

Funding & Partnerships Policy

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1. Introduction

GCC is an environmental charity and international coalition of over 1,500 arts organisations. Our mission is to create an environmentally responsible art world through knowledge sharing, community building, campaigning and advocacy. Our key targets are to reduce the sector's CO₂e emissions by a minimum of 50% (from a 2019 baseline) and achieve near-zero waste by 2030. As a registered charity, we do not operate for profit and our membership, tools and resources are free of charge.

GCC maintains a member-led, non-hierarchical organisational structure, which promotes transparency, collegiality, and effective action on climate issues. Any partnership that GCC enters into, or any funding that it receives, will continue this work without compromising our values.

GCC recognises that in order to protect its reputation and maintain its independence, it is necessary to evaluate and assess all proposed partnerships and support, whether they be financial, in-kind, project collaborations, or endorsements. GCC endeavours to stay aligned with regulatory guidance from organisations such as the UK [Fundraising Regulator Code of Fundraising Practice](#), and acknowledges that risk assessment is part of the legal duty to protect charitable assets. This document gives an overview of GCC's fundraising & partnerships policy and outlines our decision making processes in this area.

As knowledge and understanding of best practice evolves, these developments will be reflected in GCC's policies. As such, this is a living document and will be open to review and revisions.

2. GCC's Principles: Vision, Mission & Values

Our Vision

An environmentally responsible art world.

Our Mission

Reduce the visual art sector's CO₂e emissions by a minimum of 50% (from a 2019 baseline) and reach near-zero waste by 2030.

Our Values

GCC strives to keep the following values at the core of our decision making.

1. Impact

Our approach is science-based, led by expert advisors and driven by impact. This means that we remain adaptable, and as our membership grows and the knowledge and science surrounding the climate crisis progresses, we will continue to evolve to increase our effectiveness.

2. Open Access

GCC membership is free, and will always remain so. We follow an open-source approach to information and a commitment to open access to our resources and tools. We don't want there to be any barriers to taking action.

3. Transparency

We aim to lead by example, to practice what we preach, and to prioritise integrity in our actions. This includes monitoring our own impacts, implementing environmental best practices in all our operations and maintaining transparency around our funding sources.

4. Collective Action

We believe that taking effective and coordinated action, collectively, will lead to greater impact. With so much to do in such a short space of time, we aim to collaborate with like-minded organisations who, through their own methods and networks, are working to make our mission achievable. We don't have time to be doing the same work twice.

5. Ambition

We maintain a spirit of 'stubborn optimism'. We know that there is a long way to go, and in order to remain ambitious and ahead of the curve we are willing to adapt and step up the pace in order to reach our targets.

Any potential partnerships or funding we received will be considered with these principles in mind.

3. Commitment to Members

GCC membership is and will always remain entirely open to anyone within the visual arts sector. We firmly believe that there should be no barriers to taking action and we will continue to share resources openly. GCC asks members to take action and adhere to the coalition commitments at sign up. Given our core value of open access, GCC does not review member sign-ups in line with this policy. We are focused on using the influence of our organisation to effect change within our network.

On occasion, GCC may undertake informal collaborations with its members if they are in line with our core activities. However, we recognise that any involvement with GCC in a public facing event or project could be seen as a

tacit endorsement by the coalition. Should we feel that this is being used inappropriately, we hold the right to review and/or withdraw a membership.

4. Funding Structure

As a registered charity, GCC does not operate for profit and we welcome voluntary donations to maintain operations. Any donations of £50,000 or over are subject to review in accordance with this policy.

GCC is and always will be funded in great part by its members: the galleries, artists, collectors and art businesses it was set up to serve. This is an important detail and fundamental to the identity of GCC as a membership organisation. Any additional funds raised will be used for expanding research, hiring additional consultants, or developing new resources and projects. Donations by members great and small will remain at the core of GCC's funding and will aim to cover essential running costs: staff salaries, offices, equipment, and core activities. This is for several reasons:

- Often, high levels of wealth correlate with higher levels of CO₂e emissions. Those with more funds in the arts are therefore likely to have more of a responsibility to support effective action on sector-specific climate impacts.
- It guarantees that the focus of GCC's operations will remain on serving and communicating with members.
- This avoids the risk of the charity becoming too dependent on any one funding source.

