

## **Gift Acceptance Policy**

WHEREAS, the Board has identified a need for the Company to establish clear standards and requirements regarding the acceptance of gifts and donations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following policy be adopted:

**Purpose:** The Solutions Journalism Network (SJN) was incorporated to spread the practice of solutions journalism: rigorous reporting on responses to social problems. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that SJN maintains high ethical standards with regards to gifts and contributions so as to preserve the integrity and good name of SJN and to protect its interests.

**Applicability:** SJN supports newsrooms and journalists with training, learning resources, networking and, in some cases, financial support in the form of sub-grants or fellowships. SJN operates at all times recognizing the independence of editors and reporters of any journalism enterprise. Editorial function and news coverage of any project shall at all times remain independent of donors and of SJN, and no attempt shall be made to influence or interfere with the editorial policies or decisions of any project whether funded by SJN or not, (except inasmuch as we will influence them to learn and use the practice of solutions journalism.)

Funders of SJN may restrict their grants to broad initiatives (e.g., Economic Mobility, Renewing Democracy, Complicating the Narrative), regional collaboratives, geographic regions or specific newsrooms. However, funders may not specifically restrict their grants to individual stories, journalists or viewpoints.

In no case may a funder review a story before publication. Funders do not have special or privileged access to reporters or newsroom leadership. Funders will have no role in the review of grant applications submitted to SJN; SJN staff, and not funders, are responsible for the selection of SJN sub-grantees.

SJN may accept gifts from named companies, individuals, foundations and donor-advised funds for unrestricted support, for broad funds such as those named above, or for projects designed by SJN and approved by its leadership.

SJN is a 501(c)(3) eligible to receive charitable donations; SJN will advise its donors that only they and their tax advisors can determine the amount of the tax deductibility of contributed gifts.

SJN may accept anonymous gifts and anonymous donor-advised fund gifts for endowment, or for unrestricted support, but acceptance of such funds for any other purpose will require approval by SJN's leadership team. SJN employees and contractors may not accept personal gifts of more than a nominal value.

SJN reserves the right to decline any gifts it believes may create an appearance of bias or conflict of interest. SJN reserves the right to decline gifts that may need to be converted into usable assets, such as real estate or vehicles. Such gifts will be accepted only with the approval of the leadership team. SJN reserves the right to decline any gifts that its leadership believes might create an appearance of bias or conflict of interest, or might otherwise represent reputational risk to SJN.

This policy will be prominently displayed on SJN's website.

### **General Authority**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, the appropriate officer or officers of the Company be, and each of them hereby is, authorized, empowered and directed, to do or cause to be done all such acts or things and to sign and deliver, or cause to be signed and delivered, all such documents, instruments, agreements and certificates, in the name and on behalf of the Company, or otherwise, as such officers of the Company may deem necessary, advisable or appropriate to effectuate or carry out the purposes and intent of the foregoing resolutions and to perform the obligations of the Company, under the agreements and the instruments referred to therein; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all acts and things previously done and performed or caused to be done and performed by the appropriate officer or officers of the Company, in the name and on behalf of the Company, prior to the date of these resolutions in connection with the actions contemplated by the foregoing resolutions be, and hereby are, ratified, confirmed and approved in all respects.