

Pittsburgh Society of Artists Bylaws

Revised November 2016

Article I NAME, MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Section 1

The name of the organization is PITTSBURGH SOCIETY OF ARTISTS, hereafter referred to as PSA.

Section 2

The Mission, Vision and Values of the PSA are as follows:

Mission:

To support and encourage artist members by promoting the exhibition of original art and developing their talents by presenting educational and art related programs.

Vision:

To become the most active and recognized artist driven organization in Western Pennsylvania.

Values:

Pittsburgh Society of Artists is an artist organization that is committed to having a diverse membership selected by a juried screening without prejudice against any race, ethnic background, political, religious or sexual preference or disability.

Article II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Members shall belong to one of the following classifications:

1. active member
2. life member

Section 2

Active members in good standing shall have all the powers and privileges conferred by the bylaws.

1. Any person 18 years or older, who resides within a 150 mile radius of Pittsburgh, may apply for membership.
2. Applicants will submit three (3) samples of original works completed within the prior two years. The work presented may not have been done under direct instruction. The time, date, and place for screening applicants' work shall be announced at least two weeks in advance.
3. Members of the Board of Directors shall screen the work of artists applying for membership. Board members present at the screening shall constitute the screening committee. An applicant must be accepted by two thirds of the screening committee.

Section 3

Life membership may be conferred by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. A Life member must have been a former Active member and is not subject to the residence requirement or dues. A Life member shall enjoy all privileges of the organization.

Section 4

Section 4

Active members must comply with the following conditions:

1. Yearly dues must be paid by March 1st of the year in which they are due. The treasurer shall notify all members prior to January 31 of the dues to be paid. The treasurer shall notify any member whose dues remain unpaid by April 1 that said member is no longer an active member of PSA and considered lapsed. Inactive members may not register or participate in exhibits, hold office, or vote. The names of inactive members will not appear in the directory or on the website.
2. Any member may also be dropped from the organization by a two thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors if his or her conduct is detrimental to the best interests of the organization. Such a member shall be informed in writing of the intended action and shall be entitled to a hearing at the next meeting of the Board of Directors or before a vote is taken.
3. Members who have failed to pay their dues will be considered Inactive Members for two years; during this period, reinstatement of membership shall be activated upon the payment and processing of all past dues owed to the organization. After 2 years, inactive members must rescreen to become a member.

Article III BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

The Board of Directors shall manage the general affairs of the organization, but shall be bound by the vote of the membership at a general meeting. The business of the Board including all motions and votes shall be conducted at regular or special meeting. Face to face meetings shall be held at least 6 times a year. On rare occasions, when deemed necessary, the board may choose to conduct business outside of the regularly scheduled meetings via electronic means.

Section 2

The Board of Directors shall consist of:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Recording Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Corresponding Secretary
6. Membership Chair
7. Exhibitions Chair
8. Publicity Chair
9. Programs Chair
10. Nominations Chair
11. Members at large

Section 3

Each director shall serve a two-year term. No director shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same position.

Section 4

Two-thirds of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for a Board of Directors meeting. In the absence of a quorum, Board members present are empowered to conduct necessary business. Measures adopted in the absence of a quorum must be confirmed at the following meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 5

Directors must attend a majority of Board meetings each year, and may be absent from no more than three consecutive meetings. Failure to do so will result in their removal from the Board.

Section 6

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be held upon the call of the President. The purpose of the meeting shall be set forth in the notice and may be conducted via electronic means.

Article IV OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1

The President shall preside at general meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors and shall conduct all meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2

The Vice-president shall aid the President in the discharge of his or her duties and, in the absence or disability of the President, perform the duties of the President.

Section 3

The Recording Secretary shall keep minutes of the general meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 4

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all the funds of the organization under the direction of the Board of Directors. Responsibilities include: submitting a financial report at all meetings; maintaining an accurate list of members' names, addresses, and payment records. Accounts shall be reviewed annually, by an authorized person or persons appointed by the President.

Section 5

The Corresponding Secretary shall send out such notices and correspondence as the President or Board directs.

Section 6

The Membership Chair shall organize new-member screenings and keep accurate records of all active members in collaboration with the treasurer.

Section 7

The Exhibitions Chair shall, with the aid of the Exhibitions Committee members, prepare, organize and run exhibitions for the PSA members. (See Article VII for further information about Exhibitions.)

Section 8

The Publicity Chairperson is responsible for publicity.

Section 9

The Programs Chair shall, with the aid of the Programs Committee members, prepare, organize and present educational and art related programs for the PSA members.

Section 10

As necessary, ad hoc committees shall be appointed by the president from the members in good standing with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Article V MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1

Semi-annual meetings of the general membership shall be held at a place and time designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 2

A notice of each general meeting shall be sent to all members at least seven days in advance. This notice will state the time and place of the meeting.

Section 3

A quorum at the general meeting shall consist of twenty-five (25) active members.

Section 4

Election of officers and committee chairs shall be held by ballot at the general meeting at the expiration of each two-year term. A nominating committee shall present a slate of nominees. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Section 5

At each election of officers a nominating committee of five members will also be elected.

Section 6

The Board of Directors shall appoint members of the Board at large at their discretion.

Section 7

Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the president. Such appointments must be approved by a simple majority of the Board of Directors.

Article VI FINANCES

Section 1

Annual dues are to be fixed by a vote of three-fourths of the Board of Directors and approved by a majority of the membership present at a duly-called meeting, and remain in effect until changed.

Section 2

The PSA has the right to hold property and to receive gifts and bequests.

Section 3

The fiscal year of the organization ends on December 31.

Section 4

The IRS designation of the organization is 501(c)(4); a not for profit organization that exists for the benefit of its members

Article VII EXHIBITIONS

Section 1

There shall be an annual juried exhibition of members' works. A prospectus for the annual exhibition, as set by the Board of Directors, shall be sent at least four weeks prior to the entry date.

Section 2

Any active member in good standing or any life member may submit works of art to the annual exhibition.

Section 3

The juror shall be chosen by the Exhibition Committee, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 4

If a juror disqualifies him or herself or for any other reason is unable to serve, the President and/or the Exhibition Chair shall have the power to appoint a replacement.

Section 5

Other exhibitions shall be held from time to time as the Exhibition Committee and the Board of Directors shall decide.

Article VIII AWARDS

Section 1

The number of awards for each exhibition and the amount of each cash award (if any) shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Article IX AMENDMENTS

Section 1

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors and either a two-thirds vote of the full membership, obtained by sent ballots, or a two-thirds majority vote of members present at a semi-annual meeting. Members are to be informed in advance whenever an amendment to the bylaws will be on the agenda of a general meeting.