

BRITISH TEXTILE BIENNIAL

Ethical Fundraising Policy

Introduction

British Textile Biennial (BTB) is a contemporary art biennial celebrating and interrogating the complex histories and contemporary legacies of the global textile industry in the region which gave birth to the industrial revolution, where textiles are in the DNA of the community who live here now. We do this by delivering a dynamic, impactful cultural event in Lancashire, commissioning artists from all over the world to explore this context and present exhibitions and performances within the spaces and infrastructure left behind by the textile industry. We aspire to be a world-leading cultural event, forging international partnerships, stimulating new cultural ideas, artistic opportunities and connections between the local and the global.

BTB is committed to upholding the highest standards of ethical practice in all our fundraising activities. Our work is driven by a dedication to integrity, transparency and respect for our supporters, partners, and the broader community.

Principles

Our fundraising activities are guided by the following principles:

1. **Integrity and Honesty:** We commit to being truthful in our communication and transparent about how funds are raised and used.
2. **Respect:** We respect the rights, dignity, and privacy of our donors and beneficiaries.
3. **Accountability:** We are accountable to our supporters, ensuring that donations are used effectively and as intended.
4. **Transparency:** We will provide clear and accessible information about our fundraising activities and financial status.
5. **Sustainability:** We seek to build long-term relationships with our supporters based on mutual respect and trust.
6. **Social Justice:** We align our fundraising with our core values of social justice, avoiding income from sources that are known to work against the principles of improving our world for the better in both human and environmental terms.

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Fund Sources

BTB seeks funding from a range of sources to fulfil our mission. Most of our funding comes from charitable trusts and foundations, sponsors and lottery funding. We are developing a sustainable earned income strand and welcome individual giving. We also receive support in kind from our major heritage venues and producing partnerships.

Fundraising Practices

1. Donor Relationships
 - We will respect donors' rights to clear and accurate information about BTB's work.
 - We will handle donor information with confidentiality and respect.
 - We will acknowledge donations promptly and provide appropriate recognition, unless the donor wishes to remain anonymous.
 - We will not exploit our relationships with donors or put undue pressure on individuals to donate.
2. Accepting Donations
 - We will not accept donations that are inconsistent with our mission, values, or that could compromise our independence.
 - We will evaluate donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations to ensure alignment with our ethical standards.
 - We will refuse donations if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the funds originate from illegal or unethical activities.
 - We will not accept donations that require us to undertake actions or support projects that conflict with our mission and values.
3. Use of Funds
 - Donations will be used in accordance with the purposes communicated to the donor.
 - Restricted donations will be used exclusively for the purposes for which they were given.
 - We will ensure that all funds are used effectively and efficiently to further our mission.
 - We will comply with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements related to fundraising.
4. Transparency and Reporting
 - We will ensure that our fundraising materials are accurate and truthful, and clearly state if funds are being raised for specific purposes.
 - We will provide an annual report that includes information on our fundraising activities, financial performance, and impact.

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5. Conflicts of Interest

- We will avoid conflicts of interest in our fundraising activities and disclose any that may arise.
- Staff and volunteers involved in fundraising will declare any potential conflicts of interest.

6. Ethical Considerations

- We will avoid partnerships or funding from sources that are in conflict with our values and mission.
- We will not engage in fundraising activities that could harm our reputation or the trust placed in us by our supporters and the community.
- We will be mindful of the impact of our fundraising on the environment and society, striving to minimise any negative effects.

Avoidance Criteria

Our fundraising seeks to be ethically consistent with our values, avoiding funds derived from activities that contradict our mission and principles. BTB has a vetting process in place in which we research and review all potential donors, sponsors, and partners to ensure that these sources of funds align to our fundraising principles and in order that we avoid receiving income from sources that are known to work against the principles of improving our world for the better. For example, we will not accept income from companies or individuals whose funds are sourced from the following activities; tobacco manufacture, arms and nuclear weapons system manufacture, oil and gas, exploitative labour and human rights abuses.

We recognise the global flow of money means that at times our funds may have historically been connected to practices that do not align with our values and in these instances the ethical issues are discussed by staff and final decisions are made by the Director and Board of Trustees.

Compliance and Review

The Director and Board of Trustees take their responsibility to the Charity Commission to act in the best interests of the charity seriously. BTB complies with the Code of Fundraising Practice as set out by the Fundraising Regulator, and all relevant legislation, including money laundering rules and the Bribery Act.

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains relevant and aligned with best practices, and we will provide training and support to our staff and volunteers to ensure they understand and adhere to this policy.

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Complaints

Where material concerns are raised about funds already received by BTB, the Board of Trustees and Director will review the claims and determine appropriate actions regarding the funds or partnership.

BTB reserves the right to terminate partnerships where the activities of the individual or organisation conflict with our values and mission.

Contact

For questions or concerns about our fundraising practices, please contact:

Lindsey West - Head of Finance and Operations: lindsey@britishtextilebiennial.co.uk

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