

Live Art Development Agency Ethical Funding Policy and Procedures

Approved by the Live Art Development Agency's Board of Directors on 16 September 2019

Summary

The Live Art Development Agency's (LADA) Ethical Funding Policy and Procedures is designed as a checking tool to ensure that the values and needs of the organisation are balanced against its principles, and to protect the organisation from financial, reputational or other harm. The Policy broadly defines a set of principles that can be used internally to evaluate how to respond to funding and partnership opportunities, and how to address questions of ethical expenditure and banking. As time goes by, a body of precedents may grow up around each principle.

LADA will periodically evaluate its activities and check they are in line with the policy, and it is every staff member's responsibility to observe and implement it on a continuous basis.

This document will be reassessed, and where appropriate updated, on an annual basis, by LADA's staff and Board.

LADA's Values, and How We Work

All aspects of LADA's work are informed by issues of difference and diversity. LADA particularly supports the most challenging artists, practices and ideas of contemporary culture, including emerging artists, artists from culturally diverse backgrounds, and artists working around issues of social and environmental justice.

LADA is committed to equality of opportunity and to responding to the complex needs of a diverse society, and we aim to enhance the involvement of artists, arts professionals and the public in a way that is conscious of age, gender, race, ethnicity, class, religion, disability, sexual orientation or education.

LADA's approach aspires to be 'difference-conscious' rather than simply unprejudiced or unbiased. There is an avowed bias toward inclusion and working to address and to help redress historical imbalances of power and representation.

LADA is committed to increasing access to Live Art;

- Many of our resources, such as the Study Room, are free to use;
- All DIY workshop projects are free for participants;
- We ensure that the ticketed events and publications we produce are affordable to those on no or low wages; and
- Whenever possible, we make open, public calls for participation in our projects and initiatives.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.thisisliveart.co.uk/about/how-we-work/>

Funding

LADA will direct its fundraising efforts towards companies, organisations and individuals whose work is in alignment with our values and aims, and/or makes a positive social, cultural or environmental impact; this could include renewable energies, low carbon emissions etc. LADA will work to be increasingly proactive over time in identifying how best to direct its fundraising efforts in these ways.

Oil Sponsorship

LADA has made the Oil Sponsorship Free commitment: We do not take any oil, coal, or gas corporate sponsorship for our cultural work, and we call on our peers and institutional partners to refuse fossil fuel funding too.

See more at oilsponsorshipfree.org

LADA will not knowingly apply to, or accept funding from: companies, organisations, regimes or individuals whose primary work includes direct involvement in activities that run contrary to our overall aims and values. These include companies, organisations, regimes or individuals who, to the best of our knowledge or understanding, directly:

- Block or actively work against social justice and human rights, including issues of race, gender, sexuality, disability and inequality.
- Block or work against community empowerment.
- Harm the environment, including fossil fuels and non-human animal welfare, specifically the medical, pharmaceutical and experimental testing on non-human animals.
- Work in or with industries where working practices and/or the goods produced are harmful, for example, arms or tobacco industries.

Implementation

LADA will use its best efforts to appropriately assess each situation it faces on a case-by-case basis, and work to the best of the available knowledge and our understanding. We acknowledge that the list of activities above includes broad definitions, and issues of direct and indirect ownership and/or control can be complex to identify and understand. In addition, we recognise that individual donors' participation in any of these activities, as distinct from companies, organisations or regimes, may be challenging to research, identify and assess. Our research around regimes may be informed by cultural boycotts/campaigns which are in place. Where appropriate, LADA will share this policy with the relevant companies, organisations, regimes or individuals.

LADA is likely to receive funding from statutory bodies or charitable trusts. We accept this funding because it is intended to promote work that contributes to our aims and because it is necessary for LADA's operations. We recognise, however, that statutory bodies are not necessarily ethical just by virtue of being statutory bodies. In recognition of this, we attempt to promote good practice by disseminating our methods and where appropriate we will ask for ethical policies from the bodies we are involved with.

We recognise that occasionally trusts are set up with the express purpose of making an otherwise unethical company seem more ethical and responsible through positive advertising: for example, the greenwash effect. Under such circumstances, the guiding principle of this policy prevails: in general, LADA would not knowingly accept money from a charitable trust whose activities run contrary to our aims, or whose controlling, holding or founding company's activities run contrary to our aims. An exception to this might be a trust that LADA considered to be making a genuine effort to re-adjust its operations in line with the principles outlined in this policy.

