

The Glass Patch Philosophy

A Statement of Purpose, Values, and What Is Enough

Every business is built on something. Some are built around rapid growth, others around profit, and still others around expansion. The Glass Patch is built on something different.

This document explains what that is.

It is not a business plan, a marketing strategy, or an operations manual. It serves a different purpose.

This is something more personal.

It is a reflection on why I chose to build The Glass Patch, the values I hope will continue to define it, and the kind of life I want this business to support. Whenever I face a decision, I hope these pages help me answer a simple question: Does this move The Glass Patch in the direction it was meant to go?

Why The Glass Patch?

People occasionally ask how I chose the name The Glass Patch.

At first, I simply knew it felt right. Over time, I have realized the word “patch” has come to mean far more to me than I understood when I first chose it.

A patch is a small place set apart—a garden patch, a patch of wildflowers, a patch of sunlight. Each is a distinct place, different from what surrounds it.

To me, the word patch also carries another meaning. We patch things because they are worth preserving. We restore them, replenish them, and give them new life because they are valuable enough to care for.

That is what I hope The Glass Patch becomes.

A place set apart from the hurried pace of everyday life. A place where people can restore and replenish themselves through creativity, meaningful conversation, and the simple satisfaction of making something with their own hands. A place where friendships deepen, confidence grows, and people leave carrying something that lasts long after the stained-glass piece is finished.

Every person who walks through the studio door becomes part of The Patch. Every class, every conversation, and every shared experience becomes part of its story.

That is what The Glass Patch means to me.

Why Stained Glass?

I have always enjoyed making things with my hands, and over the years I explored many different creative hobbies.

When I discovered stained glass, however, something felt different.

Mistakes were rarely the end of a project. Instead, they became opportunities to slow down, solve a problem, and keep moving forward. I found that deeply satisfying.

Perhaps the greatest lesson stained glass has taught me is that something does not have to be perfect to be beautiful.

Over time, I realized I was not simply falling in love with a craft; I was falling in love with everything it represented: creativity, patience, problem-solving, craftsmanship, and the quiet satisfaction of making something with my own hands.

That is why stained glass became the heart of The Glass Patch.

Why This Business?

I have spent much of my life doing what was expected of me.

I worked hard, built a successful career, and found great satisfaction in helping others succeed. I will always be grateful for those experiences.

When my work situation unexpectedly changed, I found myself asking a different question. Instead of asking, "What should I do next?" I began asking, "What kind of life do I want to live?"

The Glass Patch is my answer to that question.

I am not trying to build the biggest stained-glass studio. I want to build a studio known for thoughtful teaching, meaningful experiences, genuine connection, and a business intentionally designed around a life worth living.

To me, success is defined by having enough. Enough to pay my bills. Enough to take time away to rest, explore, and recharge. Enough time and energy to create simply because I love creating. And enough left within me to pour into others without emptying myself.

This definition of success reflects the values upon which The Glass Patch was established. My hope is that they continue to shape the studio, the experiences it provides, and the decisions that guide it for years to come.

What Do I Hope People Feel?

One of my biggest hopes is that people will think of The Glass Patch as their studio. A place where they belong.

A place where they know they will be welcomed. A place where they can slow down, create, laugh, learn, experiment, and simply enjoy being themselves.

I hope they return because they genuinely enjoy being here, feel comfortable, and know they will be greeted warmly, encouraged, and given the space to create without pressure.

When someone says, “Let’s spend an afternoon at The Glass Patch,” I know I have created more than a successful business.

I have created a place where people feel they belong.

What Do I Hope People Take Home?

Stained glass is the craft I teach, but it is not the real product of The Glass Patch.

The real product is what happens while people are creating.

I hope they slow down. I hope they become absorbed in the process and discover the quiet satisfaction that comes from making something with their own hands. I hope they reconnect with their creativity, share meaningful moments with the people beside them, and leave feeling a little lighter than when they arrived.

What each person takes home will be different. Many people will leave with something they created, but I hope everyone also leaves with something less visible—a renewed sense of confidence, peace, accomplishment, connection, or inspiration. Whatever form it takes, I hope each person leaves with something that remains long after the experience is complete.

