

# Wells Branch Community Library District Procurement Policy

The following policies and procedures shall be followed when the Wells Branch Community Library (“WBCL”) purchases equipment, materials, supplies, property, or services from an outside source.

Procurements will be made, to the extent possible, from vendors and contractors operating within the geographical boundary of the Library District and with an eye to the future of the community. As such, environmental concerns and neighborhood cohesion will be considered. The goal of all procurements will be to obtain the best value for the Library.

## **I. General Policy**

**No Conflict of Interest.** All directors, employees, or agents who participate in the selection or acceptance of a contract for equipment, materials, supplies, or services must comply with the WBCL’s conflict of interest policy. No director, employee, or agent will participate in the selection or acceptance of a contract involving a conflict of interest without the approval of the board. “Conflict of interest” includes situations in which the employee, family member, or board member has a financial interest in the business or individual selected for the contract.

**No Purchase of Items for Personal Use.** No director, employee, or agent who participates in the selection or acceptance of a contract for equipment, materials, supplies, or services shall use such items for personal use except for items of small value (generally under \$20) available to staff and key volunteers.

**No Receipt of Gratuities.** No director, employee, or agent shall solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to agreements with the WBCL.

**No Purchase of Items Not Approved in the Budget.** No director, employee, or agent shall solicit or accept any equipment, materials, supplies, or services over \$5000 that have not been approved by the Board of Directors in the annual budget without prior approval of the board except in an emergency and then the purchase shall be ratified in an emergency meeting or at the next regular meeting.

**Contract with Winning Bidder.** If a contract is competitively bid, the WBCL will enter into a contract with the winning bidder that specifies the equipment, materials, supplies, property, or services to be purchased and the payment terms.

**Evaluate Each Contractor.** The WBCL will evaluate each contractor at the completion of each contract. The evaluation will be utilized to make decisions to award future contracts.

## **II. Acquisition Procedure**

The WBCL will conduct all procurement transactions in a manner that maximizes opportunities, increases quality, and reduces the cost of purchase. The WBCL reserves the right to reject any bids or offers, if deemed to be in its best interest.

**Pricing Procedures.** One of the following procurement procedures shall be utilized for all purchases of equipment, materials, supplies, property, or services involving federal funds or involving amounts over \$5000

- **Open Market Inquiry.** The WBCL will inquire in the open market to ensure an advantageous price and quality.
- **Request for Competitive Quotes.** The WBCL will request competitive quotes, orally or in writing, from at least three different sources. The file shall document each invitation made and offer received.
- **Formal Proposal Procedure.** The WBCL will solicit competitive responses through a formal bid procedure. Bids will remain sealed until the time designated in the proposal. All requests for proposals shall contain the phrase "Equal Opportunity Employer."

**Document Prices.** The WBCL shall maintain files on all quotations solicited and offers or bids received and any criteria for selection. In all instances in which the lowest bid is not awarded in the contract, justification for the selection must be contained in the file.

**Purchases over \$5000.** The Board of Trustees must approve purchases over \$5000 that are not already approved in the annual budget unless the item is part of an emergency repair.

### **Bid Procedure**

Purchases totaling more than \$5000 require a purchase order confirmation signed by the Library Director and/or Board Treasurer.

- \$5000-\$14,999: Competitive quotes must be sought from 2 or more acceptable vendors.
- \$15,000-\$50,000: Request for Bid with written specifications must be used and 3 bids received in writing that meet qualifications. Request should be made to at least 5 sources-
- Over \$50,000: The public bid process is required.
- Professional services and utility services are considered Exempt Purchases.
- Sole Source: If purchase is available from only one supplier then it is exempt from bidding.
- Cooperative Purchases: Local government may purchase through state contracts, which fulfill statutory bidding.

**Two Signatories on Checks.** There must be two approved signatories on all checks except the local cash account. Any check from this account must be under \$500 or have two signatures.

### **III. Property and Equipment Policy**

When purchasing property (both real estate and equipment), the following procedures must be followed:

**Title in the Name of the WBCL.** All property purchased belongs to the WBCL and title vests with the WBCL.

**Insurance Coverage.** The WBCL will maintain insurance coverage for all property owned by the WBCL and maintain documentation of each policy.

### **IV. Additional Policies When Using Federal Funds to Purchase**

Before purchasing goods using federal funds, the WBCL must review the Federal Government's General Services Administration's "List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement of Non-Procurement Programs" and document that the bidder is neither debarred or suspended from doing business with the federal government nor delinquent in a debt to the United States as defined in OMB Circular A 1-29.