is enough to support about one parcel a year. That is a modest number, and it is more land than the Foundation owns today. These figures are planning estimates; the Alliance has no operating history yet.

The charter cohort

Fifty places	The Alliance is capped at fifty founding members.
A permanent number	Members are numbered 001 to 050 in the order their first payment is received. The number is permanent and is never reissued. A business that joins in a later year can never hold a founding number.
Charter close	The cohort closes on April 1, 2027, or when the fiftieth place is taken, whichever comes first.
The Charter Twelve	The first twelve members are filmed first and recognized together when the charter closes.
Rate lock	Founding members keep their level's price through the 2030 renewal.
After the charter	The Alliance will later open a separate, renewable membership. Charter members keep their founding number and designation permanently.

We do not offer discounts or extra benefits for joining early. The founding number, and being part of the first fifty, is the incentive.

Membership levels and recognition

Every level is an annual membership for one membership year from your first payment. Recognition grows with the level because the more time-consuming benefits cost more to deliver. Every member is valued equally as one of the founding fifty.

Recognition	Community \$500	Impact \$1,000	Leadership \$2,500	Founding \$5,000+
Permanent member number and designation				
Alliance certificate and window decal				
Listing in The Cornerstone, our quarterly publication				
Website recognition	Name	Name	Small logo	Large logo
Social media recognition	Group post	Group post	Individual post	Individual post
Sponsor film (see next section)	Annual group acknowledgment card	30-second film, 1 interview	90-second film, 2 interviews	3-minute film, 3 interviews
Invitations to Foundation events	—			
Framed recognition plaque	—	—		
Featured spotlight in The Cornerstone	—	—		
Annual update conversation with Foundation leadership	—	—	—	
Permanent recognition at a completed Foundation or land trust property	—	—	—	(not before 2029; see note)

Note on property recognition. This recognition can only be provided once the Foundation or the land trust holds and completes a property. On the current plan that is 2029 at the earliest, and it may be later. We state it plainly so that no member expects it sooner. **Film refresh:** a member who renews for a third consecutive year receives a refreshed cut of their film. **Anonymous membership** is available at every level; an anonymous member receives no film, listing or social recognition.

Sponsor films

Impact, Leadership and Founding members are profiled in a short, professionally produced film about their business and why it supports permanently affordable housing in Whatcom County. The films are how the Foundation says thank you in public, and how other businesses learn about the Alliance.

How the films are made

- The Foundation commissions each film, writes and approves the script, and owns the finished film and all footage.
- You review the script and the final cut for **factual accuracy** — names, dates, what your business does. The Foundation makes the editorial decisions. If you do not respond to a review request within five business days, the draft is treated as approved.
- Every identifiable person who appears signs a written appearance release. No person's image or voice is ever synthetically altered.
- The film is published first on the Foundation's own channels, with Calyx branding.

What you may do with your film

After publication you receive a license to share the published film on your own website and social channels. The license is non-exclusive, cannot be transferred, and may be revoked if the film is used in a way the license does not allow. You do not receive raw footage or an unbranded version, and the film may not be used as paid advertising.

What the films will never contain

Because the film acknowledges a charitable gift rather than advertising your business, it will not include prices, claims that your business is better than others, endorsements, calls to action ("visit us," "call today"), or any statement that your business is the Foundation's exclusive provider. If you want a commercial video for your business, the videographer may be engaged directly and separately; that arrangement is outside the Alliance.

Schedule. Films are produced in batches. We will confirm your production window in writing once your filming threshold is reached (next section).

Paying for your membership

Payment in full is the standard. If a single payment is difficult this year, you may choose a payment plan instead. A plan costs nothing extra: there is **no fee, no interest and no discount**, and you receive the same recognition for the same total.

Level	Annual	In full	Semiannual	Quarterly	Monthly
Community	\$500	\$500	2 × \$250	4 × \$125	Not available
Impact	\$1,000	\$1,000	2 × \$500	4 × \$250	Not available
Leadership	\$2,500	\$2,500	2 × \$1,250	4 × \$625	12 × \$208.33*
Founding	\$5,000	\$5,000	2 × \$2,500	4 × \$1,250	12 × \$416.67*

* The final monthly payment is adjusted so the year totals exactly \$2,500 or \$5,000. Founding members giving more than \$5,000 may spread the full amount on the same schedules. No instalment is smaller than \$125, which is why monthly plans are offered only at the Leadership and Founding levels; a Community or Impact member who wants smaller payments can pay quarterly.

Plan terms

- Every plan finishes within one membership year; no balance carries into the next year.
- Monthly and quarterly plans require automatic payment.
- You may move to a longer schedule once in a membership year at no cost.
- You may pay off the balance early at any time.

How to pay

Method	Available for	Notes
Bank transfer (ACH)	All schedules	Preferred. It costs the Foundation about \$0.80 a payment, so more of your gift goes to land.
Credit or debit card	All schedules	Accepted. Card fees are about 3 percent.
Check	In full, semiannual, quarterly	Payable to The Calyx Foundation. Not available for monthly plans.
Wire transfer	In full only	Instructions provided by our finance office on request and confirmed by phone.

