

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY OF RUST FOUNDATION

Article I Purpose

This Conflict of Interest Policy (the “Policy”) is adopted by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Rust Foundation (the “Foundation”) to protect the interests of the Foundation when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer, director, or any other member of a committee with powers delegated by the Board, or which might result in an excess benefit transaction.

The purpose of this Policy is to educate Foundation representatives about what constitutes a conflict of interest, to assist them in identifying and disclosing conflicts of interest, and to ensure the avoidance of conflicts of interest wherever possible. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations.

Article II Definitions

1. **Interested Person:** Any natural person who is a Foundation director or principal officer, or a member of a Foundation committee with board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect Financial Interest, as defined below, is an Interested Person.
2. **Financial Interest:** A person has a Financial Interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:
 - a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Foundation has a transaction or arrangement,
 - b. A Compensation arrangement with the Foundation or with any entity or individual with which the Foundation has a transaction or arrangement, or
 - c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or Compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Foundation is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

A Financial Interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, an Interested Person may have a conflict of interest only if the board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

3. **Compensation:** Direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

Article III Procedures

1. **Duty to Disclose**

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In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest of which he or she has personal knowledge, an Interested Person must disclose the existence of the Financial Interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the Financial Interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the board or committee, the Interested Person shall leave the board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest

- a. An Interested Person may make a presentation at the board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
- b. The chairperson of the board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- c. After exercising due diligence, the board or committee shall determine whether the Foundation can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Foundation's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

- a. If the board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

Article IV **Records of Proceedings**

The minutes of the board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

1. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a Financial Interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the Financial

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Interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

2. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

Article V **Compensation**

1. A voting member of the board who receives Compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Foundation for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's Compensation.
2. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes Compensation matters and who receives Compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Foundation for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's Compensation.
3. No voting member of the board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes Compensation matters and who receives Compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Foundation, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding Compensation.

Article VI **Annual Statements**

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

1. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
2. Has read and understands the policy,
3. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
4. Understands the Foundation is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Article VII **Periodic Reviews**

To ensure the Foundation operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

1. Whether Compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining.
2. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the Foundation's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

Article VIII
Use of Outside Experts

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, the Foundation may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.