

Be part of Oxford's story for generations to come.

A guide to will writing and gifts in wills

**OLD FIRE
STATION**

Hello

Thank you for your interest in leaving a gift in your will to Arts at The Old Fire Station.

For more than a decade, The Old Fire Station has been bringing people together through creativity, culture and community. Every year, thousands of people come through our doors to enjoy performances, exhibitions, workshops and events. Others take part in projects that build confidence, develop skills and create lasting connections.

A gift in your will can help ensure that future generations continue to find a place where they can be creative, discover new opportunities and feel part of something bigger.

Whether large or small, every gift helps keep creativity open to all in the heart of Oxford.

Thank you for considering supporting The Old Fire Station in this special way.

Clara Vaughan

CEO

The Old Fire Station, Oxford



Contents

- Keeping creativity at the heart of Oxford ([4-7](#)).
- A step-by-step guide to leaving a gift in your will ([8-10](#)).
- The impact your gift could have ([11-15](#)).
- Frequently asked questions ([16-19](#)).
- A legacy for future generations ([20-21](#)).



**Keeping creativity open to all in
the heart of Oxford**



The Old Fire Station is a unique arts centre in the centre of Oxford.

Housed in a Victorian fire station and sharing a building with Crisis Skylight Oxford, we believe that creativity should be accessible to everyone. Through theatre, music, visual arts, comedy, spoken word, workshops and community projects, we create opportunities for people from all backgrounds to connect, express themselves and thrive.

Every year we support artists, welcome audiences, nurture creativity and create opportunities for people who may usually face barriers to participating in the arts.

We know that creativity can change lives. Our participants regularly tell us that taking part in projects helps them develop confidence, build relationships and see new possibilities for their future.

“I saw the whole thing through to the end, and that was good knowing I could do that... So now I know I can do these things, just to turn up and do it rather than thinking about it. So it’s helped my confidence.”

- Participant



Our work is about much more than making art. It is about helping people realise their potential. A gift in your will could help ensure that future generations have the same opportunities to grow, connect and flourish.



A step-by-step guide to leaving a gift in your will

Leaving a gift in your will to Arts at The Old Fire Station is a meaningful way to support creativity and community for generations to come.

1

Plan your estate

Consider the value of your assets, including property, savings, investments and personal possessions, and deduct any liabilities.

2

Decide on your beneficiaries

Many people choose to provide for family and friends first, while also remembering causes that have been important to them during their lifetime.

3

Choose an executor/s

Your executor is responsible for ensuring the wishes in your will are carried out.

4

Consult a solicitor

A solicitor can help ensure your will is legally valid and reflects your wishes accurately.

5

Review, finalise and sign your will

Carefully review your will before signing it in accordance with legal requirements.

6

Store your will safely

Keep your will somewhere secure and ensure your executor/s know where it can be found.

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8

Review your will regularly

It is sensible to review your will after major life events or changes in your circumstances.

9

Let us know

While there is no obligation to tell us, letting us know about your gift helps us plan for the future and gives us the opportunity to thank you for your generosity.



The impact your gift could have...

A gift in your will can help ensure that The Old Fire Station remains a place where creativity transforms lives and strengthens communities.

We encourage people from all backgrounds to help shape and understand the world through stories, creativity and the arts, and through connecting. In everything we do, we include people facing homelessness or disadvantage, support early-career artists and community groups and work collaboratively with local services to remove barriers to arts engagement.

We believe in the power of the arts to create social change, and we're working to make Oxford a more creative and equitable place for everyone.



Building confidence through creativity

Creative opportunities can help people discover talents, skills and strengths they never knew they had.

Many people we work with describe increased confidence and self-belief as one of the most important outcomes for them.

"I have more belief in myself, that's the main thing."

- Participant

Your gift could help more people gain the confidence to change their lives..





Creating connection and belonging

The Old Fire Station brings together people from many different backgrounds and experiences.

Through performances, projects and shared creative experiences, people form friendships, develop understanding and feel part of a wider community.

"Every one of those people filled me with hope."

- Participant

In a world where loneliness and isolation affect many people, opportunities to connect have never been more important.

Your gift could help ensure that the Old Fire Station continues to be a place where people come together and feel they belong

Supporting well-being and resilience

Creativity can help people navigate difficult periods in their lives and provide moments of joy, purpose and reflection.

"For the first time in a long time, I was actually living in the moment."

- Participant

Supporting artists and future creativity

The Old Fire Station is also committed to supporting artists at every stage of their career.

We help artists create new work, reach new audiences and contribute to Oxford's vibrant cultural life.

A gift in your will can help ensure that creativity continues to flourish in our city for future generations.



Frequently asked questions

What is a will?

A will is a legally binding document that explains how you would like your estate to be distributed after your death.

How much should I leave?

The amount is entirely your choice.

Many people choose to look after loved ones first and then leave a percentage of what remains to the causes they care about.

Whatever the size of your gift, it can help make a lasting difference.

Do I need to tell The Old Fire Station if I have included a gift in my will?

No. However, if you choose to let us know, it helps us plan for the future and allows us to thank you for your support.



Are gifts to charity exempt from Inheritance Tax?

In most cases, gifts to registered charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax. Your solicitor or financial adviser will be able to provide advice relevant to your individual circumstances.

What types of gifts can I leave?

The most common types of charitable gifts are:

Pecuniary gift – a fixed sum of money.

- Suggested wording: 'I give the sum of [specific sum or description of asset] to Arts at the Old Fire Station (Charity No. 1140525) of 40 George Street, Oxford OX1 2AQ for its general charitable purposes. I further direct that the receipt of the Director, or other duly appointed officer for the time being of the said charity, shall be sufficient discharge for my Executors or Trustees.'

Specific gift – a particular item or asset.

- Suggested wording: 'I give the sum of [specific sum or description of asset] to Arts at the Old Fire Station (Charity No. 1140525) of 40 George Street, Oxford OX1 2AQ for its general charitable purposes. I further direct that the receipt of the Director, or other duly appointed officer for the time being of the said charity, shall be sufficient discharge for my Executors or Trustees.'

Residuary gift – a share of what remains of your estate after other gifts, debts and expenses have been paid.

- Suggested wording: 'I give all (or a specific %) of the residue of my estate to Arts at the Old Fire Station (Charity No. 1140525) of 40 George Street, Oxford OX1 2AQ for its general charitable purposes. I further direct that the receipt of the Director, or other duly appointed officer for the time being of the said charity, shall be sufficient discharge for my Executors or Trustees.'

Whichever type of gift you choose, please also add the following clause:

- 'If at my death any charity named as a beneficiary in this will or any Codicil hereto has changed its name or amalgamated with or transferred its assets to another body, then my Executors shall give effect to any gift made to such charity as if it had been made (in the first case) to the body in its changed name or (in the second place) to the body in its changed name or (in the second place) to the body which results from such amalgamation or to which such transfer has been made.'

What if I already have a will?

You may be able to update your existing will using a codicil rather than creating a completely new document. Your solicitor can advise on the best approach.

A legacy for future generations

Every day, The Old Fire Station creates opportunities for people to build confidence, express themselves, build connections and experience the transformative power of creativity. This is an incredible gift to someone who may have spent much of their life being seen as a set of problems.

For some people, it is where they perform for the first time. For others, it is where they find friendship or rediscover hope.

A gift in your will can help future generations to re-label and re-imagine themselves based on what they're good at, who they are and what they want to be.

Thank you.

The logo for The Old Fire Station, featuring the words "OLD FIRE" stacked above "STATION" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, set against a red rectangular background with slightly rounded corners.

**OLD FIRE
STATION**



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