



Crowdfunding Policy | August 2023

Overview

The Boston Public Library Fund (BPLF) provides financial support, through fundraising initiatives, to the Boston Public Library, ensuring that it remains viable, engaging, accessible, and *free to all*. The BPLF fulfills this mission by working in partnership with the Library, donors, and other funders in supporting BPL programs and special initiatives. Support from the BPLF supplements, but does not supplant, other BPL resources, including City of Boston funding.

Crowdfunding is the practice of raising funds by leveraging support from a large number of people—in the form of many small donations— typically via the internet. This policy for crowdfunding helps ensure that those wishing to raise funds on behalf of the BPLF do so in a way that accurately represents our cause to prospective supporters.

The BPLF has accounts on the following platforms that those interested in crowdfunding can use:

- Facebook (@bplfund)
- Instagram (@bplfund)
- JustGiving
- GivenGain (used exclusively for fundraising for the Boston Marathon)

Using one of these approved platforms ensures that funds are sent directly and securely to the BPLF and ensures that donors receive proper receipting for tax purposes. It also makes it much easier for us to thank your donors! If you are interested in using a platform not listed above, please contact us at info@bplfund.org.

Crowdfunding Guidelines

- Please reach out to us at info@bplfund.org to let us know you are fundraising on our behalf—we would love to thank you! And, we're happy to supply you with photos and other content to help your campaign.
- All offline gifts (check, cash) must be submitted to the Fund with the donor's contact information in order to be considered a tax-deductible donation.
- Raffles and giveaways intended for the purpose of supporting crowdfunding fundraising goals are not allowed at any time.
- Crowdfunding is done at the participant's sole risk, including any tax implications of raising funds on an individual basis outside the approved platforms.
- Any merchandise produced by the crowdfunding project for promotional purposes using the Fund's name or any of its marks or symbols must be approved by the Fund.
- We reserve the right to end your fundraiser if we feel that it is in violation of any of these guidelines.
- Any views expressed by individuals who are crowdfunding on behalf of the BPLF do not necessarily reflect the views or values of the BPLF or the Boston Public Library.
- Have fun, and please reach out to us at info@bplfund.org or 617-859-2027 if you have any questions!