



The Bastiat Society

Prospectus

...because those who work in freedom should know how freedom works.

175 King Street | Charleston | South Carolina | 29401 | USA
www.bastiatsociety.com



Building an International Society of Principled Wealth Creators

The Philosophy

The great strength of capitalism is that it is an economic system wherein everyone has the opportunity to be successful without ever thinking about the intellectual and cultural context that makes success possible. We do not have to know everything. We just have to know something useful to other people - and have the sense enough to use it for our mutual benefit.

Unfortunately, an economy built on limited individual knowledge is also capitalism's greatest weakness. It leaves those within the system vulnerable to those who claim that *their* "perfect knowledge" or "theory" is more valid than individual knowledge or the individual will.

If individuals who benefit most from capitalism – the wealth creators – do not understand the intellectual and cultural institution that make business possible, what chance do they have to withstand a steady series of attacks from the intellectuals, populists, collectivists, and religious extremists who desire to bring capitalism and the life of the individual to an end?

That is why we formed the Bastiat Society: to educate other wealth creators as to their right to the moral high ground, and to help them understand the intellectual and cultural institutions that are crucial for individual success. Our motto is: "Those who work in freedom should know how freedom works."

We call on business people everywhere to join us in an organization unlike any other in the world – a society of principled wealth creators who are committed to proclaiming their moral right to the high ground, and to preserving the importance of the life of the individual.

Board of Directors

Walter LeCroy - *Chair Emeritus*
LeCroy Corporation

Ben Rast – *Chair*
The Rast Group

Rob Parsons – *Treasurer*
Mashburn Construction

Dave Albenburg
Access Healthcare

Claire Kittle
Talent Market

Surse Pierpoint
Colon Import

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George Mason University

Donald Boudreaux
George Mason University

John Blundell
Institute for Economic Affairs

Richard Ebeling
Northwood University

Richard Epstein
University of Chicago

Tom Palmer
Atlas Network

Brad Thompson
Clemson University

Bruce Yandle
Mercatus Center

The Project

Our most immediate goal is to expand our reach by fostering independent chapters around the world - forming "a global society of principled wealth creators." These chapters will run independently - mainly focusing on their monthly program, local outreach, and seeking new members. The Bastiat Society will serve as a networking and fundraising center by focusing on global outreach and promotion. The intent is to create a bottom-up organization that functions at a local level, with organizational support from the International Office.

Tentatively we would expect each chapter to:

- Be non-political and promote a positive message. Meetings must focus on ideas and principles - *not* people or politics.
- Host at least six liberty-minded lectures in the first year. These lectures should become monthly (at least 11/yr) after the first year.
- Be organized by business professionals and have its target audience be business professionals.
- Become financially self-sufficient through local membership dues or local donations within 2-years.

The hope is that, in the near future, by expanding our message in a grassroots and positive manner, there will be a Bastiat Society chapter in every US city and in every country around the world. We will be a wholesaler of liberty - making the ideas of liberty, the free market, and the morality of capitalism available to the everyday businessperson.

Unless we can restore popular confidence in an economic order based on freedom, we will live under an immoral economic system based on power, theft, and envy. Business must take the lead in defending the morality and productivity of free societies.

Strategic Promise

While other free market economics groups are mostly academics with a few business people, we set ourselves apart by being mostly business professionals (the wealth creators) and a few academics.

A Brief History of the Bastiat Society

2004

Bastiat Society founded in Charleston, SC by Walter LeCroy and Ben Rast

Hosted a conference on Globalization and Free Trade

Speakers included: Tom Palmer, Leon Louw, Julian Morris, and Don Boudreaux

2004 – Present

Hosted monthly meetings with guest speakers.

Speakers included: Peter Boettke, Dan Mitchell, Larry Reed, Russ Roberts

2005 – Present

Directed six Liberty Fund Conferences for business people.

