

We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The following is a list of frequently asked questions that we hope will provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision about whether you are interested in supporting We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC). This is a “living document,” to be updated as more questions are asked and answers are developed!

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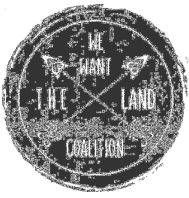
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We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

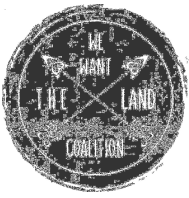
WHAT IS WE WANT THE LAND COALITION? HOW IS IT STRUCTURED? ([back to top](#))

The We Want the Land Coalition was created to save the land that was home for over 30 years to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (MichFest), a place that many called "home." MichFest was a place where we laughed, loved, learned, and struggled together; where we welcomed newborns and scattered the ashes of our beloved departed. It served as an incubator for both personal transformation and profound social justice work. While we do not intend to recreate the Festival, WWTLC does seek to honor the tradition of MichFest by creating a society and community we want to live in and pass on to the next generation.

- WWTLC is a registered nonprofit organization in the state of Michigan, and an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) non-profit charity whose mission is to provide women and girls with unique programs, events, and experiences that celebrate women's history, promote healing and empowerment, build women's community, and encourage education and growth. This is made possible through the maintenance, preservation, conservation, and stewardship of approximately 651 acres of land in Walkerville, Michigan, near the Manistee National Forest, the former home of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival – an area we call The Land.
- WWTLC received federal 501(c)(3) non-profit status in September 2017.
- A nonprofit structure ensures that the possession of the Land can remain within the hands of the women's community for generations to come.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF WWTLC? ([back to top](#))

- WWTLC, through education, community awareness, interaction with public officials, and restorative efforts, hopes to maintain the condition of The Land in its current pristine condition in perpetuity, for our own use now, and for future generations of women and girls.
- Practice sound environmental stewardship to maintain The Land in its current pristine condition. Preservation of The Land is essential to the local ecosystems.
- Establish protected space for women-only and women-centered events, so that the ethos of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival may not only endure inside of us, but also be alive and well upon The Land itself.
- WWTLC will offer and host programs in the expansive, wild and protected space offered by The Land as a means of providing women and girls with opportunities to thrive in a natural environment unmediated by some of the more unfortunate realities of modern life.
- By partnering with organizations that serve women and girls, WWTLC seeks to provide women and girls with unique programs, events, and experiences that celebrate women's history, promote healing and empowerment, build women's community, and encourage education and growth.



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WHAT ABOUT THE MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL? [\(back to top\)](#)

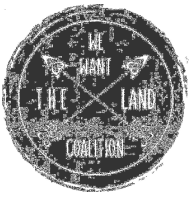
- The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival was a week-long annual event created by and for women that held space for lesbian and women's culture in the United States and beyond for four decades. Through its longevity, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival provided respite and sanctuary for generations of women, while showing girls the power that they possess to change the world. WWTLC seeks to honor this 40-year legacy.
- The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival was completely built, staffed, run, and attended by women. Throughout its 40-year herstory, the Festival occupied a central and powerful place in lesbian history, embracing and creating space for the vast diversity of the female experience. It provided space for women to share and learn skills including carpentry, plumbing, sound engineering, stage production, and community organizing. For many women, it expanded and transformed their understanding of what it means to be a woman.
- As the former location of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, The Land is considered by many to be a site of historical significance, one that remains a meaningful, deeply connected space for women and girls who gather there.
- While WWTLC is grateful for the foundation provided by the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, and we thankfully acknowledge that many of the skills needed to form WWTLC as an organization were taught to us via our MichFest experiences, the organization does not seek to recreate or resurrect the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival event.

WHAT IS THE DISPOSITION OF MICHIGAN WOMEN'S FESTIVAL INVENTORY? [\(back to top\)](#)

- In late 2016, the Festival's inventory was sold at auction.
- WWTLC's efforts have been focused on purchasing The Land. Therefore, we did not attend nor purchase items on behalf of WWTLC. Many members of the Festival community did attend the auctions and purchased some of the inventory, but WWTLC was not involved.

