

Donations and Sponsorship Policy

This policy has been approved by the Board of Trustees and will be reviewed annually.

In 1833, Sir John Soane successfully negotiated a Private Act of Parliament to preserve his house and collection at 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields in perpetuity, stipulating that it be kept open for the public to visit free of charge.

To continue to do so, Sir John Soane's Museum must raise funds by active and effective means, while balancing the benefits against potential risks. The Museum actively seeks philanthropic donations and sponsorship from individuals and organisations in keeping with its charitable status. As a member of the Fundraising Regulator, the Museum will carry out fundraising in compliance with the Code of Fundraising Practice, as well as rules or guidance from the National Audit Office.

Sir John Soane's Museum considers each donation or sponsorship on its own merits. It is not possible for the Museum to accept a donation or sponsorship if:

1. It would be unlawful to accept it, or acceptance could risk complicity with illegal activities.
2. There is a significant risk that acceptance may harm the Museum, and any such harm would be disproportionate to the benefit the Museum would derive from acceptance of the gift or sponsorship.
3. The conditions attached to accepting the gift or sponsorship outweigh its value to the Museum.
4. The identity of a donor is unknown. Aside from low level gifts collected in the Museum boxes, the identity of a donor who prefers to remain publicly anonymous must be known to the Museum.
5. There is a significant risk that a donor or sponsor may not be able to honour the gift in full or in part.
6. The donation is too difficult or costly to administer.

For new pledges over £10,000, all prospective funders will be subject to initial research which incorporates a standardised search of publicly available material, designed to highlight

potential areas of controversy or concern in line with the above criteria. The results of the screening will be reviewed by senior staff before the donation can be formally accepted.

Donations with areas of concern will require approval from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum.

Trustees must adhere to the following principles when evaluating the acceptance of donations:

1. Trustees must consider their duties in accordance with the Sir John Soane's Museum Order (1969), which incorporates the provisions of Sir John Soane's original Act of Parliament of 1833 by which the Museum was established. Decisions regarding the acceptance of funds will be determined by whether such acceptance enables the Trustees to fulfil their fiduciary responsibilities as outlined in these articles.
2. Trustees should make decisions in the best interests of the Museum, regardless of personal preferences or individual reputation. When considering the best interests of the Museum, Trustees should balance short- and long-term objectives.
3. Trustees must consider how donations might impact the Museum's reputation, staff, other sponsors, and visitors. The benefits of accepting a donation or sponsorship must be weighed against any risks that could compromise the integrity or reputation of the Museum.

When evaluating prospective donations or sponsorship, Trustees and staff of Sir John Soane's Museum will take the Museum's other governance principles into account, alongside detailed internal due diligence procedures. These measures underpin a considered, ethical and rigorous fundraising process.

END