



# Ethical Fundraising Policy

## 1. Introduction and aims

As a charity, Collective fundraises to support its programmes and exhibitions, and for the care and management of its buildings and site.

This policy aims to establish a balance between our responsibility to generate income to progress our work and managing risk when fundraising.

We want to be transparent and open about our fundraising practices and decision-making processes, and this policy outlines the steps we will follow in assessing donations from organisations and individuals, and the criteria we use to judge ethics and risk. This policy supplements our obligations to fundraise within Scots Law and following the Fundraising Code of Practice.

In this way we hope to build a sustainable model for Collective that supports our mission and aims while considering our values.

## 2. Responsibility

The Board of Trustees of Collective, led by the Chair, will have the ultimate authority and responsibility for accepting or refusing donations. This authority will be delegated day-to-day to the Director with the support of the Development Manager.

## 3. Gift Acceptance Policy

Collective will fundraise from organisations, individuals and trusts who wish to support our work. The Board has a legal responsibility to accept donations unless a donation is likely to prevent us from fulfilling our charitable aims.

Funds cannot legally be accepted if:

- The source of the funds is unlawful.
- Accepting the funds would be detrimental to Collective.
- An individual lacks capacity to donate.

Funds may prevent us from fulfilling our charitable aims and therefore not be accepted if:

- The funds come from an activity or organisation that runs counter to our charitable aims, organisational mission or ethics.

- For example, it would run counter to our ethics to accept money from any government designated by the UN to be in breach of international law.
- Accepting the funds may lead to the loss of other donors or damage other stakeholder relationships.
  - For example, we would not accept money from the oil and gas industry as it would be likely to undermine the relationships with the artists we work with.
- Accepting the funds would pose a risk to our reputation. For example, we would not accept funds from an individual or company who is widely discredited and is perceived to be unethical.
- Accepting the funds would threaten the independence of Collective.
  - For example, we would not accept a donation from an individual who planned to use that donation as leverage to censor our programming.

The above factors are likely to overlap, and the board of Collective will take this into account.

#### **4. Decision making process**

All donations over £2500 should be assessed using Collective's due diligence form and risk assessment template. Copies of due diligence and risk assessments are recorded and stored with board papers and in Development records.

If due diligence and risk assessment show that the donation could present a risk (defined as a score of 6 or over on the risk assessment), the decision whether to proceed with the donation will be brought before Collective's board of trustees for discussion.

#### **5. Due diligence**

Collective has a responsibility to perform due diligence at a level that is appropriate for our size and expertise, and our ability to process and manage data. Due diligence will be conducted using the Due Diligence Checklist, and a copy of this will be recorded for any donations or sponsorships over £2500.

Criteria to be considered during due diligence include donor identification, source of funds, any conditions attached to the donation and annual reports.

*Appendix 1 (Due Diligence and Risk Assessment form template) is available upon request, by emailing [mail@collective-edinburgh.art](mailto:mail@collective-edinburgh.art).*

Approved by Collective's board in October 2025.