WHAT ABOUT COMMERCIAL INVESTORS AND/OR DEVELOPMENT? WILL WWTLC SELL SHARES, OR PARCELS OF THE LAND? [\(back to top\)](#)

- WWTLC will not explore private ownership or ownership by shares.
- WWTLC does not plan to sell parcels of the 651-acre Land.
- We seek to ensure the preservation of The Land as primarily undeveloped and, therefore, do not seek commercial development or investors. Lisa Vogel, co-founder and long-time producer of Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, and owner of The Land, worked extensively with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan prior to the sale of The Land to WWTLC to establish a conservation easement that protects The Land from commercial development, while supporting any minimal development that may be required in the future to realize WWTLC's mission.



We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

WHAT ABOUT MONEY? ([back to top](#))

- **What is the price of The Land?**
 - WWTLC signed a land contract agreement with Lisa Vogel in April 2017 to purchase The Land for \$1,500,000 over eight years.
 - Our goal is to avoid interest expense by paying the land contract off as quickly as possible.
 - WWTLC's Fundraising Team is dedicated to continuing to raise funds to support this plan.
 - Ongoing fundraising will provide the primary financial means required to sustain and maintain The Land as well as to fund payments on the land contract.
- **What's a land contract?**
 - A land contract is a form of seller financing. It is similar to a mortgage, but rather than borrowing money from a lender or bank to buy real estate, the buyer makes payments to the real estate owner, or seller, until the purchase price is paid in full.
 - An initial down payment from the buyer to the seller is usually also required by a land contract. WWTLC's down payment on The Land was \$300,000.
 - Under a land contract, the seller retains the legal title to the property, while permitting the buyer to take possession of it for most purposes other than legal ownership.
 - The seller conveys legal title to the property to the buyer when the full purchase price has been paid, including interest.
 - If the buyer defaults on the land contract purchase agreement, all monies paid are forfeited and the seller retains legal title to the property. This is similar to foreclosing on a regular mortgage.
- **Did WWTLC have an outside professional appraise the value of The Land?**

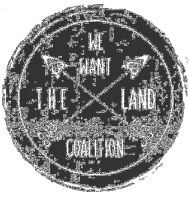
Lisa Vogel paid for a professional appraisal as part of the process to establish the conservation easement on The Land.
- **Is there a rough estimate of the annual upkeep costs to maintain The Land?**

This is dependent on property taxes, liability insurance, and operating expenses. The placement of the conservation easement helps to maintain property tax liability at pre-sale levels. An operating budget will be agreed upon annually by the Board in accordance with the organization's bylaws and within the funds available.
- **Would permanent structures raise real estate taxes?**

Michigan law defines real property as the land itself, plus all buildings and fixtures on the land. It is likely that any permanent structures would be considered improvements that increase the assessed value, and, therefore, the property taxes.

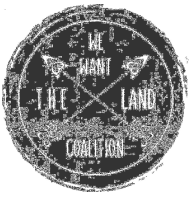
HOW WILL THE MONEY BE RAISED? ([back to top](#))

- **Our fundraising campaign** has been split into phases to meet specific goals.
- **The first fundraising goal** of \$300,000 for the down payment plus \$60,000 for the first year's operating expenses was exceeded. The organization collected nearly \$400,000 in donations by April 2017.