How Do I Create That Experience?

I do not think of what I offer as classes alone. I create experiences.

People come to The Glass Patch for many reasons. Some come alone to learn or enjoy a few quiet hours of creating. Others come with partners, friends, siblings, family members, coworkers, or someone with whom they simply want to spend intentional time.

The stained glass gives them something to create. The studio gives them a place to slow down. The experience gives them something to remember.

Keeping the studio intentionally small is one of the ways I protect what makes The Glass Patch special. Small groups allow me to give each person my full attention and create an atmosphere that feels relaxed, personal, welcoming, and unhurried.

How Do I Build Intentionally?

Growth is only worthwhile if it strengthens the experience rather than weakens it. I want to build this business one thoughtful decision at a time, trusting that a strong foundation is more valuable than fast expansion.

There will always be opportunities to add another class, another product, another service, or another commitment. My responsibility is not to say yes to every opportunity. My responsibility is to protect what makes The Glass Patch special for me and the people who create here.

Every addition should serve the philosophy rather than distract from it.

How Do I Support Shared Creating?

The Patch Pantry is a shared studio resource at the heart of creating at The Glass Patch.

It includes color-sorted glass offcuts and regular studio consumables available during eligible classes and studio time. Rather than expecting every maker to purchase a full sheet of glass or maintain a personal inventory of every supply, the Pantry allows useful materials to be shared thoughtfully.

The Patch Pantry is built on trust, shared responsibility, and good stewardship. By making meaningful use of the materials already in the studio, I can help reduce unnecessary cost and waste while giving makers more freedom to explore.

Shelf glass, solder, came, zinc, specialty glass, decorative elements, and other project materials are available separately when needed. The Pantry does not replace those resources; it complements them.

It reflects the kind of studio I hope to build—one that is generous, welcoming, practical, and sustainable for everyone who creates here.

How Can I Be Intentionally Generous?

Healthy generosity is one of the values I hope will always define The Glass Patch.

I enjoy being generous with my time, knowledge, and resources. Sometimes generosity means providing materials. Other times it means sharing what I have learned, offering encouragement, listening well, or simply making someone feel welcome.

Over time, I have learned that generosity must also be sustainable. Healthy generosity leaves both the giver and the receiver encouraged rather than depleted.

My hope is that The Glass Patch will remain known for kindness, encouragement, and a willingness to help others. I also hope I never forget that protecting my own time, energy, and well-being allows me to remain generous for years to come.

Why Do I Price Things This Way?

Pricing is more than a number. It reflects the value of an experience, the sustainability of the business, and the respect I have for both the people who create here and my own work. I want my prices to be fair, transparent, and consistent with the experience people receive.

Thoughtful pricing protects something much larger than a transaction. It protects the future of The Glass Patch.

Financial sustainability allows me to continue teaching generously, investing in quality materials, maintaining the studio, and creating the kind of experiences that first inspired me to build this business.

Fair pricing respects both the person creating and the person teaching.

It allows me to say yes with joy rather than yes out of obligation.

How Do I Measure What Matters?

The easiest things to measure are not always the things that matter most.

Revenue, profit, bookings, followers, and website traffic are all important because every business must be financially healthy to survive.

Just as my personal definition of success is enough, the business must first provide enough to sustain itself and support the life I hope to build.

Once that foundation is secure, these become the measures that matter most:

- People leave feeling better than when they arrived.
- People return because they genuinely enjoy being here.
- People share their experience and encourage others to come.
- The business runs smoothly so I can focus on what matters: the people in the studio.
- I look forward to each day in the studio and the people it brings through the door.

What Is My Hope for the Future?

My hope is that I will continue building and managing The Glass Patch according to the principles on these pages—and that, years from now, I will be able to:

- Look back on the decisions I made and see they were guided by these values.
- Recognize the woman who wrote this philosophy and celebrate the life and business she chose to build.
- Know that people found a little more light, confidence, or connection because they became part of The Glass Patch.

***If this is what The Glass Patch becomes,
it will have been enough.***