



Editorial Independence Policy

revised June 2021

Auricle Productions subscribes to standards of editorial independence adopted by the Institute for Nonprofit News. We retain full authority over editorial content to protect the best journalistic and business interests of the organization. Auricle Productions maintains a strict separation between editorial decisions and all sources of revenue.

Acceptance of financial support does not constitute implied or actual endorsement of donors or their products, services, causes, or opinions.

Auricle Productions accepts gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals, corporations and other organizations to support our activities. However, Auricle Productions always makes editorial judgments independently and never on the basis of external input, advice, guidance or pressure.

While Auricle Productions may consider donations to support the coverage of particular topics, we will always maintain editorial control of such coverage.

Auricle Productions does not grant the right to review or influence editorial content prior to publication.

Auricle Productions is committed to funding transparency and makes public all donors, grantors and sponsors who contribute more than \$5,000. We will honor a donor's request to remain anonymous only if it is clear that sufficient

safeguards have been put into place to ensure that the expenditure of such anonymous donations is managed independently by Auricle Productions.

Diversity of Funding Sources

Diversity of funding sources is an essential part of Auricle Productions's commitment to high journalistic standards of breadth, accuracy and fairness in developing and presenting its programs.

Auricle Productions deliberately seeks funding from a broad and balanced spectrum of reputable organizations and individuals whose support will advance our goals and objectives.

Criteria for Accepting Gifts and Grants

As part of our gift acceptance policy, donors and funding organizations must recognize and respect Auricle Productions's pursuit of journalistic standards of accuracy, fairness, relevance, significance, context and depth. These standards include our responsibility to present truthful, balanced, and respectful coverage of topics and issues.

Funding entities must understand and accept that they have no right or power to determine the content or scope of Auricle Productions's coverage, the issues to be examined or the sources who are invited to participate.

Right to Decline or Return Grants or Gifts

Even when applying these criteria, cases may arise in which the acceptance of a gift, grant or of some other form of financial or in-kind support from a certain entity might compromise the mission or goals of Auricle Productions, or might create the appearance of such a compromise. Accordingly, Auricle Productions reserves the right to decline or to return any gift, grant or other form of support if

we determine that it would not be in our best interest to accept or to continue to receive such support.

Safeguards to protect editorial independence

We have adopted the following safeguards to proactively protect the independence and integrity of our editorial decisions:

- Auricle Productions does not solicit or accept feedback on editorial content from donors, grantors or other individuals outside our organization prior to publication.
- Our Board of Directors must review and sign a Conflict of Interest Policy annually.
- Auricle Productions includes a “full disclosure” statement if a story involves Threshold donors, board members or someone else associated with our organization.
- Threshold does not accept donations from political parties or political action committees.
- As part of our gift acknowledgement process and overall donor communications plan, we share our commitment to editorial independence with our donors and prospective donors on our thank you letters and website.
- We send a letter explaining our editorial independence policy to all donors who contribute more than \$1,000 annually.
- All donors who contribute more than \$10,000 are asked to sign our donor pledge, indicating their support and respect for our editorial independence policy.
- Auricle Productions accepts gifts only from donors who identify themselves to us.
- We understand that there are a variety of valid reasons that a donor may wish to remain publicly anonymous and we respect donor requests for anonymity in certain circumstances. As part of our gift acceptance policy, when a donor requests anonymity, we require that at least one member of our leadership team meet with the donor to fully understand the intent of

their gift and their reason(s) for requesting anonymity. We will only accept an anonymous gift if we feel certain that there are no conflicts of interest or other conditions that might compromise the integrity of our organization or our work.