

# Tamil Community Center

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## Mission of the Tamil Community Center:

The mission of the International Tamil Community Center of Washington Metropolitan Area is to have a permanent facility to help preserve Tamil identity, promote the development of meaningful bonds within our community, and facilitate connections with Tamils worldwide.

## Facility:

Tamil Community Center will have Library with Tamil books for all ages and quite space to read, community halls to conduct events, Conference rooms to conduct meeting, classrooms to conduct Tamil classes, traditional dance classes, Silambu classes etc, Auditorium to conduct big events, Guest rooms, Kitchen, Pantry and restrooms. Estimated living area for this facility is about 11,000 square feet.

Below is the detail about the facility by square foot area.

Facility	Square Foot Area
Library room	1500
Community Hall – Splitable community hall	2500
Studio	1000
Conference rooms (2 counts – 600 Sq ft)	1200
Guest rooms	500
Kitchen/Pantry area	800
Auditorium / Mini theatre - Separate building	3000

Rest rooms	800
Parking lots, Garden, Outside Play area	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,300</b>

If entire facility cannot be built in single phase. Facility could be built in 2 phases.  
Phase-1 could include all the facilities mentioned above except the auditorium.  
Phase-2 could be to build auditorium.

Cost of building:

Cost of building per square foot varies from \$70/SF to \$200/SF. If volunteers contribute their time towards helping in construction, then the cost of the square foot can be as low as \$90/SF. For 8000 square foot (Phase-1), cost would be around \$700,000.

Amenities:

Facility can be used to promote Tamil related activities and also for commercial purpose to generate revenue to cover the operational expenses.

Tamil oriented activities

Facility can be made available for Tamil promoting activities at a discounted price.

- Tamil classes could be conducted during weekends. Facility can be rented out to smaller Tamil schools at a discounted price.
- Library / Tamil research facility.
- ‘Silambu’ classes
- Small Tamil Sangam / Tamil school events.
- Guests to Tamil Sangam could stay at this facility for a nominal fee. (This will be a good promotion of the facility to get sponsors from India/Tamil Nadu)

Semi-Commercial activities:

In order to attract Tamil parents to the center it is important we conduct other activities to keep the traffic coming in. These will be conducted in Tamil language. This can be modeled after Chinese schools where many (300+) Chinese students meet every Saturday to learn about their culture, language, chess, music etc in their language (not English). Children learn language faster when other classes are taught in mother tongue.

- Yoga
- Music classes
- Chess
- Tamil Pre-school

Commercial activities:

Renting out the facility to other communities or public for non-Tamil specific events

## Location:

The plan is to have two community centers in the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area.

- **Virginia**
- **Maryland**

In Virginia, we are looking for about 5-10 acres of land at these locations:

- Ashburn
- Leesburg
- Chantilly
- Aldie
- South Riding
- Manassas
- Gainesville
- Clifton

In Maryland, we are looking for about 5-10 acres of land at these locations:

- Urbana / Ijansville (SVAT Temple)
- Damascus
- Other cities along I-70 beltway
- Murugan Temple area

## Funding source to construct the facility:

There is already seed fund available to get things started. We plan to reach out to public for donations, major donors and through fund raising event. After the facility is built revenue will be generated by renting out the facility.

Donors can be recognized by having a donor board at the facility with these categories:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Benefit</b>
Perunkodai vallalgal	\$25,000+	-One Vote for Each 10K
Kodai Vallal	\$10,000+	-One Vote for Each 10K
In Memory of	\$5,000+	
Vallalgal	\$1000+	
Nankodaiyaalargal	<1000	

## Organization Structure:

By-law of the organization should be strong enough to keep the organization focused on promoting Tamil language and culture.

Voting rights:

For critical decisions and to elect board members, voting rights can be distributed as follows

- Tamil Sangam Life members – 1 Votes per person
- Founding trustees / Charter member – 1 vote per \$10K contribution

Long term voting rights after 25-30 years after current members are too old.

Board:

A 7 member board could be elected to make important decisions. Term of the board members could be 2-4 years.

Org structure:

To manage the day to activities a committee could be formed to carry out the day today activities.

This could also be managed by property management company. Or appoint couple of paid staff to manage the accounts and to take care of the property.

By-laws should be fool proof to not have loop holes to keep the organization structure tight. There should also be provision to add new members with voting rights and also to remove members if they are not aligned with the by-laws or mission of the organization.

Recommendation for next step:

This committee recommends that this document be submitted to Tamil Sangam board for review and approval. Following that would be to form multiple committees (By-Law committee, Finance committee, Real estate committee etc) to execute the plan as given in this document.

Following members have contributed for the feasibility study of Tamil Community Center:

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Report Date: **Sep 6, 2016 7:59 PM**  
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