You enter bank or card details yourself through a secure link we send after you return the commitment form. The Foundation does not store card numbers. **Our representatives never accept payment in person** — not cash, not checks, not card details — and the Foundation does not accept cash or payment apps such as Venmo or Cash App. If anyone asks you to pay another way, please call us.

How recognition arrives as you pay

Recognition that costs the Foundation little begins with your first payment. Benefits with real production cost begin as your payments cover them. This keeps the Fund protected and means the schedule you choose decides when your film is made.

Benefit	Begins when
Member number, registry entry, certificate, decal, website and group recognition	Your first payment is received
Filming scheduled	Your payments reach: Impact \$815 · Leadership \$1,500 · Founding \$2,750
Film published and sharing license issued	Payment in full
Plaque, featured spotlight, event invitations, leadership conversation	Payment in full
Your level and schedule	Filming is scheduled after
Any level, paid in full	Your payment
Impact, semiannual or quarterly	Your final payment
Leadership, semiannual · quarterly · monthly	2nd payment · 3rd payment · 8th payment
Founding, semiannual · quarterly · monthly	2nd payment · 3rd payment · 7th payment

If a payment is missed

Most missed payments are an expired card or a hard month. We send reminders, retry the payment, and around the twentieth day the Director of Community Outreach will call you personally to sort it out. If a payment is still outstanding after 45 days, recognition is paused; after 90 days the plan is closed.

We do not use collection agencies, charge penalties or report to credit bureaus. Instead, if your plan does not finish, your membership is **re-designated to the level you have actually paid for**, with the recognition of that level and our thanks. If you have paid less than \$500, your payments are kept as a charitable contribution and acknowledged, and your membership lapses. Contributions already made are not refunded. If a film has been shot but the plan does not complete, the film is not published.

Acknowledgments and taxes

The Calyx Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity. We send a written acknowledgment for every payment:

- **Paid in full:** a full acknowledgment within five business days.
- **On a plan:** a letter confirming your commitment within five business days of your first payment, an annual letter by January 31 stating what you actually paid in the prior calendar year, and a completion letter when the plan finishes.

Each letter states the amount paid, the dates, our EIN, and whether any goods or services were provided with a good-faith estimate of their value where one applies. Recognition such as your name, logo and film is acknowledgment, not a service, and no value is stated for it.

Contributions are deductible in the year they are made, so 31 December is the deadline for a deduction in that tax year. What it is worth to you depends on your circumstances, and your accountant is the right person to ask. If you join in the second half of a year, a schedule that finishes before December 31 may suit you better; your accountant can tell you. The Foundation and its representatives do not give tax advice.

What membership is — and is not

Alliance membership is a charitable gift, recognized publicly. It is not an advertising purchase or a business transaction. Membership does not provide, and no one at the Foundation may promise, contracts, referrals, preferential treatment, board seats, a say in Foundation decisions, or exclusive opportunities. We say this plainly because it protects your business, the Foundation and every other member.

Your information and recognition choices

We use the name, logo and other details you give us only to administer your membership and to recognize you in the ways you choose on the commitment form. We never sell, rent or trade member information. You may change your recognition choices, or become anonymous, at any time by contacting us. Our Privacy Policy is at calyx-foundation.org/privacy.

How to join

1. **Talk with us.** We will meet you, ideally at your business, answer questions and leave you this packet. There is no obligation.
2. **Return the commitment form.** Choose your level, your schedule and your recognition preferences, and sign.
3. **Receive your secure payment link.** Within two business days we send written confirmation of your level, total, payment dates and recognition schedule, with a secure link to set up payment.
4. **Make your first payment.** Your founding number is assigned in the order first payments are received, and your welcome, certificate and decal follow.
5. **Plan your film.** When your payments reach your level's filming threshold, we schedule a planning call.

Questions businesses ask

- **Does signing the form make us a member?** Membership begins with your first payment. The form records your choices so we can prepare your confirmation and payment link.
- **Can we change levels?** Yes, at renewal. During the year, moving up is welcome; if a plan is not completed, the membership is re-designated to the level paid.
- **Can we renew at a different level?** Yes. Each year you may renew, change level or step back. Founding members keep their number either way.
- **What if our business closes?** Your plan is closed with no further obligation, and we acknowledge what you gave.
- **Who sees how the money is used?** Members receive an annual report on Alliance revenue, the Board's designation and the Land Acquisition Fund. Our Form 990 and audited or reviewed financial statements are available on request once issued.
- **Is there anything you would rather we not do?** Please do not describe your membership as having bought a specific property, and please share your film only under the license. Everything else is yours to be proud of.

Contact

If anything in your membership falls short of what this packet describes, tell us. Every concern is acknowledged the same business day.

Contact Information:

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The Calyx Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. EIN: 39-3812920. Figures in this packet are planning estimates as of September 2026 and will be updated as the Alliance operates.