Conference directors included: Richard Epstein, Henry Clark, Nick Capaldi, Marcus Cole

Co- sponsored events with the Initiative for Public Choice and Market Process at the College of Charleston

Speakers included: John Stossel, Virginia Postrel, and Richard Epstein

Beginning in 2011

Announced a chapter-based expansion plan.

Initial chapters include:

Charleston, SC

Panama City, Panama

Quito, Ecuador

Colorado Springs, CO

Indianapolis, IN

Wilmington, DE

Anticipated Timeline

Year One

- Open Charleston office – Bastiat Society International
- Hire Executive Director [Complete]
- Develop comprehensive website [Complete/In-progress]
- Establish a Board of Directors and Academic Advisory Board [Complete]
- Create organizational by-laws and independent chapter guidelines [Complete]
- Begin hosting membership and Roundtable discussions at Charleston Office [In Progress]
- Develop additional Bastiat Society chapters [Four in Operation]

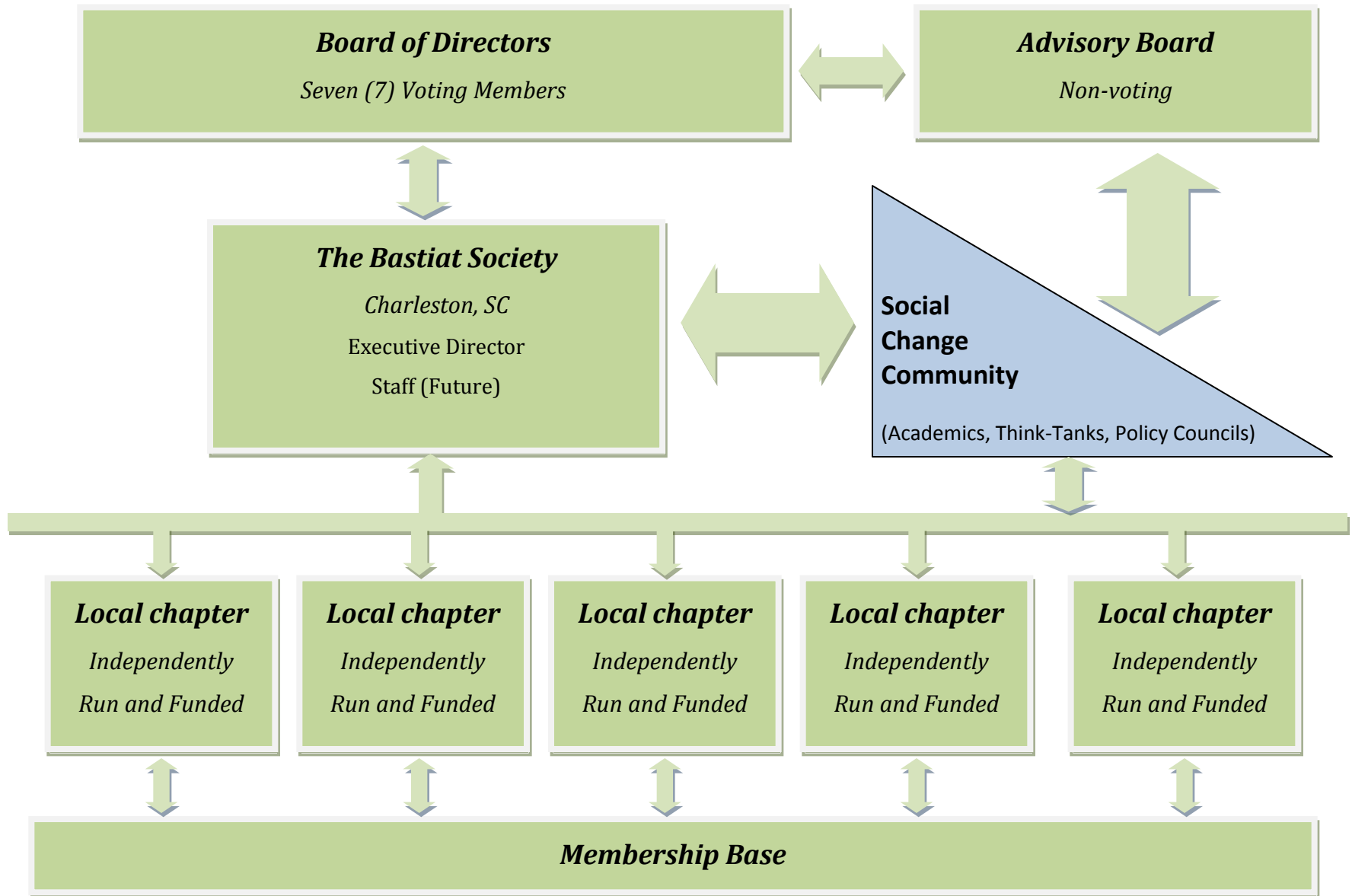
Year Two

- Host a Bastiat Society Managing Director's Conference
- Host the 1st Annual International Bastiat Society Conference
- 7 (min) chapters in operation
- 5 (min) additional Bastiat Society chapters in development
- Develop a scholarship fund

Year Three

- Host a Bastiat Society Managing Director's Conference
- 12 (min) chapters fully functional
- 5 (min) additional Bastiat Society chapter in development
- Host 2nd Annual International Bastiat Society Conference and scholarship competition

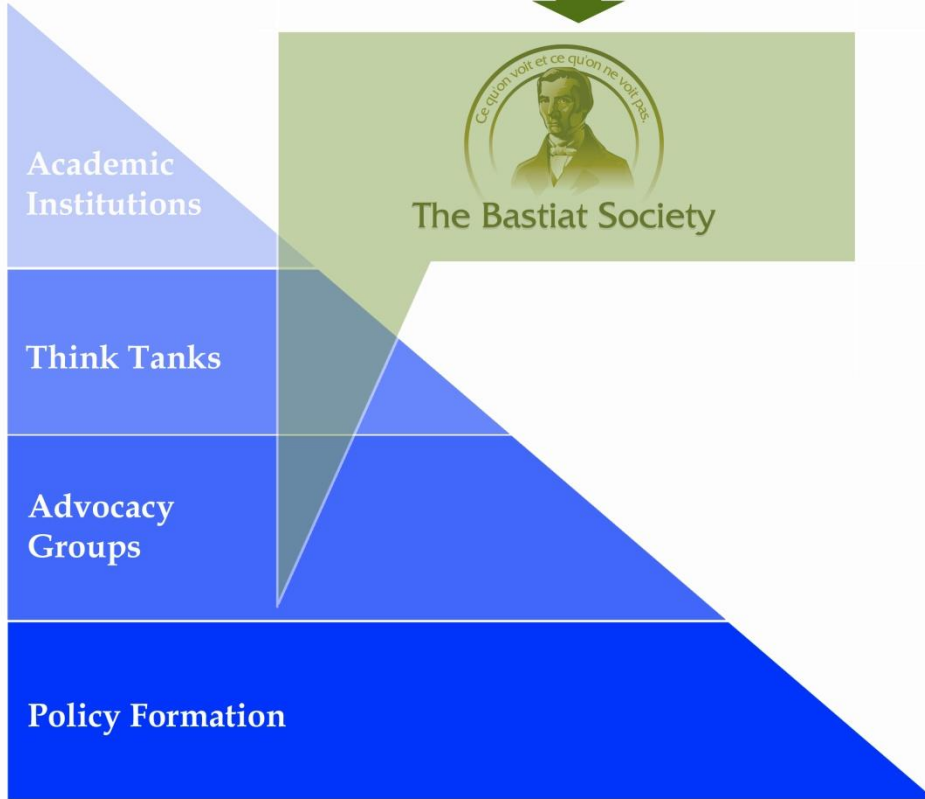
The Bastiat Society's Operating Structure



The Business Community



↓
Social Change Process
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The Bastiat Society - linking the business community to those seeking social change.