



S H A M B H A L A

The Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum

Culture is the binding factor of a society, and reflects the embodiments of the Shambhala teachings in a community and a kingdom. Through shared rituals, symbols and experiences – we become a people, give our children a rich sense of heritage, and invite others to share in the celebration. This is how we invoke drala, infuse the community with authentic presence, and create an atmosphere that is conducive to practice and genuine communication.

The decorum of Shambhala is a series of gestures and forms used to invoke wakefulness, uplift ourselves, the environment, and therefore other beings. All forms should be based on generosity, put others at ease and create harmony with a bit of perky edge. It is essential that Shambhala forms always evolve and progress, so that they do not become a conventional system of rules, but rather serve as a setting within which the jewel of dharma can sparkle.

The Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum has been established by the Sakyong and the Sakyong Wangmo to accomplish the following purposes:

- Work closely under the patronage of the Sakyong Wangmo to set the tone for our society's culture and decorum
- Cultivate elegance, beauty, warmth and hospitality in our forms under the direction of our Sakyong and Sakyong Wangmo
- Serve as the reference office for all questions of protocol, decorum and cultural forms for Shambhala Centres.
- Coordinate the work of the Representatives of the Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum to be appointed at Shambhala Centres and groups
- Meet with the Sakyong Wangmo, the President, Kalapa Council and others within the Shambhala mandala on a regular basis to discuss issues of culture and decorum raised from Shambhala centres worldwide.

The Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum is responsible for:

- Recommending to the Kalapa Court the appointment of Representatives of the Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum at Shambhala Centres and groups. These representatives of the Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum would assist with culture and decorum, in their local centre, at programs, and in visit households.
- Training the representatives and others who have inspiration and inclination to work with Shambhala culture and decorum throughout the mandala
- Creating a new Decorum Manual for use throughout the mandala, including a Shambhala householder's manual for use in homes
- Advising/helping to plan ceremonial and cultural events
- Creating forms for Shambhala holidays, Nyida days and community celebrations and sharing these with centres
- Maintaining an iconography and imagery "bank" which would ensure consistency in Shambhala imagery, their meanings and appropriate usages (under the Sakyong's direction) and possible templates for centres' use
- Administering the mandala-wide system for Shambhala awards and citations
- Promoting the principles of the Shambhala Edict on Wholesome Human Conduct through awareness of these teachings

The Shambhala Office of Culture and Decorum works with:

- The Office of the Kalapa Court to help with planning formal state occasions and visits, oaths or other ceremonies
- The Kalapa Court and Master of the Household to help centres establish decorum guidelines for visits of the Sakyong, Sakyong Wangmo and other Shambhala dignitaries
- The Kalapa Council and Kusung Dapon to assure synchronicity of protocols between civilian, Dorje Kasung and practice aspects of mandala
- Acharyas and Program Coordinators to establish culture and decorum guidelines for programs so that these can gradually incorporate these principles and forms in the curriculum and programs
- Centres to develop their cultural events, celebrations and sense of community
- Newly appointed Envoys, Centre Directors or others to brief them on updated details of culture and forms
- The Families and Children Working Group of the Sakyong's Council to – create ways for parents to introduce Shambhala culture in the home to create domestic elegance and generational culture
- Major buildings and projects to consult regarding symbolism, iconography, as needed.
- Centres and Individuals to answer questions regarding decorum, precedence or other related topics
- The Shambhala Shop to update, clarify and encourage the use and production of Shambhala flags, banners, pins and other items as recommended by the Sakyong and the Sakyong Wangmo