

# Business plan Stichting Polar Lights (“the Foundation”)

RSIN: 822723785

Address:

Keizersgracht 62,  
1015 CS Amsterdam  
Netherlands

Foundation register number: 50407414

The foundation is registered as a charitable entity (ANBI) under Dutch law.

## **Strategic plan**

The Foundation was set up in 2010.

The board consists of three individuals:

Alan Leibowitz, Chairman  
Harold Grüninger, Treasurer  
John Graham, Secretary

The board members are jointly authorised to represent the foundation. The board meets several times a year to consider donations, the performance of subsidiaries and internal matters.

There are also three members of the supervisory council:

Lorraine Smiley  
Richard Oldfield  
Johannes Burger

The board and supervisory council members have a range of experience in business, investment, charitable activities and financial and legal matters.

## **Objects**

The objective of the Foundation is to support charitable causes all over the world. All such charities and causes must be charitable under the laws of both the Netherlands and England and Wales.

## Means of carrying out objectives

The Foundation supports several charities that are selected annually by the board of directors.

The Foundation currently focuses on supporting charities in the areas of:

- culture
- environmental protection
- human rights
- humanitarian aid.

The Foundation does not consider unsolicited grant applications.

Examples of charities to which donations have been made in recent years include:

**Sir John Soane Museum**, a [house museum](#), which was formerly the home of [neo-classical architect, John Soane](#). It holds many drawings and [architectural models](#) of Soane's projects, and a large collection of paintings, sculptures, drawings and antiquities that he acquired over many years. (<https://www.soane.org/>)

**Octavia Foundation**, an English charity which connects people affected by unemployment, ill health, social isolation or low incomes in central and west London with opportunities for positive personal change. Their vision is to build stronger, happier and healthier communities to help create an enriched life. (<https://www.octaviafoundation.org.uk/>)

**Leighton House Museum** which was the former home of the Victorian artist Frederic, Lord Leighton. The only purpose-built studio-house open to the public in the United Kingdom, it is one of the most remarkable buildings of the nineteenth century, containing a fascinating collection of paintings and sculpture by Leighton and his contemporaries. (<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/museums.aspx>)

**Sussex Historic Churches Trust**, a charitable trust which was founded in 1956 to give grants for essential repairs and restoration of places of worship of architectural or historic interest throughout Sussex. Since 1956, the Trust has assisted more than 500 churches. (<https://www.sussexhistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/>)

**Marie Stopes International**, a global organisation working in 37 countries to make sure that access to contraception and safe abortion is affordable for women. (<https://mariestopes.org/about-us/>)

**Chickenshed**, an inclusive theatre company that creates theatre for all ages and runs successful outreach projects, education courses and membership programmes throughout the year. (<https://www.chickenshed.org.uk/who-we-are>)

**Medecins Sans Frontiers**, in Netherlands (Artsen Zonder Grenzen) an international, independent, medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from healthcare. MSF offers assistance to people based on need, irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. (<http://www.msf.org/en/country/netherlands>)

## **Fundraising**

The Foundation does not raise any funds from third parties. The charitable activities of the foundation are 100% financed by dividends from its subsidiaries. All income is applied to charitable causes.

In 2022 donations amount to around €730,000. Donations are expected to continue at a similar level.

## **Management of funds**

The board of directors regularly reviews the performance of its subsidiaries. Any dividends received are generally applied to charitable purposes in the year of receipt and as a result funds are kept in liquid bank accounts and not invested.

Approved by the board on 28.09.2023