

The Shambhala Community Co-operative : A Declaration of Support

“We have practices. We have forms. We have needs.”

- We are inspired to fulfill the vision of creating enlightened society as revealed by the Shambhala contemplative tradition.
- We acknowledge that a central purpose of the Shambhala organization is to disseminate teachings and forms of the Shambhala contemplative tradition to students inspired to practice, study, and embody these teachings.
- We understand that both enlightened monarchy as demonstrated by the Sakyongs, their court, and their mandala, and Shambhala Vajrayana (Kalapayana) Buddhism and its view, practices, and rituals are central to the structural DNA of the Shambhala Contemplative tradition.
- We see a need for those inspired by the Shambhala vision of enlightened society to self-organized into community co-operatives in order to meet daily and longer-term human needs that cannot possibly be met by an educational-dissemination structure (ie. the Shambhala organization) or a teaching structure of rulership (ie. the court) far removed from the details of a local or regional community.
- We think that a Shambhala Community Co-operative is a viable alternative organizing structure that will help meet the human needs of local community while fulfilling the aspiration and vision of creating enlightened society.
- We see the need for the leadership of a Shambhala Community Co-operative to not answer to the administrative directives of the Shambhala organization or to the administrative directives of the Sakyongs or the court.
- We feel a deep importance for Shambhala Community Co-operative supporters to practice, deepen in, and seek guidance in Shambhala personal and social, contemplative and meditative forms.
- We feel the need to acknowledge that our fellow Shambhala Community Co-operative supporters may not be trained in therapeutic, medical, administrative, or other professional or social skills, and therefore may not be qualified to offer professional or social guidance in these areas.
- We feel the need to acknowledge that people make mistakes, people get things wrong, and that people may unintentionally or intentionally hurt another out of deep confusion.
- We also believe that underneath people's confusion, people are basically good.
- We also believe that underneath our own confusion, we are personally, basically good.
- We also believe that underneath society's confusion, society is basically good.
- We understand that basic goodness reflects the ever-present possibility of fundamental wholeness from which both confusion and clarity have the probability to arise.

- We believe that, through our practice, work, and efforts together as a Shambhala Community Co-operative, we are increasing the probability that stability, clarity, strength of mind, insight, and vitality will arise from our shared, basic goodness.