

Shambhala Center Chagdzö

Decorum

The Chagdzö is appointed by the Kalapa Court. The Chagdzö is nominated by the local Shambhala Centre, with the agreement of the Centre Director; the Chagdzö Kyi Khyap reviews and approves the nomination on behalf of the court.

The oath of office is specific to the Chagdzö position. There is a Chagdzö pin.

Governance

The Chagdzö is the local representative of the Chagdzö Kyi Khyap, who holds a seat on the Kalapa Council, the lha body of the governance of the mandala.

The Chagdzö provides the linkage for all financial matters between the local Shambhala Centre and the Chagdzö Kyi Khyap. This includes relating to the centre director on behalf of the Chagdzö Kyi Khyap, and to the Chagdzö Kyi Khyap on behalf of the center director.

Within the local Shambhala Centre, the Chagdzö holds the principal finance seat in the Shambhala Centre, and is part of the government pillar, headed by the centre director. In the three-pillar model, the other two pillars are Practice and Education and the Dorje Kasung.

As part of the government pillar, the Chagdzö advises the centre director on financial matters including the management of the centre's finances, which falls under the overall responsibility of the centre director. In some centres there will also be a finance manager; in others, the same person may serve as Chagdzö and finance manager.

The centre director relies on the advice of the Chagdzö and would not want to make a decision with significant financial implications without first consulting with the Chagdzö. If after consultation the Chagdzö believes that the director is making a decision that would be harmful to the local centre, (s)he has the responsibility to refer the matter to the Chagdzö Kyi Khyap for further consideration.

View

The Chagdzö holds the view of relating to money in a sane way:

- Understands that money is neutral energy, neither for nor against us.
- Understands that money is a precious resource that must be respected and related to with precision and discipline.
- Appreciates there is a decorum of finances, can work comfortably with and describe for others the proper financial decorum.

- Understands that the local centre culture conveys messages about the view of money that can either promote sanity or neurosis.
- Is familiar with the ways in which neurosis with money is expressed, and how to work with that neurosis.
- Understands how money works and how to use financial information to inform decision-making.

Practice

The Chagdzo supports the centre director and helps ensure proper financial management by:

- Overseeing whether the center is in compliance with the Shambhala Principles on Financial Sustainability, or has developed a plan and is making progress towards compliance. If not, s/he works with the leadership to develop and execute such a plan.
- Overseeing the accounting and financial reporting systems to determine they are in ongoing compliance with the Shambhala Policy on Financial Transparency and Integrity.
- Maintaining currency with all Shambhala financial policies and ensuring that the local centre is in compliance with applicable policies.
- Working with the centre director and local governing bodies to develop local financial policies, ensuring they are consistent with Shambhala policies.
- Working with the centre's finance manager to ensure that the centre director and local governing bodies have the financial information they need to (1) understand the basic financial situation of the centre, and (2) to make well-informed decisions.
- In strategic planning, working with the centre director and local governing bodies to ensure that financial implications are understood and that financial risks are properly managed.

The Chagdzo advises the centre director and local governing bodies in the development of a sane relationship with money, in particular with regard to:

- Developing and maintaining a local culture that reinforces a sane view of money. This includes such areas as membership policy, program pricing, and teaching gifts.
- Finding opportunities to provide training for leadership and the community on the view and practice of working with money.