



www.whidbeywill.com

Whidbey Island Living Legacy (WILL) is a nonprofit organization. Our mission is to raise funds—through purchase or donation—to buy land for affordable housing so that qualified individuals can each purchase a tiny home within a community of tiny homes. The land remains in the trust, the homes are the property of the homeowners.

Since 2000, the South Whidbey student population has decreased by 50%, even as the resident population has grown by 17%. South Whidbey School District currently has 97 children in the schools that are inadequately housed. It is also difficult for retail and service venues to staff their businesses due to a lack of affordable housing. Affordable housing is integral to the region’s healthy economy. Several organizations are developing properties to address specific needs of South Whidbey.

BOARD MEMBERS

Coyla Shephard (former South Whidbey Homeless Coalition Board member, heading the Housing Committee, THINC Tiny Houses founder and past president, WILL founder and president.)

Donna Slade (THINC Advisor)

Erin Leary (retired Boeing executive)

Beth Farrell (owner, Sea Script Company Book Publishing)

Richard Queen (Builder and Land Donor)

THE LAND, THE HOMES

Construction of the houses is the affordable part; land is the expensive part. The cost of home ownership has risen 1,608% since many of us bought our first homes, eclipsing inflation (644%).

WILL tiny houses can be *up to* 400 sq. ft. on the ground with an additional 133 sq ft. space for a loft. This can accommodate a living room, kitchen, and bathroom on the main floor and a sleeping or storage area in the loft. These are permanent homes, not mobile.

All construction is required to follow the International Building Code for Tiny Houses. WILL’s Building Committee will oversee the design, color choices, and construction of the houses following, City of Langley requirements.

LOCATION

City of Langley is currently the only area in So. Whidbey zoned for tiny houses. WILL is requesting Island County move up the schedule for discussions of rezoning other So. Whidbey incorporated/unincorporated land for tiny homes. This would free up land opportunities so that tiny home developments can be expanded to Clinton, Freeland, and Greenbank. There is an *immediate* need for affordable housing in education (teachers and students’ families), health care, retail, and fixed-income retirees.

WILL has been donated a lot in Langley next to the THINC property on Camano Ave. Click on Our Progress in the Navigation Bar at the top of the page.

MARKETING

Using THINC as a successful model, money will be raised through:

- Newspaper articles
- Craigslist/Drewslist
- Nextdoor
- Community grants
- Local clubs
- Partner organizations/businesses

GENERAL INFORMATION

<https://unitedtinyhomes.com/the-incredible-advantages-of-united-tiny-homes/>

<https://todayshomeowner.com/eco-friendly/guides/tiny-home-statistics-and-facts/>

Tiny/Small House Statistics, Trends, and Affordability

The age of McMansions is ending. More tiny home and small home communities of varying scales, amenities, services, and operating models are popping up every day, proving to be a viable option for affordable housing and ending the struggle for housing instability.

Having a steady, affordable living plan helps workers remain in their jobs and allows employers to reduce employee turnover.

At a time when substantial personal debt and low consumer savings are the norm, living on a smaller footprint offers the possibility of a transformational lifestyle through living more intentionally, especially for those dealing with the immense pressures of unaffordability in the present housing market.

Analysts predict steady market expansion over the next few years. The tiny house market has an estimated compound annual growth rate of 4.88% between 2022 and 2027.

Tiny house market revenue is projected to increase by \$4.17 million through 2027. Rising demand points to double-digit growth.

North America may contribute 57% of tiny house growth by 2027. The U.S. and Canada present major expansion opportunities.

56% of the U.S. population finds small living arrangements appealing.

Avoiding home loans helps achieve financial freedom faster. 68% of tiny homeowners have no mortgage, compared to 29.3% of all U.S. homeowners.

Lower housing costs mean homeowners can allocate more money to savings. For example, 55% of tiny homeowners have more savings than average Americans.

32% of tiny homeowners have over \$10,000 in retirement savings. Tiny living allows a substantial future savings while enjoying home ownership.

SPECIFICATIONS

To be considered a tiny house, the main floor of the house and hallways must have a minimum ceiling height of 6 feet, 8 inches. This ensures residents can move comfortably throughout the space.

WILL homes will be 400 square feet on the ground, six times smaller than an average house. Much like a boat, the limited space encourages built-in efficiency while still providing comfort.

Tiny houses produce fewer CO2 emissions each year than an average-sized house. Their small footprint makes them an eco-friendly housing choice.

There are more than 10,000 tiny houses in the United States. This number continues to rise as the tiny and small house lifestyle gain popularity.

COST

The average cost of a tiny house is 87% cheaper than the average price of a typical U.S. house. This significant price difference allows more Americans to achieve home ownership without taking on a burdensome mortgage.

Over 80% of tiny house owners carry less debt than the average U.S. citizen. Without a heavy mortgage, owners can better make their payments.

About 40% of tiny house owners are older than 50 years.

55% of tiny/small home owners are women. A significant number are single parents.

Millennials prefer/benefit from tiny houses. Young adults and those in the workforce embrace tiny living to avoid burdensome housing costs.

NEEDED

Board members – construction, legal, financial, and others with unique skills, management experience, desire to make a difference, and plenty of enthusiasm!

Other – draft person, landscaper, volunteers (TBD), and others with unique skills, desire to make a difference, and plenty of enthusiasm!

CONTACT: Whidbeywill24@gmail.com

Come join us in creating something magical!