
Board Policy



Donations and Sponsorships Policy

Policy Statement

Pierce County Library System (the “Library”) welcomes donations and sponsorships from individuals non-profit, and commercial entities to help underwrite the costs of delivering public access to library services and furthering the mission and vision of the Library. Donations or sponsorships will not be accepted if restrictions are purported to discriminate against any individual on the basis of a protected class, to include race, color, religion, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin.

Purpose

To provide direction for the acceptance, handling, and recognition of donations and sponsorships at the Library.

Donations

The Library welcomes philanthropic donations made through the Pierce County Library Foundation (the “Foundation”), both outright and deferred. The Foundation is a separate Washington State nonprofit organization having 501(c)(3) status. These are rooted in philanthropy, and are given in the spirit and with the intent to further the mission and vision of the Library and Foundation. All donations must conform to and align with the mission and vision of the Library and Foundation, and should supplement materials and services which support the needs of Pierce County residents.

The Library Executive Director, or designee, has the vested authority to accept donations that have a clear benefit and relevance to the Library's initiatives. Such donations, when accepted, become the property of the Pierce County Library System.

Types of donations encouraged include cash, redeemable checks, and securities; bequests; retirement plan assets; charitable remainder trusts; charitable lead trusts; beneficiary designations; real estate; works of art; other tangible personal property; and in-kind goods or services.

Donations of new books may be accepted with the understanding that the same selection criteria are applied to gifts as to materials acquired by purchase. Donations of used books, movies, or other items are not accepted by the Library, although are welcomed by the Friends of the Library at individual library locations.

Sponsorships

The Library welcomes sponsorships structured through an agreement between the Library or the Foundation and another entity, in which that entity makes a monetary or an in-kind donation of goods or services of a quantifiable value, which may be in exchange for promotional consideration and recognition.

Certain criteria apply in deciding the specific nature and conditions of acceptable sponsorships. They are:

- All sponsorships will further the Library’s philosophy and mission, vision, and values.
- Sponsors may neither direct nor affect the selections of particular library materials or vendors, or require endorsement of their products or services.

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- Sponsorship opportunities offered by the Foundation will be approved in advance by the Library's Executive Director.
 - The Foundation will work with the Library's Executive Director and within the parameters of this policy to develop appropriate recognition commensurate with the amount contributed and weighed against the benefit to the Library.
 - The logos of the Library or Foundation or both will have prominence over sponsor name listing or logo. Library and Foundation events and programs will be named to reflect that they are joint Library and Foundation activities with underwriting provided by the sponsor.

Charitable Agreement Morals Clause

If at any time the donor/sponsor fails to conduct themselves without due regard to public morals and decency, or if the donor/sponsor commits any act or becomes involved in any situation pertaining to the intentions of this clause, or occurrence tending to degrade the donor/sponsor in the community, or which brings the donor/sponsor into public contempt or scandal, or which materially and adversely affects the reputation or business of either the Library or the Foundation, whether or not information in regard thereto becomes public, the Library and Foundation at their sole discretion shall have the right to remove donor's/sponsor's recognition rights as required pursuant to the donation/sponsorship agreement.

Adopted by the Pierce County Rural Library District Board of Trustees, April 10, 2024.

By the enactment of this policy the Board of Trustees of Pierce County Library System is concurrently rescinding any prior policy or procedure within PCLS that is either in conflict with or expansive of the matters addressed in this policy.