We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Future phases** of the fundraising plan will focus satisfying the land contract debt obligation as well as meeting ongoing operating expenses. We anticipate raising additional funds to build a small number of permanent structures on The Land that will make it possible for groups to rent The Land without having to recreate infrastructure from scratch. We need our whole community to help with fundraising. Some will choose to make individual donations or pledge repeating donations, some will organize community fundraising events, while others may solicit donations and write grants.
- **Will our donations be tax deductible?**
Yes! WWTLC and Purple, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, have been operating under a fiscal sponsorship contract that enables WWTLC to function as a program under Purple's nonprofit umbrella. This sponsorship has meant that Purple can receive fully tax-deductible charitable donations on behalf of WWTLC. Since WWTLC obtained its 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity determination from the IRS in September 2017, it can now operate independently. WWTLC and Purple will continue the fiscal sponsorship through end of year 2017, to allow for a smooth and thorough transition of responsibility. We are so grateful for Purple's incredible support and sponsorship. This partnership has been key to our ability to launch our fundraising campaign, while we completed the process of obtaining our own 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Consult your tax preparer and/or accountant for more information.
- **How will you collect the money?**
Crowdsourcing will figure prominently in our fundraising plans, which include online crowdfunding, personal checks, PayPal, and maybe more.
- **Is this a donation or an investment with an expected return?** The funds accepted for the purchase of the Land and ongoing sustainability will be donations. In the future, we may ask the community for interest-free or low-interest loans. But for now, we are only seeking donations.
- **Will I be able to contribute specific amounts over time?** The Coalition anticipates the length of the fundraising campaign will allow for individuals to give in the way that best fits their financial capacity. This includes choosing to establish recurrent payments and giving multiple individual amounts over the length of the campaign.
- **What is the minimum donation amount?** There is no minimum donation. Donations of any amount are accepted. Our goal is to enable participation by every woman who has a desire to be part of the effort by making available a variety of options for donating.
- **Why crowdsource fundraising?**
WWTLC utilizes crowdsource fundraising as one component of the plan for a few reasons:
 - During Phase 1, using an online platform provided the ability to issue refunds (less processing fees) in the event that the initial fundraising goal was not reached.
 - It makes it easy for donors to give more than one time throughout the campaign.
 - Crowdsourcing platforms allow donors to absorb fees so that more of each dollar donated will go to WWTLC's bottom line fundraising goal.
- **Which crowdsource provider are you using?**
After extensive research, WWTLC switched to DonorBox as the online fundraising platform (from CrowdRise during the first phase) due to its favorable cost structure and the fact that it allows recurrent payments.



We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **What about all of the fees associated with fundraising?**

- Please keep in mind that ALL methods of donation include some fees.
- Whether donors give via DonorBox, PayPal, or by personal check directly to Purple (before January 1, 2018), each of those entities provides a variety of services for WWTLC, from web hosting, to payment processing and accounting, to donor data collection and management.
- Even for nonprofits, these services have a price, and the small percentage of funds raised that goes to fees is providing necessary services as well as huge cost and time savings to WWTLC in our effort.
- We encourage donors to give in the available ways that best suit their preferences and are grateful for every donation, regardless of the amount.

- **What is a fiscal sponsor? Is that the same thing as a fiscal agent?**

A fiscal sponsor (sometimes called a fiscal agent) is an established 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit charitable organization that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to help build the capacity of charitable projects. Until WWTLC received its own 501(c)(3) designation, it was considered a charitable project under Purple's nonprofit organization. WWTLC and Purple have agreed to extend the fiscal sponsorship agreement through end of year 2017, to allow for a smooth and thorough transition of responsibility. An organization willing to enter into a fiscal sponsorship arrangement, usually does so with charitable projects that are aligned with the fiscal sponsor organization's mission. The relationship between the fiscal sponsor and charitable project is usually a fee-based contractual arrangement. Some of the services provided by the fiscal sponsor to the charitable project include but are not limited to the following:

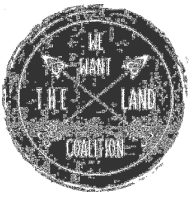
- Offering their legal and tax-exempt status to charitable projects;
- Accepting donations on behalf of the charitable projects; and
- Disbursing funds raised to charitable projects.

- **How will ongoing regular financial management be handled?**

The treasurer of WWTLC, along with the Finance Team, will provide ongoing financial management.

- **Can I organize local fundraising events to raise money for WWTLC's purchase of The Land?**

WWTLC appreciates your generosity and willingness to support the long-term vitality of The Land. For legal reasons, WWTLC is unable to sponsor your event, but gratefully accepts (via our fiscal sponsor, Purple, through end of year 2017) any funds raised through local events.



We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

HOW WILL WWTLC SUSTAIN THE LAND FINANCIALLY? ([back to top](#))

- **Sustainability is key.** To sustain the literal and figurative upkeep of The Land, owned by a nonprofit organization that is managed by members of our community, will require income for taxes, insurance, staff, tech expenses, land expenses, etc.. Income for the long-term sustenance of The Land will come from the following sources:
 - Individual donations. There will be ongoing donations and fundraisers.
 - Some funds will come from rental fees when groups or organizations within the community use The Land for events or gatherings. (See below.)
 - We hope that future fundraising plans will include a planned giving and endowment program for women who want to give through life insurance, estate planning, and so on, to support The Land long-term.
- **Can women add WWTLC to their wills?**
Yes, please! The information needed to include WWTLC in one's estate planning documents, in addition to the amount of the bequest, is below. Please contact your attorney for additional assistance with the process.

