I. PURPOSE

The Berkeley Public Library welcomes gifts of money to enhance library services through the provision of additional materials, equipment and services, as well as other types of gifts such as books. The Library encourages gifts of cash, not earmarked for specific items (unrestricted) in order to permit the most flexible use of the donation for the enrichment of the library program.

II. POLICY

Donations may be given in the form of cash (monetary) gifts, or as a bequest, trust, real property or donation of an asset. We recognize that the gift may be a remembrance, a way to honor an individual or group, a memorial or a tribute. The Library will establish the methods by which gifts are publicly acknowledged.

*The Board of Library Trustees must approve for acceptance any gift to the Library of funds, goods; or services worth more than $1,000 in aggregate.*

*The Library will disclose annually in an informational report to the City Council any gift received over $1,000 in aggregate.*

The Library will not affix a value for income tax purposes to any gift accepted; this is the responsibility of the donor. The Library will, however, on request, acknowledge the gift by letter and specify the type, and quantity, condition, etc. of the gift for the donor’s records. All gifts of money will be acknowledged. Gifts are the management responsibility of the Director of Library Services. The Director, in coordination with Library staff members has responsibility for decisions regarding criteria for gift acceptance and final disposition. The Board of Library Trustees will receive quarterly reports regarding all donations.

Personal property, art objects, memorial or commemorative objects, displays or plaques, portraits, artifacts, antiques, museum objects and similar items are not generally accepted as gifts. Under certain circumstances and with Board approval when such a gift meets the mission and needs of the library, these types of gifts will be accepted. Any restrictions on gifts, whether donations of monies, books, periodicals, media or art work must be submitted in writing and approved by the Board. Monetary gifts offered with special restrictions or conditions, including endowment funds, require Board approval of such restrictions before such monetary gifts are accepted.

Library staff will develop procedures regarding the disposition of books and other materials to include guidelines in considering material for inclusion in the Library’s collection and
disposition of material not included in the collection. The Library will develop a gift record form that includes options available to givers, including branch, collection or program designation. A record of all monetary donations above $100 will be retained for seven years.

Donor Recognition

The purpose of recognition is to commemorate the gifts of all donors. A gift to the Berkeley Public Library may be commemorated with a book plate, signage, plaque or by other means. In the case of a tribute donation, the Library will send the honoree(s) a formal announcement of the donation.

It is not the policy of the Library to provide separate shelf space for books or other materials donated to it.

The Berkeley Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library are not part of the Berkeley Public Library and as such have their own set of policies and practices. Under certain circumstances and with Board approval the Library may collaborate with one or the other of these organizations to initiate a “Library Campaign” to improve the physical space or service program of the Library. Such a campaign may have a donor recognition component that includes memorializing the gift or donation in Library facilities only if approved by the Board.