Donations of £2,000 or over will be credited on the GCC website, but this does not constitute a sponsorship. Therefore, there will be no expectation for GCC to use an organisation's branding or to promote their interests. GCC will not be required to engage in any additional activities after accepting a donation. GCC will only accept funding on a 'no-strings-attached' basis and our work will not be influenced by the offer of financial support.

GCC gratefully receives financial support from the following sources:

Supporters Circle

The GCC Supporters Circle is made up of three levels of giving: Patron (£10k), Donors (£5k), and Supporters (£2k). These are suggested as annual donations for a minimum period of three years, in order to establish a stable structure of sustained donations from industry leaders.

Digital Donations

At the point of registration, members are invited to voluntarily donate to GCC. These donations usually range from £50 - £500. GCC also accepts non-member voluntary donations via our website.

Artist Support

Artists may choose to donate works to GCC to assist with fundraising. This can take the form of an auction series, private sales, collaborative editions, etc.

Grants

GCC can receive specific grants relating to the different strands of activities. This funding may come from governments, foundations, NGOs or other grant giving bodies. Ethical guidelines and due diligence will always be applied as per GCC's policy.

5. Partnerships Strategy

GCC actively develops relationships with external organisations and individuals in order to achieve shared objectives. GCC defines a partnership as any form of relationship that involves collaboration with the purpose of maximising real impact and that has a public facing outcome. Each party contributes to a shared goal, whether that be via property, labour, network, or skill. We encourage partnerships with organisations that actively operate for the positive benefit of biodiversity and the environment in a fair and transparent way, in line with the principles of climate justice. We will not enter into exclusive partnerships, and in line with our collective ethos we aim to be aligned with as many relevant organisations or individuals as possible.

Partnerships with aligned organisations will always be considered strategically. For example, some partnerships may result in an activity or outcome that falls

outside of the current scope of GCC's core activities, but would be valuable in furthering the organisation's mission and vision.

GCC may sometimes receive support from skilled individuals who agree to contribute professionally to the charity free of charge, as an in-kind donation with their time and services paid for by their employees. GCC will not ask professionals to work for free and will only accept donations of labour from non-contracted individuals if they voluntarily waive their fees.

Following the process outlined in this document, GCC will perform the necessary checks on potential externally facing partnerships prior to formalising the agreement.

6. How We Make Decisions

As a priority, GCC will actively pursue support and partner with organisations that make a positive social, cultural, or environmental impact in a fair and transparent way and generate profit from ethical and sustainable methods. GCC also works with individuals and organisations who are willing to listen and change their practices through dialogue with GCC.

GCC recognises the complexities that historical relationships and partnerships can present. If an organisation has, for example, divested their finances away from fossil fuels, or is actively moving away from an association with environmentally damaging sponsor, GCC would acknowledge and celebrate these positive steps and would not necessarily exclude them from a partnership on the basis of past unethical actions as long as they can demonstrate they are proactively and urgently moving away from them. Each partnership will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

GCC recognises that partners and funders may have ties to organisations or individuals whose activities run contrary to our vision, mission and core values. As such, GCC retains the right to request information of upcoming or ongoing partnerships or funding sources from all potential partners.

By 2027, our policy will stipulate that we can only partner with, or receive funding over £50,000 from, organisations that can share their own policy or guidance around ethical considerations of funding & partnerships.

We can't account for all potential activities so we invite prospective partners to be open and transparent, and to therefore declare any conflicts of interest, at the time of seeking a partnership or offering a donation.