WWTLC's EIN: 81-4997325

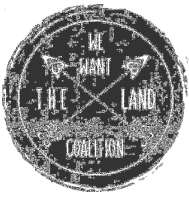
Our legal address:
We Want the Land Coalition, Inc.
c/o Hude Legal Services, LLC
824 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: (517) 253-0896

- Here is a link to some information that might be helpful:
<http://www.plannedgiving.com/what-is-planned-giving>.

WHAT ARE WWTLC'S PLANS TO SUSTAIN THE LAND ENVIRONMENTALLY? ([back to top](#))

- WWTLC is grateful to Lisa Vogel for her dedication and hard work with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan to establish a conservation easement which both protects The Land from development and supports any minimal development that may be required in the future in support of WWTLC's mission.
- A conservation easement is an agreement between a landowner and a Land Conservancy that provides protection for all or parts of a property. Conserving The Land in its beautiful, raw state, with minimal development, for future generations of women and girls to enjoy is aligned with the mission of WWTLC.
- There were no conservation easements on The Land when we began this process.
- This conservation easement was transferred to WWTLC at the time the purchase was complete. The impact on assessed value of The Land was taken into consideration when agreeing on purchase price.

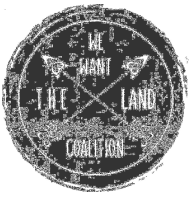


We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- The easement requires the vast majority of the acreage to remain undeveloped, with a small number of exceptions for adding key infrastructure (e.g., utility buildings, bathrooms, picnic shelters, etc.) The conservation easement will protect The Land from development. Because The Land is almost entirely surrounded by the Huron-Manistee National Forest, it will also protect the habitats and resources on the surrounding public lands.
- We don't know yet what permanent structures will be built.
- Many of us say that The Land is magical, but it truly is ecologically astounding.
 - The Land contains the headwaters of Ruby Creek, a trout stream that is the highest quality tributary to the Big South Branch of the Pere Marquette River. The creek arises from extensive emergent marshes and cedar swamps on the property, and there are numerous high quality wetlands with diverse vegetation that support important amphibian populations. The Conservation Easement will preserve a naturally vegetated buffer around the headwaters of Ruby Creek.
 - The majority of the property consists of level to rolling hills of mixed hardwood-pine forest dominated by white and red oak, red and sugar maple, beech, and scattered white pine. There is also big-tooth aspen, hemlock, witch-hazel, shagbark hickory, black cherry, and around the wetland areas are stands of cedars, hemlock and black spruce. There are both sedge-dominated, emergent (cattails), and shrub dominated wetlands with willow, alder, and dogwood. The oak-pine forest provides excellent potential habitat for interior nesting birds, migratory warblers, hawks, owls, reptiles such as box turtles and snakes, and mammals that likely include bobcat.
 - Going forward, WWTLC will work directly with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan to ensure that any development, changes, or maintenance are done with minimal impact to the land and its ecosystem.

HOW WILL THE LAND BE USED? ([back to top](#))

- The bylaws of this nonprofit organization specify that The Land be preserved primarily for the use, education, and healing of women and girls, and for women-only and women-centered events.
- Programs, gatherings, and events on The Land will be community-generated and organized, *not sponsored by WWTLC*.
- The WWTLC board of directors will review and evaluate all proposals for gatherings and events against an established set of criteria that is documented in the organization's bylaws.
- Approved events will be held on The Land for a fee, which will generate some of the revenue needed to cover taxes, insurance, and upkeep.
- **From a legal and/or marketability perspective, what improvements to The Land will be necessary to successfully operation as a venue for groups that produce events?**
Our current focus is on raising funds to cover the land contract fee, insurance, taxes, and maintenance. We are acutely aware of the ongoing costs of stewarding The Land and are balancing that with making The Land available and useful for events that uphold the mission of WWTLC.



