



Durham Public Library

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GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY

MISSION

The mission of the Durham Public Library is to enhance the quality of life in Durham through open access to ideas and information, encourage exploration and learning in people of all ages, and support cultural enrichment by establishing the library as a center of our community.

PURPOSE

The Durham Public Library Board of Trustees, Library Director, and staff solicit gifts from individuals, corporations, and foundations to secure the library's future growth and accomplish its mission. The Library encourages contributions of book and non-book materials for collections, bequests, trusts, or donations of monetary or other assets for Library purposes. It is understood that special gifts and bequests should not take the place of public support but should enable the Library to provide and enhance services in ways not financially possible within the current annual operating budget.

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and regular procedures for receipt management and disposition of funds or other properties received by the Library as gifts. This policy is intended to provide guidance to representatives of the Library involved in the acceptance of gifts and to prospective donors who may wish to make gifts to the Durham Public Library. This policy is a guide and allows for flexibility on a case-by-case basis upon approval by the Board of Trustees. The Board may accept or reject any offered gift at its discretion. The Board of Trustees shall make all final decisions on gift restrictions and their acceptance or refusal. All gifts received will be directed to purposes consistent with the library's mission and the strategic directions of the organization.

Gifts that are no longer consistent with the Library's mission or direction, at any point in the future, may be disposed of in any manner deemed appropriate by the Board.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Library Director of the Durham Public Library is authorized to negotiate gift arrangements with prospective donors in accordance with the gift policy, pending final approval by the Board of Trustees. Acceptance of collection materials is at the sole discretion of the Library Director.

POLICY

In general, the Durham Public Library welcomes gifts of books, materials, equipment, works of art, documents, photographs, property of any kind, and money. The Library reserves the right to refuse any gift.

If a gift is accepted by the Library, the gift shall be final and no restrictions on the Library's ownership, possession, use or disposition of the gift shall be effective other than restrictions approved by the express vote of the Board of Library Trustees and documented in writing.

GUIDELINES:

Collection Materials: Gifts of library materials will be evaluated using guidelines set forth in the Collection Development Policy and are accepted with the understanding that items which are not added to the collection will be disposed of at the discretion of the Library. These items may be given to the Friends of the Library for sale, given to other libraries, or discarded. Donors should check with library staff for specific restrictions.

Gift collections will be accepted only by the Director with the understanding that the collection might not be kept intact.

Recognition Gifts: The Library welcomes monetary gifts for purchase of materials for the collections given in recognition of individuals or organizations. Library staff will choose items which accommodate the donor's subject preferences whenever possible. The names of the donor(s) and those recognized by the gift will be listed on a bookplate affixed to the material, if so desired.

Monetary Gifts: The Library welcomes gifts of cash, checks, or stock. Checks should be made out to Durham Public Library. Gifts of stock will be sold immediately at current value.

Real Estate: The Library may accept gifts of real property, in consultation with the Town of Durham, that support the mission of the Library. Such offers will be handled by the Director and the Board of Trustees to determine the suitability of the gift, terms of acceptance compatible with the Library's mission and policies, the donor's intent, and applicable laws.

Tangible Personal Property: In general, gifts of art objects, furniture, equipment, and other tangible objects shall be of use to the library or of interest to the community, of a professional quality, and in good condition. As with all gifts, tangible personal property will only be accepted with the donor's full agreement that the Library has the right to handle or dispose of the gift in the best interests of the institution.

Because of the Library's limited display and storage areas, potential donors of art & decorative objects are requested to discuss any possible gifts with the Director and Board of Trustees. No gifts requiring extensive, regular care or conservation will be accepted.

In-Kind Gifts

The Library welcomes gift offers of goods and services to supplement the Library's budget.

Valuation: The Library will provide a timely, written acknowledgment of the receipt of gifts to the donor and, if desired, to a recognized individual or organization. Income tax regulations leave the determination of the gift's monetary value to the donor. Donors wishing to have an appraisal of their gifts done for income tax purposes should do so prior to donation.

Future Disposition of Gifts: Libraries sustain losses through theft, mutilation, and ordinary wear. Resources with obsolete and/or misleading information may be discarded over time. The Library therefore cannot guarantee that any gift will be part of the collection or furnishings permanently. Excess articles may be offered to other Town Departments, other libraries, the Friends of the Library or discarded.

Comments and Questions about Library Gifts

The Library will review, consider, and respond to all comments and questions about library gifts although greater weight may be given to the requests of eligible cardholders, who are the Library's constituents. Any individual who wishes to provide comments or questions about any item(s) in the collection or the services and programs the Library provides to the community should complete a [REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF A LIBRARY RESOURCE FORM](#).



Durham Public Library

DEED OF GIFT

The Deed of Gift is a formal, legal agreement that transfers ownership of, and legal rights to, the materials which you as a Donor are conveying to the Durham Public Library, to be administered in accordance with our established policies. The Deed of Gift constitutes the transfer of titles and serves to define the terms of the transfer. The materials irrevocably become legal property of the Durham Public Library upon signing of the Deed of Gift.

Appraised Value: The Durham Public Library, its staff, and Trustees, cannot by law provide monetary appraisal of collections. Please consult a qualified appraiser, your accountant, and/or lawyer for advice.

Disposition of Materials: To make the most effective use of resources, the Durham Public Library reserves the right to determine the disposition of donated material and are authorized to dispose of any materials that, in its sole discretion, it determines are no longer necessary to the collection or the institution. Gifts received with a copy of an appraisal and not added to the collections will be retained for two (2) years as required by the Internal Revenue Service.

TO THE DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY:

I (we), _____ of
(address) _____

Am (are) the owner(s) of the property described as follows:

Property

Title, Description, Artist (if applicable)

Value _____

Value established by (check one): Donor _____ Appraiser _____ Other _____

I (we) desire to transfer said property as a gift to the Durham Public Library. I (we) do hereby irrevocably assign, transfer, and give up all my (our) rights, title, interest in and to the above-described property to the Durham Public Library. I (we) acknowledge receiving a copy of the Library's Gift Acceptance Policy. I (we) have hereunto set my (our) hand(s):

Donor _____

Donor _____

This _____ day of _____, 20____.

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

Signature of Library Trustee _____

Date _____