



# Stellar Development Foundation

Connecting financial institutions, payments systems, and people so that anyone can send money quickly, reliably, and at almost no cost.

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MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

## Introduction

The Stellar Development Foundation (SDF, or “The Foundation”) is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to expand financial access and inclusion worldwide. The SDF envisions a world where payments, both domestic and international, are as affordable and seamless as sending an email.

Achieving this vision requires the cooperation and participation of many entities across the globe. This is why it is important for organizations such as yours to lend support to the goal of creating a universal payment standard.

The Stellar Development Foundation oversees the governance and development of the Stellar network, an open-source, globally distributed financial platform that connects financial institutions, payment systems and people. Stellar enables seamless interoperability and exchange of money between diverse financial systems and currencies.

SDF was founded by industry veteran Jed McCaleb, serial entrepreneur and founder of eDonkey and Ripple. Stellar also benefits from a cadre of respected advisors, including Keith Rabois (Board member of Xoom), Sam Altman (President of Y Combinator), Greg Stein (Director at the Apache Software Foundation) and Patrick Collison (CEO of Stripe.)

## SDF Mandates

**Members agree to support the SDF in fulfilling the following mandates:**

- Promote adoption of the Stellar protocol as a worldwide payment standard;
- Promote financial access and inclusion;
- Maintain a secure, low cost global transaction network;
- Ensure the Stellar protocol remains open and accessible to everyone;
- Provide guidance and direction for the Stellar network; and
- Ensure Stellar network code remains high quality and open source.

## Foundation Membership

We are pleased to open the membership of the Foundation to an inaugural group of institutions. Inaugural members have the opportunity to shape the Foundation by voting on key decisions regarding direction, prioritization and governance.

### **Membership is open to:**

- Institutions that use the Stellar network for money transfer, including (but not limited to) banks, money transfer firms, remittance companies, mobile money operators, credit card networks and payment platforms;
- Service providers including consulting firms, financial technology companies, software providers, and integration specialists; and
- Institutions that may not fit into one of these categories, such as universities, governmental organizations and other non-profit organizations.

### **The Stellar Development Foundation offers four tiers of membership:**

- Platinum
- Gold
- Silver
- Coalition

Platinum members enjoy the closest access to SDF as well as the ability to actively participate in the stewardship of the technology. A full description of the membership benefits of each tier can be found in **Table A**.

## SDF Board Structure

**The Stellar Development Foundation consists of three boards:**

- **Board of Directors** – Responsible for core governance decisions, setting of the direction of the Stellar network and lumen distribution. The Board of Directors is advised by the other two boards.
  - 7 members in total
  - 2 members appointed by the EB
  - 1 observer appointed by the AB
- **Architecture Board (AB)** – Responsible for determining and overseeing sponsored technical initiatives.
  - 4 people are appointed by the main board
  - 3 people are appointed by the EB
  - Elects one member to be the observer of the main board
  - Decides any large architectural decisions
  - Maintains the protocol specification
- **Expansion Board (EB)** – Responsible for overseeing network expansion initiatives, engaging with regulators, and trainings.
  - Elects 2 seats to the Board of Directors.
  - Elects 3 seats to the Architecture Board.

Board seats and voting rights are allocated to SDF members according to their respective membership tier (Table A.)

## SDF Activities and Events

**The SDF sponsors a number of activities, events and trainings, including:**

- Annual training and certification for select technical staff;
- SDF invite-only events focused on technical, compliance, and other business topics;
- Financial inclusion initiatives and other social development collaborations; and
- Biannual Board Meetings.

## Benefits of Joining the Foundation

**There are many benefits to joining the Stellar Development Foundation, including:**

- Exposure to the Stellar Development Foundation and the forefront of distributed ledger technology;
- Networking opportunities with network members and service providers, such as consulting firms, fintech companies, and software providers;
- Discounted technical development hours with Stellar network specialists;
- Direct access to thought leaders, decision makers and technical experts in the payment industry;
- Dedicated media coverage and recognition for membership through the Foundation's properties (i.e. website, media events etc.); and
- Entry to SDF invite-only events focused on technical, compliance, and other business topics.

## How to Join the Foundation

If you are interested in joining, or have questions about membership, please contact our partnership team at [partners@stellar.org](mailto:partners@stellar.org).

Table A: Membership Structure, Support Levels, and Resources

	<b>Platinum</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Coalition</b>
Openings*	5	15	Unlimited	Unlimited
Annual Contribution*	Top 5 annual supporters (>\$25,000)	\$25,000	Variable**	None
Discount on Stellar.org Developer Support	20%	15%	10%	N/A
Access to Stellar.org Executives	Yes	No	No	N/A
Annual Meeting - Sponsored Tickets	5	2	1	N/A
Voting Rights	7 votes in EB	3 votes in EB	1 vote in EB	N/A
Annual Developer Seminar -- Seats	5	3	1	N/A
Marketing	Promotion on Stellar website and access to Stellar logo			

\*For 2017. Membership is subject to SDF approval.

\*\* Annual support level for Silver tier varies according to organization size