

# The Netherland-America Foundation Policy Plan

Effective March 4, 2009

## 1. Introduction

The Netherland-America Foundation (NAF), a not-for-profit organization, was established in 1921 by prominent U.S. citizens, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Thomas J. Watson Sr. and Edward Bok. It is headquartered in New York City and operates under the patronage of HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands and her husband, Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven. Throughout its long history, the NAF has been the premier organization focused on preserving and strengthening the ties between the United States and the Netherlands through fostering exchange, as reflected in its mission statement:

### *NAF Mission*

*Building on the enduring heritage and values shared between the peoples of the Netherlands and the United States, the NAF seeks to further strengthen the bonds between our two countries through exchange in the arts, sciences, education, business and public affairs.”*

The NAF headquarters has established ties and close working relationships with the Dutch Embassy in Washington, DC as well as the Netherlands Consulates in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago and Honorary Consulate Offices across the United States.

The NAF operates a network of chapters in Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Washington, DC. The New York NAF headquarters provides centralized services for websites, membership, databases, budgeting, finances, legal and regulatory filings issues and chapter governance, leaving chapters free to focus on developing local events and programs.

The NAF is governed by a Board of Directors which has full legal authority and responsibility for the conduct, affairs and activities of the foundation in a manner consistent with the purpose of the foundation. The Board appoints an Executive Committee which acts on behalf of the Board and has power to transact all regular business of the foundation during the period between meetings of the Board.

The NAF operates additional committees, including:

- Nominating—nominates candidates for the Board and ensures diversity with respect to gender and geographic distribution.
- Finance—resolves general guidelines for investing.

- Audit—oversees the quality and integrity of the foundation’s financial statements; compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; qualifications, independence and performance of auditors; and systems of internal accounting and financial controls.

## **2. Assets of The Netherland-America Foundation**

The NAF maintains cash and investment accounts that are monitored by the Executive and Finance Committees.

## **3. Objective of The Netherland-America Foundation**

The objective of The Netherland-America Foundation (the “NAF”) is included in the Articles of Incorporation and reads as follows:

“The corporation is to be formed for the purpose or purposes of soliciting contributions to a fund or funds, maintaining the same, and applying the principal and income thereof, to promote understanding and concord between the people of the United States and the people of the Netherlands.”

With the objective the NAF serves the common good. The U.S. and the Netherlands have had enjoyed 400 years of shared history, values and influence upon each other’s culture. It is in the long-term interest to people in the U.S, the Netherlands, and around the globe to seek to maintain and strengthen these bonds of friendship.

## **4. Activities of the Netherland-America Foundation**

The Foundation carries out its objective by, among other things:

- Awarding NAF-Fulbright Fellowships to American students for graduate studies in the Netherlands and for Dutch students for graduate studies in the U.S.;
- Providing interest-free study loans to support advanced studies by Dutch students in the U.S. and American students in the Netherlands;
- Providing educational grants to university-based exchange programs in the U.S. or the Netherlands;
- Awarding cultural grants to support exhibitions and exchanges in music, dance, theater, visual arts, architecture and historic research and preservation;
- Offering Dutch-related business and cultural events via a network of chapters operating across the U.S.;
- Organizing U.S. and Netherlands based alumni events to build upon relationships established during Fellowship or study loan years.

## **5. Fundraising**

The Foundation raises funds to further its objective by the following:

- Solicitation of corporate and individual membership dues and other contributions in any form, including major contributions, bequests and other forms of planned giving, corporate sponsorship and fees for programs and events;
- Conducting major fundraising events, including the annual Peter Stuyvesant Ball in New York, the annual NAF Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C. and the Dutch-American Heritage Day Gala in Los Angeles;
- Income from investments.

## **6. Administration of Funds**

Income received by the Foundation will be administered as follows:

Funds are allocated to the various Activities of the Foundation as described in point 2. (above), in accordance to levels established by the Board through an annual budgeting process.

In accordance with the Objective, the NAF spends the income received on the following projects:

Short-term (one-time funding to individuals and institutions)

- Grants for cultural exchanges between the U.S. and the Netherlands in the visual, performing arts, architecture and design, literature and writing, new technologies, historical research, historic preservation, and more.

Medium-Term (multi-year funding to individuals or institutions)

- Five Dutch Days Five Boroughs—a five day celebration of arts and culture in New York City, offered annually.
- The Island—an online, bilateral educational exchange between high-school students in the U.S. and the Netherlands, administered by the John Adams Institute
- The Rembrandt Research Project—completion of Volume V of the Rembrandt corpus.

Long-term (ongoing programs)

- NAF-Fulbright Fellowships—annual awards to American students for post-graduate work in the Netherlands, and to Dutch students for post-graduate work in the U.S.
- NAF Study Loans—annual awards of three-year, interest free study loans for post-graduate work in the U.S. or the Netherlands.
- Alumni networking and events
- Chapter networking and events

## **7. Absence of a Profit Motive**

The NAF does not have a profit motive. It is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York. The NAF does not operate to generate profit for the sake of profit itself. This is demonstrated by the fact that the NAF allocates the proceeds of its activities to its objective. Furthermore, occasional surpluses are directly allocated in accordance with the objective, or unspent proceeds are allocated to the reserves.

## **8. Disposition of the Institution's Assets**

As noted above, the NAF is governed by a Board of Directors and an Executive Committee. No single person has decisive control within the organization, nor can any single person can dispose of the Foundation's assets as if they were their own.

The Foundation has been in existence for 88 years. The Foundation has no plans to dissolve. Any dissolution of the Foundation would be governed by the applicable provisions of the New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law, which contains various provisions regarding judicial and governmental supervision of the dissolution process and the use of any remaining assets.