We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **What kind of infrastructure exists on The Land today; what kinds of improvements exist?**

There are intentionally no above-ground structures, but a lot of important and diverse infrastructure underground, including water wells, waterlines, and electrical and telephone cables. Above ground, there are three-fourths of a mile of blacktop to make The Land more accessible.

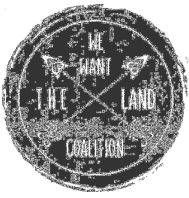
- **How will The Land be maintained between uses? What is the plan for sustaining The Land with multiple uses per year?**

Stewardship and preservation of The Land are central to the mission of WWTLC. The WWTLC Land Stewardship Team is currently building our knowledge base by tapping the deep knowledge of MichFest women, as well as consulting with conservancy organizations and other experts. This information is crucial for conserving The Land and planning for sustainable land use. These are priorities for us and will be part of the ongoing planning process for the Land Stewardship Team, but our current focus is to complete the purchase of The Land.

- **Will there be a physical presence on The Land year-round?** This is a long-term goal for WWTLC, but the answer to this question is unknown at this time. Attainment of this goal will be largely dependent upon financial ability to provide structures to support a full-time residence on The Land. If a caretaker is hired at some point in the future, the position will be advertised via our email list, Facebook page, and website.

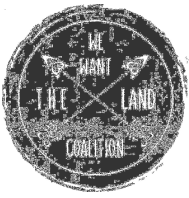
WHAT IS WWTLC'S VISION AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS FOR RENTAL AND USE OF THE LAND? ([back to top](#))

- WWTLC seeks to ensure that the environmental care and protection of The Land extend into perpetuity through loving stewardship and to guarantee continued use of The Land by the community for gatherings and events that benefit women and girls.
- WWTLC will rent to those who satisfy our rental agreement criteria, which include being able to demonstrate how a proposed event is aligned with the mission of WWTLC in its focus on benefitting women and girls.
- There are 365 days a year and 651 acres of land. A key guiding principle of WWTLC is that there is room enough and time enough for all of us.
- WWTLC's vision is that opportunities exist for all kinds of events to occur on The Land, with all kinds of definitions and intentions, including explicitly biologically female-only events; explicitly transwoman-only events; and others.
- WWTLC will not define or determine who is female, woman, or girl with regard to who participates in or hosts events on The Land. Rather, our mission is to hold space for the possibility of gatherings and events for women and girls which exemplify all of the differing philosophies and definitions held passionately by our community.



We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Our vision is that many groups representing our diverse community will submit proposals for use of The Land. The decision of who will attend an event, whom an event is for, and who will use The Land, is left entirely to the groups and organizations seeking to rent The Land, not to WWTLC. It will be up to these programming groups and organizations to define the boundaries of their events and to demonstrate how their proposed event supports WWTLC's mission of benefitting women and girls or is connected to the historical legacy of The Land.
- WWTLC expects that all programming groups and organizations, as well as the participants of the events that they present on The Land, will respect the boundaries that *other* programming organizations have defined for their own events. Here is our overview of how this will work:
 - WWTLC's governing documents will establish detailed criteria and guidelines for land use.
 - ***For illustrative purposes only***, some examples of the specific considerations for usage of The Land might include: clear articulation of the programming focus of the event; the length of time the event will run; whether additional time is needed for setup and strike; whether temporary structures will be built (and if so, what the plan is for removal); whether electricity or running water will be needed; how the organization intends to care for waste (trash and bio waste); whether and/or how food will be provided for participants; confirmation of event insurance, etc. Please note that this is very much a work in progress and this list is by no means final.
 - Any organization seeking to rent The Land will be required to demonstrate that their program or event, in some tangible way, benefits women and girls or is connected to the historical legacy of The Land.
 - Any programming organization seeking to rent The Land will have to submit an application for Land use, and pay a security deposit and rental fee.
 - The WWTLC Land Stewardship Committee will adhere to the guidelines and criteria set forth in WWTLC's governing documents in reviewing and approving applications submitted by programming groups and organizations for their events.
 - Event proposals/applications that meet all the necessary criteria as defined in the rental application will be approved.
- WWTLC's governing documents will serve to protect the possibility of gatherings and events that set their own boundaries and define their own terms for participation in a range of different ways. Our hope is that there will be many kinds of events proposed by members of the entire community, which will provide revenue to sustain the continued preservation of The Land. Here are just a few examples of what this could look like to WWTLC:
 - A group seeking to use The Land to produce a female-only event;
 - A group of women who have stopped their female-to-male transitions and seek to gather on The Land to draw on its history and power in coming to a new understanding of what it means to be female;
 - A group of women with intersex conditions, such as CAH or AIS, seeking to gather privately on The Land to find reflection in each other;
 - A group seeking to hold a camping retreat for late transitioning trans women;

