



FWP Gift Acceptance Policy – April 2025

The mission of Friends of Waterfront Park (“Friends”) is to bring people, communities, and resources together to ensure Waterfront Park thrives as a vibrant gathering space that uplifts locals and fosters connections with natural beauty, one another, and the stories of Seattle. Friends solicits and gratefully accepts private support to advance this work.

Purpose

The purpose of this Gift Acceptance Policy is to:

- Provide guidance to staff and volunteers involved in fundraising, as well as prospective donors and their advisors regarding the conditions whereby philanthropic gifts are accepted by Friends;
- Ensure all gifts accepted by Friends will help advance its mission, priorities, and values, in compliance with IRS regulations.

Guiding Principles

- Friends will accept only gifts it believes will benefit the organization and its mission.
- Gifts must be flexible enough to meet the needs of the Friends over the long term and unrestricted support is encouraged.
- Friends recognizes and acknowledges historic and existing systemic racism embedded in the non-profit sector. Friends is committed to becoming an anti-racist organization by prioritizing racial equity internally and in the public spaces we operate. As such, Friends holds the right to refuse a gift that is based on discriminatory practices or behaviors, or a gift from a source that acts against our organizational values and priorities.
- The acceptance of a gift does not represent an express or implied endorsement of the donor’s views, opinions, business practice or activities, or the related source of the gift.

Procedures

- Friends accepts donations of cash or publicly traded securities, which will be converted to cash when received.
- Gifts of in-kind services will be accepted at the discretion of Friends.
- Certain other gifts, real property, personal property, in-kind gifts, non-liquid securities, and contributions whose sources are not transparent or whose use is restricted in some manner, must be reviewed prior to acceptance due to the special obligations raised or liabilities they may pose for Friends.

- No irrevocable gift, whether outright or life-income in character, will be accepted if under any reasonable set of circumstances, the gift would jeopardize the donor's financial security.
- Friends provides acknowledgments to donors meeting IRS requirements for property received by the organization as a gift. However, except for gifts of cash and publicly traded securities, no value shall be ascribed to any receipt or other form of substantiation of a gift received by Friends.
- Friends will refrain from providing advice about the tax or other treatment of gifts and will encourage donors to seek guidance from their own professional advisors to assist them in the process of making their gift.
- Friends will honor the request of donors who desire to remain anonymous. With respect to anonymous gifts, we will restrict information about the donor to only those staff members with a need to know.
- Friends will not compensate, whether through commissions, finders' fees, or other means, any third party for directing a gift or a donor to the organization.

Conclusion

Our hope is that this gift acceptance policy provides clarity and alignment between the work of Friends to serve the community in Waterfront Park and the donors who choose to support it.

Friends is committed to reflecting on and questioning traditional fundraising practices while striving to embed [Community-Centric Fundraising principles](#) into our work. We'd like to acknowledge and thank the advocates leading the [CCF movement](#) and beyond whose work has paved the way for Friends to continually improve upon its fundraising efforts.

Contact

If you have questions about our gift acceptance policy or the work of Friends, please reach out to us at donate@waterfrontparkseattle.org