

Gift Acceptance Guidelines

Foothills Forum is an independent, nonprofit organization in Rappahannock County, Virginia, that raises community support to foster enhanced civic engagement through fact-based, independent, and nonpartisan research and reporting, consistent with its Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

The Forum relies on contributions from individuals, foundations, partners, and others consistent with the organization's mission of supporting a thriving local news environment. The following guidelines govern the acceptance of gifts from any individual or entity:

- The Forum will avoid the existence and appearance of any conflict of influence on the part of its donors.
- In order to ensure full transparency, all donations will be acknowledged publicly, including on the Forum's website and/or with a published statement (e.g. *"This story was underwritten in part by NAME, which/who had no involvement in its preparation. All Foothills Forum reporting is produced independent of financial contributions."*)
- Gifts received by the Forum are for general pursuit of the Forum's mission. The Forum will have sole responsibility for the use, dedication, or disposition of any gift.
- The Forum may dedicate a gift to a specific program or purpose.
- The Forum may receive gifts of all types, but may also decline a gift that is deemed impractical for the organization or is deemed to be counter to the mission, purposes, reputation, or well-being of the organization.
- The Forum does not accept government funding unless approved by the Board of Directors.

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