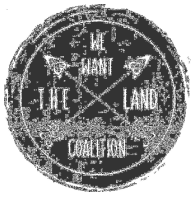


We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- A group seeking to produce a yoga getaway for women born female, women of trans experience, and genderqueer women all seeking to strengthen a woman-centered practice.
- A group seeking to use The Land for a special-interest retreat open to all who identify as women.
- We understand that some members of the community may feel strongly about autonomous biological female space and/or trans-welcoming spaces, and about definitions. Likewise, across members of the founding board and coalition working team, there exists a wide diversity of feelings and opinions regarding the need for autonomous female space and/or trans-welcoming space, and about definitions. This is part of what makes us a Coalition. WWTLC honors these differences and holds the intention that The Land will be available for programming organizations to create events that meet their needs for the benefit of women and girls – however the programming organization defines those words in relation to their intended participants.
- WWTLC recognizes that it is highly unlikely that a single plan will adequately please all people. Accordingly, we keep our focus trained on maintaining our homeland with the love, care and sacredness she deserves and hope that the community believes that these 651 acres can hold all of us in our great diversity and in our narrow specificity.

WHO IS ON THE BOARD? HOW CAN I BE ON THE BOARD? [\(back to top\)](#)

- An inaugural board of directors took on the responsibility for forming the 501(c)(3) organization and preparing the proposal to purchase The Land, etc. The inaugural WWTLC Board of Directors includes: Karen Colton, Rae Fehring, Leslie Gallagher, Nedra Johnson, Annemarie Serra, and Karen Thompson.
- The inaugural WWTLC Board of Directors will serve the organization for an initial term of between one and three years, to be determined by the board. Inaugural board members may seek reelection for a second term, which will last three years.
- The inaugural WWTLC board of directors has appointed five additional board members from within the coalition: Tara Ayres, Anne Drake, Brooke Levandowski, Brenda Millhouse-Huebner, Papusa Molina, and Camellia Pisegna.
- Our community is rich with brilliant, savvy women, and our strengths are compounded exponentially when we work together. We seek the input and involvement of women from our diverse community.
- Regular WWTLC board elections will be held starting one year after incorporation. Board members will be elected to three-year terms on a rotational basis in order to preserve continuity of the organization.
- WWTLC may, at its discretion, add seats to the board, up to a maximum capacity of 15 members. These positions may be added mid-term by appointment that is approved by a 50% +1 majority vote by the board, or during the regular annual elections cycle. Once the regular election cycle commences, one year after incorporation, the board of directors will accept nominations for open director positions from the community.
- Criteria for eligibility to hold a position on the board are outlined in WWTLC's bylaws.
- Board membership and positions of relative power will not be reserved for those who have more to contribute financially.

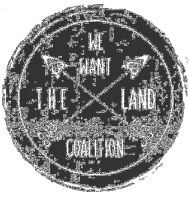


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- Candidates seeking election to a board position will be vetted to assure they are aligned with the values of WWTLC and have demonstrated a commitment to working for the rights and autonomy of women and girls.
- Board members are limited to serving two consecutive terms in the same position. After serving two consecutive terms in the same position, a board member may seek election to a different position, if desired.
- **What about vacancies that occur before the end of a term?**
 - The bylaws provide for filling board vacancies that occur before the end of a term.
 - With the exception of the position of president (which would be filled through succession of the vice president), if a board position becomes vacant, it will be filled by appointment that is approved by a 50% +1 majority vote to complete the remainder of the term.
 - Complete details of WWTLC's legal structure and board are contained in our bylaws.

