

MFA ORGANIZATION

CONSTITUTION

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The name of this group shall be called MFA Organization

PURPOSE

The purpose of the MFA Organization shall be to serve as a forum and resource for graduate students in the School of Art and Art History. Goals of the MFA Organization will include (but are not limited to): supporting workshops, organizing artist lectures, and providing members with exhibition opportunities both locally, state-wide and nationally.

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

A. Requirement for Membership:

100% of active membership must be USF students. Members shall be Graduate Students in the School of Art and Art History. Associate membership may be granted to non-USF students under special circumstances; these associate members shall not be given the rights and privileges of active USF students.

B. Active membership continues until either the individual graduates or has been removed by the organization. Associative membership continues until either the individual withdraws or has been removed by the organization.

C. Upholding the objectives and purpose of the organization, plus any requirements set upon by the executive board are the only requirements for continued membership.

D. If any member fails to uphold the purpose and objectives of the organization, does not meet membership requirements, or does not comply with University policies, he/she may be removed by a 2/3's vote of the Active, voting members.

E. Only Active USF students in the organization have voting rights. Non-USF students do not have voting rights.

DUES/FEES

No dues, fees, assessments, donations, or other charges are levied for membership into the MFA Organization.

QUORUM

A quorum shall be composed of 50% + 1 of current, active voting members.

OFFICERS

The required officer positions include: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

These officers are elected to serve a term following elections of new officer(s) to the following school year's elections (i.e. May through April). These officers are included in the Executive Board.

The optional officer positions include: Historian, Public Relations, Service Chair, and Webmaster. These officers are elected to serve a term from September to April and are included in the Executive Board. Additional officers may be created by a majority vote of the Executive Board to service the organization. The duties and titles of these offices will be created and established in the organizational bylaws.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

One month prior to the last general meeting of the Spring semester, the President must notify the members of the annual election of officers. The election shall take place during the last general meeting of the Spring semester.

Elections are by secret ballot. In the event of a tie, a run-off between those candidates who tied will take place the following week. If a tie still remains, the elected officer will be determined by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board, after individual interviews.

In the event that a required officer position becomes vacant during the school year, the President must motion for the election. In the event that the President's position is vacated, the Vice President takes on the interim responsibilities of the President and makes the

motion for the election. In the event that the Vice President's position is vacated, the Secretary makes the motion. In the event that the other officers' positions are vacated, the Treasurer makes the motion. The motion must be seconded. The motion carries with a simple majority vote of the Executive Board. The members must be notified one week prior to said election.

In the event that any other position is vacated during the school year, a simple majority vote of the Executive Board is required for the election. The members must be notified of said election.

REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

If any officer fails to uphold the purpose and objectives of the organization, fulfill the duties of office, meet membership requirements, or does not comply with University policies, a vote of "no confidence" must be presented to the Executive Board. Written notification shall then be presented with reason for removal to the office in question. After the officer in question has had his/her right to speak to the board on their own behalf, a vote is taken from the Executive Board. The officer in question does not have a vote. He/She may be removed by majority vote of the Executive Board.

MEETINGS

The officer transitions meeting will be held 2 weeks following the election of new officers. Executive Board and General Member meetings are held once per month. The decision to call for more frequent meetings may be made by the decision of the Executive Board. The decision to call a special meeting may be made by any officer, when deemed necessary, with a 48 hour notice.

RULES OF ORDER

Meetings shall be run according to Robert's Rules of Order.

AMENDMENTS

The MFA Organization shall operate in accordance to all University, Student Government, and Student Activities provisions. Any amendment or bylaw changes regarding the MFA Organization shall be passed by a quorum vote (50+1), and will be considered pending until presented to and reviewed by Student Activities.

ANTI-HAZING CLAUSE

"This organization prohibits its members, both individually and collectively from committing any acts of hazing as defined herein:

'Hazing,' means any action or situation, which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with this organization. Such terms shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or any forced activity which could adversely affect the mental or physical health, the safety or dignity of the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental or physical health, the safety or dignity of the individual. For the purpose of this section, any activity as described above upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with this organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be a 'forced activity,' the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding."

ORGANIZATION AGREEMENT

Organization agrees to abide by Florida State Statute #240.262 regarding hazing. Furthermore, agrees to abide by all Student Activities policies as outlined in the student handbook, to check the organization's mailbox regularly, to communicate via email upon request, and to update the organization's records (Officer Listings Form) whenever there is a change.