

## Ganapati Sponsorship and Membership FAQ

### Why Do I have to pledge Ganapati Sponsorship?

Ganapati is the most loved gods of Hindus. Ganapati Festival public celebration is a tradition from Shivaji Maharaj days and later on revived by great reformist and freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak in Maharashtra.

We Charlottekars in America celebrate this festival in collaboration with Hindu Center and probably are one of the few mandals in USA to celebrate it for 5 days (or more). We provide Mahaprasad every evening at Hindu Center. Average number of people who received Mahaprasad on a daily basis is 1000+.

Our Mandal has taken lot of efforts to make this festival vibrant and energetic; we are involved in creating "bappa's" murti, decoration in the temple, organizing Arti, providing Prasad during Arti, hosting bhajan-kirtan, local talent show and most importantly hosting a celebrity performer to entertain our community members. We do a special Mahaprasad (Maharashtrian style) in addition to daily Mahaprasad. And perform a detailed visarjan puja along with dhol-tasha and lezim.

Additionally, being a proud Marathi community in the larger Indian community, we give away back to our Hindu community by raising funds for the temple.

All of this needs lot of volunteering hours as well as funding/budget to execute the overall festival. Your Sponsorship/Donations help us make this festival a success.

### Why is CSMM Membership tied with Ganapati Donations/Sponsorship

CSMM launched the membership drive in 2016 during the Ganapati Festival, it was a new initiative and we decided to do "Shri Ganesha" during Ganapati. Also, in the past Marathi community in Charlotte was making donations during Ganapati. There was a portion of donations which was received by Marathi Mandal that was then put to use for managing expenses of Ganapati Festival and other events.

With introduction of membership model, we are giving back more to the community, we have started bringing in more talented and celebrity Marathi performer shows for our members free of cost. We have introduced membership pricing for rest of the events so that every member of the mandal gets more than what they were getting back in the past.

And also continue to make donations to Ganapati festival and Hindu center to support this 5 days celebration (this year it will be 7 days).

### What are the different Sponsorship Options?

Sponsorship	Amount	Description
Puja/Archana	\$51	We will offer Puja in your name on any one of the days during Ganapati. <b>This sponsorship includes \$35 Annual Mandal Membership</b>
Arti	\$101	You are facilitating everyday Arti and you can perform Arti yourself on the day of your choice. <b>This sponsorship includes \$35 Annual Mandal Membership</b>
Sweet Offerings	\$151	Mandal/Temple will offer Sweets as part of the Arti Prasad and will announce your name in temple <b>This sponsorship includes \$35 Annual Mandal Membership</b>

Mahaprasad	\$251	You are sponsoring the Mahaprasad to Indian community, you choose the day of Mahaprasad, your name will be announced after Arti and also in the Vihar hall. <b>This sponsorship includes \$35 Annual Mandal Membership</b>
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**Commercial Sponsorship/Business Sponsorship only**

Sponsorship	Amount	Description
Gold	\$501	You get to market your business during the festival using <b>Large</b> size banner, flyers and visiting cards. And you get a premium spot at the venue. Your business information/logo will be posted on Marathi Mandal Website for entire year. We will announce your sponsorship on all the three Marathi Mandal Whats App group which is reaching out to 650 plus members.
Silver	\$251	You get to market your business during the festival using <b>Medium</b> size banner, flyer and visiting cards but no premium spot. Your business information/logo will be posted on Marathi Mandal Website for entire year. We will announce your sponsorship on two of the three whatsapp groups of Marathi community which is reaching out to 400 members.
Bronze	\$151	You get to market your business during the festival using <b>Small</b> size banner, flyer and visiting cards but no premium spot. Your business information/logo will be posted on Marathi Mandal Website for entire year. We will announce your sponsorship on one of the three whatsapp groups of Marathi community which is reaching out to 250 members.