HOW WAS THE INAUGURAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS FORMED? [\(back to top\)](#)

- The inaugural WWTLC board of directors is as follows: Karen Colton, Rae Fehring, Leslie Gallagher, Nedra Johnson, Annemarie Serra, and Karen Thompson.
- Here's a brief history of how the board came to be:
 - In the fall of 2015, right after the 40th and final Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, Rae Fehring and Annemarie Serra took on the ambitious initiative to explore how to move forward with the next incarnation of the Festival. In the Facebook Group "Planting Something New," they seized on the idea of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with a focus on providing various enrichment programs for women and girls. Karen Colton researched and presented a plan in that group to purchase The Land separate from the programming entity, as a foundational step for the larger idea. For lots of reasons, momentum stalled and the group fell dormant.
 - Fast forward to mid-July 2016, when Leslie Gallagher, Nedra Johnson, and Allison Porch had a conversation, and the idea of purchasing The Land as a first step resurfaced. Then, seeing in writing Lisa Vogel's plans for selling The Land on the open real estate market and selling the Festival inventory at auction launched conversations into full-speed-ahead mode.
 - Leslie reached out to Rae, Annemarie, and Karen, and the core of our organizing team was formed. The six women agreed to take on the responsibilities of the inaugural board of directors (required by law to create a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization), to recruit motivated members of the community, and to see the project through to fruition.
 - When Lisa Vogel sent her announcement to the worker community, Toni Armstrong Jr. began her own initiative to gauge community interest in raising the funds to purchase The Land. Very quickly, we began working together, because we realized that we share one single common goal: to preserve The Land for the use of our community.



We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Toni Jr. offered to continue communicating with the community for this endeavor, and we gratefully accepted. Toni Jr. chose her own role in this effort and has kept you entertained and enticed, managing the WWTLC page on Facebook (5587 members and counting as of November 5, 2017) as well as recruiting Janis Kidder and Lynn Siniscalchi to create/manage an e-mail list of interested “Sisters of the Ferns.”
- Together, we laid the groundwork of recruiting volunteers for WWTLC. Together, we’ve compiled Q&A for frequently asked questions, starting with the questions we ourselves asked when exploring this organization’s effort.
- Our goal has been to share as much information as is practical, as transparently as possible. The reality is that it sometimes takes us longer than we’d like to answer questions, simply because we are also investigating and learning as we go. We are taking into consideration all kinds of questions that are raised, including legal, financial, organizational, philosophical, and practical.

WHAT IS THE ADVISORY BOARD? WHO IS ON IT? ([back to top](#))

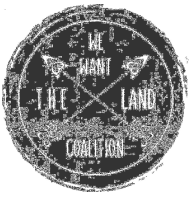
- The WWTLC Advisory Board is comprised of women who each have decades of experience within the women’s music industry and within festival culture. They stepped up early on and agreed to support the We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) effort to secure The Land, and to offer their leadership, expertise, and advice as we move forward with this massive endeavor.
- The Advisory Board members are Toni Armstrong Jr., Ruth Barrett, C.C. Carter, Judith Casselberry, Juanita Colon, Laurie Fuchs, Terry Grant, Ubaka Hill, Nedra Johnson, Lola Lai Jong, Bonnie Morris, and Rhiannon.

HOW ARE MICHFEST WORKER AND FESTIE VOICES REPRESENTED IN WWTLC’S EFFORTS? ([back to top](#))

- WWTLC continues to invite questions, concerns, and suggestions from women who represent all skill levels, various sides of every issue, and the full spectrum of MichFest experience.
- All of the women who are contributing their expertise to the effort are former attendees (Festies) or workers at the Michigan Women’s Music Festival. Before becoming workers, many were long-time Festies.
- All six inaugural board of directors are former Michigan Women’s Music Festival workers of varying tenure and work crew experiences. All were festival participants at some point, as well – in some cases, for several years.
- Six of the thirteen Advisory Board members were workers or craftswomen, and many are performers.

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED? ([back to top](#))

- We appreciate your interest and are grateful that you’re part of the WWTLC Community!
- As the need arises, the WWTLC board of directors will form working committees made up of interested, qualified and devoted volunteers. There will be ongoing opportunities for



We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

community members to be involved; our long-term success will depend upon continued support and service from our vast community.