LADA will engage with funding sources we reject, outlining why we are rejecting them and on what grounds, with the aspiration to be a constructive ally. We will also ask that those in power or are the leaders of those organisations are aware of our rejection.

Donations

LADA recognises that it would be time consuming and potentially counter-productive to assess every donation it receives against the terms of this policy, whether from individuals or organisations. In this context:

- LADA has concluded that donations above £1,000 from a single individual or organisation in any one year should be subject to the scrutiny outlined in this policy, including donations which are credited anonymously.
- We will endeavour to develop good relationships and understanding between ourselves and such donors, and ensure that actual and prospective donors are aware of LADA's values and this policy.
- We acknowledge the complications and challenges around identifying the sources and public perceptions of private resources, and where appropriate will be informed by the Institute of Fundraising's 'Donation Acceptance and Refusal: Policies and Processes Guidance' document.

Partnerships/Associations

LADA aims to be in partnership or association with individuals and organisations that are working with the same or similar values. It also aims to work with individuals and organisations who may have not considered the issues raised in this document, but who are willing to listen and possibly change their practices through dialogue with LADA.

LADA will not work in partnership or association with any individual or organisation, either company, statutory, voluntary or community-based,

whose primary activities are directly contrary to our aims. In this context, partnership and association means any work that LADA does whereby the responsibility for the end result of that work is jointly owned between LADA and another individual or group.

LADA recognises that its partners/associates (including arts and higher education organisations, and individual artists) may receive funding from organisations or individuals whose activities run contrary to our aims. In such circumstances:

- LADA will share this policy with its partner/associate and strive to ensure that the partnership or association is not directly related to, or publicly associated with, the partner's funding or funded activities -- this relates to the content of both LADA's and its partner/associate's publicity;
- LADA will not directly or indirectly publicise, credit or endorse its partner/associate's funder; nor allow that funder to associate themselves with LADA in any way without our express permission;
- LADA will incorporate the principles of this Policy into contracts/agreements with partners/associates.

Expenditures, Banking, Pensions and Investments

LADA strives to commit its expenditures towards companies and individuals who are in alignment with or support our values. LADA recognises that it is unable to research the activities of all of those companies and individuals, and will focus this work on significant expenditure (over £5,000 in total annually) and its regular suppliers. LADA will assess where changes to our suppliers of goods and services could be changed to better align with its values.

LADA also monitors, and where appropriate is in dialogue with, the financial institutions it banks and invests with, to ensure that LADA's financial resources are entrusted to institutions who operate to and promote ethical standards. LADA's recent experience has revealed that these issues need to be balanced against the banking services which each bank is able to provide to ensure efficient and effective banking operations for the company. We will therefore keep monitoring developments in the banking sector, to identify enhanced banking opportunities as and when they become available.

Where the balance goes against the most ethical option, LADA will commit to putting pressure on the service provider to correct unethical behaviour.

Implementing this Policy

LADA's Director will use their best efforts to effectively implement this policy as they direct and coordinate LADA's activities. In exceptional circumstances, any issues of concern or contention may be referred to LADA's Board of Directors.

The list of areas above is in no way exhaustive and it is clear that more

questions may arise in the course of LADA's development than have been covered within this policy. LADA will strive to stay at the forefront of public debates around ethical standards, and ensure its policy is updated annually to reflect any shifting ground on those issues. The above statements of principle are meant as a working guide to assist in making decisions about these unforeseen situations.

Notes

LADA's Ethical Funding Policy was informed by The Kindling Trust and by the excellent work of PLATFORM London:

<http://www.kindling.org.uk/ethical-fund-raising-policy>

<http://platformlondon.org/>

LADA commissioned Jane Trowell of Platform to write a Study Room Guide on these issues: Take the money and run? Some positions on ethics, business sponsorship and making art.

During 2013-15, LADA's ethical fundraising initiatives were supported by Arts Council England's Catalyst Fund, and took place in partnership with Artsadmin and Home Live Art. Arts Council England's Catalyst Evolve Fund supported the updating of this Policy in 2017.