



THE US-MEXICO BORDER PHILANTHROPY PARTNERSHIP:

FOUNDING MEMBER ORIENTATION & COMMITMENT PACKET

APRIL 2008

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Esteemed Colleagues and Friends:

With 13 million people, the US-Mexico border region is a dynamic, fast growing region facing on-going trans-boundary health, environment, and socio-economic challenges due to the impacts of human migration, poverty and cross-border trade. The ties that bind the communities along the US-Mexico border are indisputable yet a wide range of barriers to improved quality of life for border residents continue to exist. These include national security and public safety concerns, which have become more pronounced since September 11, 2001.

In an effort to build on the assets of this unique area and to respond to the growing needs throughout the border region, the US-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership (BPP) was established in 2002 with the goal of expanding the level of charitable giving to benefit the people and communities along the US-Mexico border. Since its inception the BPP has leveraged \$20 million to strengthen the capacity of border foundations and assets across all the foundations have increased by \$230 million. While much has been achieved by the BPP over the past six years, the communities along the U.S-Mexico border region continue to face enormous challenges.

Previously managed by New York based Synergos Institute, in August 2008 the partnership is being launched as an independent entity that will expand beyond its initial core membership. It will become a more inclusive partnership that will continue to strengthen community philanthropy while actively involving foundations (private, public, corporate, family), corporate giving programs and individuals to do more to address the socio-economic challenges along the US-Mexico border.

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to continue your support of the US-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership as a border community foundation and founding member of the BPP. We will seek to build on the many accomplishments of this unique bi-national network of community foundations and will continue to expand our membership and support in order to strengthen our border communities. Please join us in becoming a founding member of the BPP.

With Warm Regards,

Antoinetta Beguerisse, *Outgoing Co-Chair*

Russell Jones, *Outgoing Co-Chair*

Richard Kiy , *Incoming Co-Chair*

Karen Sieber Yarza, *Incoming Co-Chair*

US-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership: Summary of New BPP

Operational Values of the BPP

- ❖ BPP members will conduct their business as equal partners.
- ❖ The BPP will be built on a foundation of mutual learning and respect, as demonstrated through trust, accountability and mutual responsibility.
- ❖ BPP members will exhibit a strong commitment to the cross border collaborative nature of this network by honoring differences in cultures and language.
- ❖ Partners will demonstrate interest in contributing to the development of philanthropy along the US-Mexico border and a strong commitment to improving quality of life along the border region
- ❖ The BPP will promote inclusiveness, inviting all donors that are willing and committed to expanding and promoting philanthropy in the US-Mexico border region.

Mission

The US-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership improves the quality of life for residents living in the border region by working at the local, regional and transnational levels to:

- Collaborate and provide leadership on cross-border programmatic issues of common concern
- Mobilize more effective philanthropic resources to address border issues
- Strengthen the institutional capacity and further the sustainability of border foundations

Structure

The BPP is an independent, bi-national non-profit entity registered as a 501C3 in the U.S. and an Asociación Civil in Mexico. Membership includes philanthropic entities (public, private and corporate foundations and corporate giving programs) committed to improving quality of life in the border region. The partnership is governed by a bi-national board of directors reflecting and endorsed by the membership. ([see attached bios](#))

Membership Services

- Periodic conferences and border area thematic meetings;
- Informational resources and research tools (such as a border quality of life index, directory of qualified border area nonprofit organizations, or other tools to attract more funding to the region);
- Dissemination of philanthropic best practices and lessons learned (including corporate social responsibility);
- Facilitation of peer exchanges and networking to increase charitable giving in the border region, including the facilitation of collaborative grantmaking efforts.
- Leadership on issues impacting philanthropy in the border region.

Dues & Process to become a new member

- 1. Read BPP Orientation Packet and share with Board and staff to secure commitment.**
- 2. Fill out Membership Form & Send along with dues and other required documents.** *See membership form below and attached dues structure below.*
- 3. Deadline to send form and dues: JUNE 30th, 2008**



BPP Founding Member Dues - For Transition Period, August 2008-August 2011

FOR US BCFS:	
Charitable Distributions (In USD)	Annual Dues (in USD)
Less than \$250,000	\$450
\$250,000-\$750,000	\$650
\$750,000-\$1.49 million	\$1,000
\$1.5 million-\$3 million	\$1,500
\$3.1 million-\$5.9 million	\$2,000
\$6 million-\$9.9 million	\$2,750
\$10 million -\$25 million	\$3,500
\$25 million -\$34.9 million	\$4,000
\$35 million and over	\$5,000

BPP dues for founding members are determined by averaging the disbursements for charitable purposes over the past three fiscal years (for US Foundations, this is from IRS 990 PF, Part 1, Line 26d)

BPP Leadership Council levels

The Leadership Council is a group of organizations that invest in the BPP at a level higher than the standard membership support, enabling us to fulfill our broader mission to strengthen philanthropy in the US-Mexico border region. Please consider a Leadership Council membership.

<input type="radio"/> \$20,000	<input type="radio"/> \$15,000	<input type="radio"/> \$10,000
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FOUNDING MEMBERSHIP FORM

1. PLEASE SIGN UP: Member Information

ORGANIZATION	WEBSITE
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BUSINESS PHONE	FAX PHONE
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MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	COUNTRY
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PRIMARY CONTACT	TITLE	EMAIL	TEL #
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2. PLEASE SEND : Member Records

I. List of your board members, trustees and staff with mailing and email addresses	
II. Your most recent annual report or grants summary	
III. Copy of your funding guidelines	
IV. Your mission statement	
V. Copy of your 501c.3 documents or write your tax exempt number here:	

3. PLEASE SEND : Member Dues

I. Based on the member dues table please note the membership fee owed. <i>BPP membership period is for one year. Renewals are billed annually.</i>	
II. Additional Support: <i>Your additional investment as a member of the Leadership Council will be used to strengthen the new BPP entity and membership services.</i>	
III. TOTAL	

WHERE DO I SEND THE MEMBERSHIP FORM AND REQUESTED DOCUMENTS?

Please return completed application and supporting documentation to cdebenedict@synergos.org or mail to The US-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership: Membership, 121 Broadway Street, ste.370, San Diego, CA 92101

WHERE DO I SEND THE MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT?

- By Check:

**International Community Foundation
Attn: BPP fund – membership fee
2505 N Avenue
National City, CA 91950**

- By Electronic Transfer: Contact Christiana DeBenedict if you would like to do an electronic transfer:
cdebenedict@synergos.org

Deadline to send application, documents and fee: June 30th , 2008