- Other ways to support WWTLC's efforts to preserve The Land for women and girls forever:
 - Help get the word out! We are in the process of developing information postcards and posters that will be available by e-mail by request. We'll send an email to our mailing list when they're ready, so that you can help spread the word!
 - Organize a local fundraising event (e.g., a house concert, silent auction, microfundraiser house party, or other gathering) and donate the proceeds to WWTLC.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT WWTLC? ([back to top](#))

- **What are my options to stay up to date on WWTLC?**

- Visit our website: www.wwtlc.org.
- Join our email list! Email mailinglist@wwtlc.org to be added!
- Find and link or Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/wwtlc
- Find and join our Facebook Community group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WWTLC.community/>
- Send your contact information to our post office box to receive updates by mail:
We Want the Land Coalition
PO Box 11
Arlington Heights IL
60006-0011

- **If I'm not on Facebook, can I still be on the email list?**

Yes! Our email list is growing. In fact, our email distribution list will eventually be our primary means of communicating important information and updates. Please sign up by sending an email to mailinglist@wwtlc.org and our Communications and Outreach team will make sure you're added.

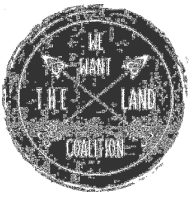
- **Does WWTLC have a website?** Yes! Visit us at www.WWTLC.org.

- **Can WWTLC Facebook community group members add women to the group?**

Yes! Members of the community may add other women to the Facebook WWTLC Community group. Permissions are set up so that an admin must approve the addition.

- **The WWTLC Community Facebook group is busy - there are lots of posts! Can you somehow limit or allow only posts that are directly related to the topic of The Land purchase and The Land's future?**

Yes! We have set the permissions in the WWTLC Community group so that one of the group admins must approve them before they are actually posted and visible to the community. In this way, we are able to limit posts to those directly related to the work of the coalition. That means that we may remove posts that are duplicate comments, posts posing questions which can be answered by reviewing our FAQs, or posts that do not address questions or issues involving WWTLC's efforts. We *do* read every post that comes in, and really appreciate the kind words. Our intent is to keep the group easy to navigate and focused so you can easily find the information you're looking for. Look for our FAQ and other documents under the Files tab at the left of the group page.



We Want the Land Coalition (WWTLC) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Can I help spread the word about WWTLC?** Yes! Please share our website address, invite women to our Facebook community, and share the links to our fundraising sites.
 - Let us know of any publications or event programs where we could submit materials to help increase awareness. Our advertising budget is limited, but we are definitely interested in placing ads in publications which will help us reach our intended audience – women and girls and the organizations that support them.
 - We have designed informational materials that we are happy to make available by e-mail by request, for those who wish to hand them out at various events they attend.

WILL MEMBERS OF WWTLC BE AT VARIOUS WOMEN'S EVENTS, SUCH AS THE OHIO LESBIAN FESTIVAL OR THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL? ([back to top](#))

- Yes! Members of WWTLC attend many different events in the community.
 - A number of WWTLC members have attended the Ohio Lesbian Festival and had the opportunity to chat about WWTLC with women there.
 - For a recent Artemis Singers production of *Wanting the Music* (a choral concert celebrating the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival), WWTLC had postcards to share and talked with several audience members about the progress WWTLC has made.
 - We look forward to connecting with you at events like the National Women's Music Festival in July; the Michigan Family Reunion in August; and Ohio Lesbian Festival in September.
 - If you know of other events that we should attend or where you would like to hand out literature for us, let us know at wwtlc.com/connect, where you'll find an email form.

DOES WWTLC HAVE ANY EVENTS PLANNED ON THE LAND? ([back to top](#))

We would LOVE to get us all home to The Land as soon as possible, and we definitely want to celebrate purchasing The Land. We are planning to host events, gatherings, and programs on The Land starting in 2018. We have finalized the first version of our land-use application and boilerplate contract; you can find them at wwtlc.org/summer_2018. There are a number of milestones we still need to cross off the list in order to be ready; for example, we need to solidify agreements with service providers to ensure we have means to provide basic infrastructure for primitive camping. You can join our mailing list, either email or postal, or our Facebook page to stay connected.