

# **NEW YORK ARTISTS COOPERATIVE BYLAWS**

## **ARTICLE I. PURPOSE**

The Organization exists to support emerging artists and arts workers in New York City through community-building, artistic exchange, professional development, public exhibitions, educational programming, and project-based support.

The Organization is founded on the belief that artistic practice flourishes through sustained engagement with a community of peers and seeks to cultivate a durable, democratic, and artist-led network committed to mutual support and cultural participation.

## **ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**

### Section 1. Eligibility

Membership shall be open to artists and arts workers who live or work primarily within New York City and who demonstrate an active commitment to artistic practice and the mission of the Organization.

### Section 2. Admission

Applications for membership shall be reviewed by a Membership Committee according to criteria established by the Board and approved by the Membership.

The Membership Committee shall evaluate applicants based upon:

- (a) evidence of an active artistic or arts-related practice;
- (b) commitment to participation in the Organization;
- (c) support for the mission and values of the Organization.

### Section 3. Rights of Members

Members in good standing shall have the right to:

- (a) vote in membership meetings;
- (b) elect directors;
- (c) serve on committees;

- (d) seek nomination to the Board of Directors;
- (e) participate in organizational programs and opportunities.

#### Section 4. Participation Requirement

To remain in good standing, each member shall participate in at least four organizational activities during each calendar year.

Qualifying activities may include membership meetings, critiques, exhibitions, committee service, volunteer activities, educational programs, or other activities approved by the Board.

#### Section 5. Appeals

Applicants denied membership may submit a written appeal to the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

The Organization shall hold at least one membership meeting each month.

An annual meeting shall be held for the election of directors and consideration of major organizational matters.

### **ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### Section 1. Composition

The Board shall consist of three directors elected by the Membership.

#### Section 2. Duties

The Board shall:

- (a) oversee finances;
- (b) ensure legal compliance;
- (c) administer organizational programs;
- (d) implement policies approved by the Membership;
- (e) safeguard the mission of the Organization.

### Section 3. Accountability

Directors serve as representatives of the Membership and remain accountable to the Membership through annual elections and removal procedures established herein.

#### **ARTICLE V. MEMBER VOTING**

The Membership shall vote on:

- (a) election of directors;
- (b) amendments to the bylaws;
- (c) dissolution of the Organization;
- (d) major changes to the mission of the Organization.

#### **ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES**

The Organization may establish standing committees including but not limited to:

- (a) Membership Committee;
- (b) Exhibitions Committee;
- (c) Grants Committee;
- (d) Programming Committee.

Committee membership shall be open to members in good standing.

#### **ARTICLE VII. DUES**

The Organization may establish annual dues upon approval by a majority vote of the Membership.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at a duly called membership meeting.