



2019-20 Annual Fund FAQ

We answer your toughest questions...

What can an Annual Fund contribution accomplish that tuition can't?

The Annual Fund is a key component of LILA's operating budget and contributes to every aspect of the School including academics, salaries, facilities, and financial aid. As a rule, independent schools such as ours depend on the Annual Fund to constitute 8% of their budget. Currently, it represents 3% of LILA's overall budget.

In addition to tuition and registration fees, the Annual Fund allows our school to not compromise on any of our values. Compared to traditional schools, we have higher operating costs: recruiting international faculty, offering bilingual programs, implementing the different requirements for IB, etc.

If the School needs more funds, why not just increase tuition instead?

The answer to this one is pretty straightforward: Annual Fund donations are completely tax deductible. While tuition increases are necessary to keep up with the growing costs of doing business in a major city like Los Angeles, the School works hard to keep tuition affordable to all families, remaining competitive tuition-wise with other LA-area private schools. Gifts from generous families like yourselves help us keep the School attainable not only by keeping tuition hikes reasonable but also by giving the School more funds for financial aid.

What is the typical amount families give?

Obviously, it is a very personal decision and every family has a different capacity to give. The suggested donation is \$2,000 per family. That said, the School understands that not everyone can give at that level. While some can easily give the suggested amount or more, many others cannot. We assure you that every little bit makes a difference and is appreciated.

We offer many options to make giving easy: pledge, check, credit card, wire or stock transfers and even a recurring gift option to spread giving out over a period of time.

Why does 100% family participation matter?

Major donors from within our community as well as external supporters need to see that all of LILA's families, staff and faculty support the School. Fun fact: our Board of Trustees (which are volunteer positions) give at 100% and more than 80% of faculty and staff give every year.

I already give to other non-profits? Why should I give to LILA?

It is a fairly well-known fact that people give to causes with which they have a personal connection. Whether it's medical research, human rights, animal activism, etc., people give to organizations they connect with. As a parent, you researched and visited many schools before choosing us. Remember the reasons for which you chose LILA and how your child has thrived since they've joined the LILA community. Think of it this way: you're not only investing in your



child's future, but their friends' too. And if you ask any of our alumni, some of their best friends and professional connections are from their time at LILA.

My child(ren) are graduating/won't be here next year. I don't see why I should give if it won't benefit my kids.

During their time at the School, your children have benefitted from previous families' Annual Fund gifts. Because the Annual Fund contributes to all aspects of the School's budget, your children have inevitably experienced the effects of other families' donations when they've walked into their classrooms, played on the playground, met with their teachers, participated in sports, etc. Giving now ensures that the School your children attended continues to thrive and increases its reputation, making it an important asset during the college and job application process.

Have more questions? Heard some points you'd like discuss further?

Contact one of your parent volunteers, your Campus Director or LILA parent, alumna and Annual Fund & Alumni Relations Manager, Leslie Galerne '97 at leslie.galerne@lilaschool.com/818.994.2961. We're always happy to answer your questions.