

Spring Quarter Bellinghome

Bellinghome Weekly Meetings - Organize weekly meetings combined with Youth in Government meetings to have a set time and place to discuss what is going on. Set up a leadership structure with set positions. Current members can 'apply' for the positions by making a small speech so they can be elected by the rest of the members.

Continue Tabling on Campus - Weekly tabling at either Vendors Row, Comm Lawn, Red Square. An established weekly time would engage more people and create a sense of permanence. Provide campaign information, story cards, and petitions. Include diagrams and visuals to draw attention. One possible idea is constructing cardboard rental properties such as this image. Perhaps we could have them get crushed at the end to make a final point?



Bellinghome Volunteers - More students are needed on the campaign to keep it moving forward. Involvement can range from a leadership position, volunteering at events or tabling, to just someone who participates in letter-writing or supports Bellinghome by carrying a pin. Greater involvement will trigger greater awareness as people get involved with their friends.

Internships - If Bellinghome organizes a set structure then we can establish intern/volunteer responsibilities that may incentivize new members to join because of their long-term benefits. Possible positions include:

- Public Relations - Manage social media, communicate with journalists
- Photographers - Take photos of rental properties in Bellingham
- Urban Planning - Research urban policy on proactive rental enforcement
- Lobbyists - Attend city council meetings

- Marketing - Manage the Bellinghome image and help promote greater awareness
- Design/Art Students - Design logos, diagrams, or other symbols
 - Also associates who can reach out to the City Planning Department. There seems to be an opportunity for students to become interns for the city.

REP+Western Votes+Youth in Government+LAC+Bellinghome Event - Big event on campus bringing together many student organizations revolving around student activism and engagement. Details to be discussed. Possible outcomes:

- Greater cooperation and facilitation among all members,
- Large open discussions and events with many speakers,
- Advertisement to encourage awareness (combined materials),
- Frame the month of 'May of Action',
- Or a Weekend of activism with a big rally or mass action - go to city council,

Bellinghome Materials - In order to spread the word about Bellinghome greater printed materials and symbolic materials should be produced. These should be shared on-campus and also with community members. Examples:

- Pins - Must reserve the 'pin-maker' within the AS
- T-shirts - Expensive but great to energize members
- Stickers-Spread the word to others
- Posters - Not just the basic poster but other styles and ideas. E.g. 'I Support Safe Housing', 'I Stand For Tenant Safety', 'I Support Bellinghome', 'Housing Justice for All'
- Pamphlets and Flyers - Easy to read and visually appealing

Organize Community Meeting at Library/Downtown Venue - Host an event to discuss rental housing issues in Bellingham. Invite students, non-profit members, community members, landlords, realty associations, and city officials to discuss the issue. Reach out to our allies [Seattle Tenants Union](#), [Solid Ground](#) and local community organizations. The [Bellingham Library hosts](#) multiple available rooms.

Largest has a capacity of 106 and costs \$25 an hour to host. Available dates are 4/18 & 4/29. [Website](#)

Bellingham Farmers Market - Begins April and occurs every Saturday 10AM-3PM. We should reserve a table to reach out to the community. Farmers market allows for non-profits to reserve table once. [Website](#). Charge to participate is \$15. Must provide own canopy. Possible equipment rental opportunity. Contact: market@bellinghamfarmers.org

Engage and Coordinate with Local Community Organizations - This will be essential to make sure that tenant safety issues will be addressed and discussed in Bellingham. There are many people working on issues with overlapping interests that we can ally with. We will need to start and maintain a relationship with these organizations over time.

- [Re-Sources](#). Matt Petryni
- [Riley Sweeny](#)
- [Law Advocates](#)
- [Manufactured Home Owners of America](#). Ishbael Dickens
- [Washington Low Income Housing Alliance](#).
- [Fair Housing Center of Washington](#).
- [League of Women Voters](#)
- [Whatcom Flomeless Center](#). Greg Winters
- [Community to Community](#). Rosalinda Guillen
- [Jobs with Justice](#). Betsy Brenat
- [Sustainable Connections](#). Alex Rammel
- [Opportunity Council](#)
- Local Churches - [Bellingham United Methodist Church](#). [Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship](#). [Bellingham Friends Meeting](#)

Also engage with our opponents. Try to establish meetings and cordial relationships to show them that this is not an anti-landlord campaign.

- [Whatcom County Association of REALTORS](#)

- [Washington Landlord Association](#)

This should be a given but reach out to student organizations on campus. To partner and also just to spread the word.

Write to Newspapers - Spread the word through Letters to the Editor and Press Releases including photographs and campaign information. Include a mass number of letters of topics like health and safety, proactive policies, revenue neutral status, the possibility of a sustainable and new Bellingham. Cascadia Weekly, Bellingham Herald, but also Seattle Times and other large newspapers. Write about how *Housing Justice* is an essential issue.

Random Ideas

- In the coming years have a rental clinic as an online resource for students to take to understand their rights AND their responsibilities. Perhaps this could be mandatory just like the Sexual Assault Program currently used on campus.
- Including the issue of **Energy Efficiency** in updating rental properties. Long term decrease of heating costs and energy consumption.

Concerns

- Funding? Where will revenue come from? Will the AS + REP funding be enough? Will Bellinghome have to start dedicating time to raise donations from students?
- Next year? Will Bellinghome continue after legislative outcomes? Will it morph into a tenant rights resource geared away from lobbying and more towards education?