Ethical Considerations

Our fundraising committee will take ethical considerations into account and review all proposed funding sources on a quarterly basis. For partnerships, a subsection of the GCC team will review each proposition on a case-by-case basis. Both the fundraising committee and the GCC team will use the due diligence process as outlined below. This is independent of the size and shape of a donation, although the size and shape of the due diligence processes required will be tailored accordingly.

Checklist for New Funding & Partners

Does this partnership have a public facing outcome? If so, continue this review process. If the activity does not have a public facing outcome, and therefore cannot be seen as a public endorsement by GCC (for example a workshop session), or if the outcome is hosted as part of GCC's core activities with members, the review process is redundant.

Any proposed partnership with a public facing outcome, or a donation over £10,000, will be subject to the following process:

- 1.** Using the [Due Diligence Report](#), establish a clear understanding of the potential partner/funder offer and what it might entail.
- 2.** If necessary, conduct further background checks on the potential partner/funder.
- 3.** GCC Team and/or Ethical Committee to write up conclusion and recommendations
- 4.** Board of Trustees and/or Ethical Committee to review [Due Diligence Report](#) and make final decision.
- 5.** Formal approval or rejection of offer.

6. If approved, the decision-making process must be made available to GCC members upon request, outlining the nature of the relationship, the context and the implications.

Any relationship that continues over a period of time must contain a provision allowing GCC to terminate the relationship at any time, with no penalty, if the Trustees or GCC Team perceives negative reputational impact or that the funding partner is not fulfilling GCC's criteria on an ongoing basis.

Note: Donations that are not public facing, or that fall below £50,000, are still checked for alignment with GCC's values in general.

Avoidance Criteria

GCC will decline a partnership under the following circumstances:

- The funder/partners currently profits from fossil fuel or resource extraction leading to environmental destruction, fossil fuel investment, deforestation, harm of Indigenous communities, animal testing, intensive farming, manufacture of environmentally hazardous products or chemicals, manufacture or sales of arms, mining, unethical financial practices, exacerbating world debt, and water pollution.
- The funder/partner is not genuinely committed to reducing GHG emissions, in line with GCC's targets.
- The funder/partner's stated aims and values are opposed to those of GCC's stated values and principles, or its own principles, work, policies, and guidance run counter to GCC's.
- The funder/partner is motivated to present themselves as 'green' or 'sustainable' etc. by association with GCC in a way that is misleading or does not align with the charity's principles.
- A potential partnership may have a negative effect on GCC's reputation and/or may lead to a decline in support, undermine GCC's recommendations on best practice for environmental responsibility, or impact the credibility of the charity.
- The funder/partner has been known to instigate, repeat, or uphold views of an inflammatory or derogatory nature concerning race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion and/or culture.
- The funder/partner aims to influence the direction of GCC's work, policies, or actions, either explicitly or implicitly.

- The funder/partner makes unrealistic demands on GCC, its staff, or access to GCC members.
- The funder/partner intends to access information about, or exert influence over, GCC's members for their own benefit.

GCC may undertake additional due diligence checks under the following circumstances:

- A funder/partner's board or voluntary senior management currently profits from fossil fuel or resource extraction leading to environmental destruction, fossil fuel investment, deforestation, harm of Indigenous communities, animal testing, intensive farming, manufacture of environmentally hazardous products or chemicals, manufacture and sale of arms, mining, unethical financial practices, exacerbating world debt, and water pollution.
- A funder/partner is currently or imminently receiving funding or is in a partnership with an organisation or individual that currently profits from fossil fuel or resource extraction leading to environmental destruction, fossil fuel investment, deforestation, harm of Indigenous communities, animal testing, intensive farming, manufacture of environmentally hazardous products or chemicals, mining, unethical financial practices, exacerbating world debt, and water pollution
- A funder/partner banks with or holds their pension with an organisation that invests in fossil fuels or resource extraction.
- A for-profit business wants to enter into a corporate partnership with a funder/partner whose shareholders have problematic associations.

Feedback

We welcome comments and feedback from our network. If you'd like to speak to us about this policy, please contact info@galleryclimatecoalition.org.