

Making Your Planned Gift

Bard

Gift planning offers you an opportunity to support Bard in a meaningful manner, sometimes even without current assets. These options may offer substantial tax savings, especially on donations of appreciated properties and securities. Donors who share their planned gift intentions with Bard are recognized as members of the Margaret and John Bard Society.

FUTURE GIFT INTENTIONS

BEQUESTS

Bequests are the most common way to provide for the future of Bard College. Including a bequest intention in your will may allow you to make a larger gift than would otherwise be possible. Your family may save on estate taxes, and changes can be made if needed.

Cash Bequest: designation of a specific amount of cash to be given to Bard. For example, "I give to Bard College the sum of \$___."

Residuary: the remainder of your estate after all debts, other bequests, and taxes have been paid. Bard can be named the beneficiary of all or a portion of your residuary estate. For example, "I give to Bard College X percent of my residuary estate." This allows you to provide for your loved ones first while passing any assets thereafter to Bard.

Specific Bequest: name a specific item, such as real estate, jewelry, artwork, or a certain stock, to Bard as your beneficiary. For example, "I give to Bard College 100 percent of my shares of stock in [company name]," or "I give to Bard College my collection of artwork."

Contingent Bequest: made on the condition that certain events occur before distribution. Bard College can be designated as the beneficiary if your spouse or other heir(s) predecease you. For example, "I give the rest, residue, and remainder to my spouse. If he/she predeceases me, then I give the rest, residue, and remainder to Bard College."

RETIREMENT ASSETS

Bard College can be named as a beneficiary of all or a portion of a retirement plan such as an IRA, 401(k), Keogh, or other type of retirement savings plan. Bard's charitable status lets donors avoid the taxes heirs could incur if they were named recipients of the assets.

LIFE INSURANCE

Gifts of life insurance enable donors to substantially increase the potential amount of their gifts while enjoying tax advantages.

- By designating Bard College as a beneficiary of all or a portion of a life insurance policy, your estate may receive a charitable estate tax deduction for the amount of the insurance received by the College.
- Naming Bard as the beneficiary and owner of your insurance policy may entitle you to an immediate income tax deduction.

GIFTS OF CURRENT ASSETS

MARKETABLE SECURITIES (stocks, bonds, mutual funds)

Stocks: If the donated items have been held for more than one year, you may claim a deduction for their full, fair-market value, avoiding capital gains tax.

Bonds: Bonds have become attractive sources for charitable bequests because so much of their value is attributable to untaxed interest income. Donating appreciated bonds may help minimize capital gains tax.

Mutual Funds: Making a gift of mutual fund shares provides the same advantages as a gift of stocks and bonds.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

Individuals who are 70 1/2 or older may make direct transfers of up to \$100,000 per year to eligible charities, including colleges, without the withdrawals counting as income. Donors avoid paying federal income tax on the amount of the withdrawal.

GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE OR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Gifts of real estate or personal property can offer tax benefits. Bard works with donors to ensure that such gifts are appropriate for its use. Depending on the nature of the gift, donors may potentially:

- Avoid capital gains tax due on the sale of property
- Reduce income taxes
- Receive an annual income
- Reduce estate taxes

CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS

A Charitable Lead Trust (CLT) is an irrevocable trust designed to provide financial support to one or more charities for a period of time, with the remaining assets eventually going to family members or other beneficiaries. Benefits of a CLT:

- May eliminate or reduce the estate tax liability of heirs
- When the original trust ends, the remainder of the trust can either pass to your heirs, or other designated beneficiary, or revert back to you
- Can provide either a fixed or variable annual income stream
- Most effective in a low-interest-rate environment

GIFTS THAT PROVIDE INCOME

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

A Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) is a tax-exempt irrevocable trust designed to reduce the taxable income of individuals. There are two basic types of CRTs:

- Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT)—provides a fixed income stream based on the value of the trust when it was established. NO additional contributions can be made to this fund.
- Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT)—provides a variable income stream based on the annual valuation of the assets in the trust. Additional contributions can be made to this trust.

Nothing in life is a guarantee. But by including Bard in your estate plans, you have peace of mind knowing that your gift will be used as intended and support the future of many Bardians.

All inquiries are confidential. These descriptions provide information only. Please consult with your legal and financial advisers for specific information on your personal situation.

For further information or to request a gift intention form, please contact:

Debra Pemstein, Vice President for Development and Alumni/ae Affairs
Bard College, PO Box 5000, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504-5000

Phone: 845-758-7405 **Email:** mjbs@bard.edu