

Marble Arch Partnership – Charitable Giving Policy

Overview of the Marble Arch Community Programme

The Marble Arch Community Programme is delivered by the Marble Arch Partnership, the Business Improvement District (BID). The Community Programme supports BID members to connect to and engage with charities, community groups, schools and social enterprises on their doorstep. We achieve this by organising one-off team challenges, longer-term repeat volunteering as well as skilled volunteering, all with the aim of improving the community and strengthening cross-sector relationships.

The Community Programme also channels donations of unwanted items e.g. office furniture and IT equipment from BID members to our community partners. It also identifies opportunities for Marble Arch BID members to support charity events and activities, for example, by inviting businesses to donate raffle prizes.

How we facilitate financial support to the local community

The primary role of the BID is to help facilitate, broker and celebrate employee volunteering opportunities – i.e. matching offers of BID member employee's time - to provide additional capacity, skills and enthusiasm to a range of local community projects.

However, we recognise many of our community partners operate with low capacity and tight budgets, and that employees offering their time alone will not always lead to viable volunteering matches or meaningful impact.

The BID, through delivering our Community Programme, is uniquely placed to remain informed as to the financial priorities and needs of charities, schools and community groups in the area, and where budget is essential for certain projects to proceed.

The Marble Arch Community Programme will only facilitate financial support to our community partners in the following ways:

1. **To facilitate volunteer teams to participate in certain practical projects** by inviting BID members to cover the costs of equipment and/or materials e.g. paint, plants or tools. Where teams are hosting a lunch or tea party, we would encourage the purchasing of ingredients or refreshments. For many charity partners, this monetary contribution is critical to enabling an event or activity to go ahead. We will always be transparent when costs are involved and always notify our members during the planning stages of an activity.
2. **To encourage in-kind support to community partners via BID members' surplus stock or unused meeting space.** By donating good quality, unwanted items, e.g. office furniture or IT equipment, to our community partners, it can

provide a sustainable and ethical option. It can result in cost savings for charity partners, whilst businesses avoid having to pay disposal fees and reduces waste going to landfill. Notifying our community partners when free meeting space is available can help encourage BID member employees to engage with, and find out more about, community causes without the need to leave the office. Vice versa, we promote community spaces to BID members when they are looking to hold events and functions in the community, providing an important revenue stream for local community groups.

3. **To invite our members to participate in the BID's donation drives.** We may promote these opportunities on our website, newsletter and/or on social media. For example, the opportunity to take part in our Festive Donation Drive by providing gifts and items for vulnerable community members at Christmas, or by highlighting opportunities for our members to donate raffle prizes for community partner fundraising activities.
4. **To subcontract community partners to deliver employee volunteering activities on behalf of the BID.** We do this either because certain activities are under-represented in our Community Programme and it allows us to broaden our volunteering offer to members, or because it allows us to deliver large-scale projects with multiple teams on the same day – e.g. Earth Day, Silver Sunday - where extra staff capacity is needed. This position recognizes that charities are increasingly charging fees for employee volunteering and is an essential cost if BID staff capacity is not available. We understand for many charities this fee enables them to provide the supervision and expertise needed to deliver volunteering effectively. We will never 'double-charge' our members - who already contribute to the BID levy - by asking them to fund these costs. When we subcontract community partners, we will always make this clear to members.
5. **To help identify and channel donation offers by a BID member to a suitable community partner.** We often signpost and make introductions for our BID members who express interest in offering financial support to local causes e.g. by adopting a local charity of the year, hosting a fundraising stall in the office reception area. This is instigated by us at the instruction of the BID member. On occasion, volunteering events may lead to donations being made to the host charity either by individual volunteers or by subscriber companies. Any such donations are made entirely at the volunteer/BID member's discretion without obligation. Similarly, if BID employees choose to make an individual financial contribution this is at their discretion and is not claimed back by the company.

How we work with our community partners

The Marble Arch Community Programme supports approximately 30 charities, schools and community groups. We undertake careful due diligence on charities we work with to ensure that all donations (of time, gifts and money) address genuine local need.

We do not support causes which discriminate against any individual because of a protected characteristic, as defined under the Equality Act 2010¹.

Where charities are our suppliers or contractors, we will respect their charitable status and not apply pressure to secure preferential or discounted rates and fees.

How we report on charitable giving

We produce a statutory Billing Leaflet annually which reports on all our activity, including charitable giving levered through the Community Programme.

The Marble Arch Partnership Board meets quarterly and receives feedback on all our work, including details of activity delivered through the Community Programme. This covers reporting on donations (both financial and in kind) that have been facilitated by the Community Programme. Board papers are circulated in advance and meetings are minuted.

We regularly share good news stories on our website. Where BID members have made significant donations of time, gifts or money through the Community Programme, these contributions are celebrated in web articles, our monthly newsletter to BID members and on associated social media channels.

Further information

If you are a BID member or a charity operating in the BID area and would like further information about the Marble Arch Community Programme, please contact the team on community@marble-arch.london.