



CITY OF DERRY DRAMA FESTIVAL

Constitution

(Adopted 14 September 2010)

1 Name

The Association shall be called the City of Derry Drama Festival (hereinafter called “the Association”).

2 Objects

The Association is established to advance arts and culture, particularly drama and associated arts, in the cross-border area of Londonderry and County Donegal (hereinafter called the “area of benefit”) and in particular to foster and nourish both youth and disadvantaged group interest in this area. It will also:

2.1.1 present, promote, organize, manage and produce annual Festivals of plays of cultural and educational value, including dramas, comedies, tragedies, modern and traditional classics and original work;

2.1.2 promote and develop the performing arts in the area of benefit;

2.1.3 encourage appreciation for and participation in performing arts activities by people in the area of benefit;

2.1.4 encourage and stimulate the artistic creativity of people in the area of benefit, by the provision of artistic performances, training in critical appreciation and support and facilities for artistic expression;

2.1.5 provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for the recreation or other leisure time occupation of people in the area of benefit with the object of improving their conditions of life.

In furtherance of the above aims but not further or otherwise the Association may:

2.2.1 provide or secure the provision of educational and recreational facilities in the area of benefit;

2.2.2 purchase, acquire and obtain interests in the copyright of or the right to perform or show any scene, play, mime, comedy, drama, scenario, stage-piece or musical composition;

2.2.3 provide or secure the provision of advice, training and information and refer those in need of professional assistance to the relevant agencies;

2.2.4 provide or assist in providing classes, workshops, training, seminars, performances, lectures, discussions, exhibitions, outings and events;

2.2.5 procure to be written and printed, issued, distributed and circulated reports, periodicals, books, pamphlets, leaflets or other documents or information;

2.2.6 recruit, train and employ volunteers and professionals with relevant skills for the furtherance of the above aims;

2.2.7 promote and carry out or assist in promoting or carrying out research, surveys and investigations in the area of benefit, provided the useful results are published;

2.2.8 co-operate to such extent as may be necessary with statutory authorities and voluntary organizations engaged in the furtherance of the above objects or any of them;

2.2.9 raise and accept money by way of grants, donations, bequests, legacies or other lawful method **provided** that in the exercise thereof the Association shall not engage in any form of permanent non primary-purpose trading;

2.2.10 employ or pay any person or persons (not being a member of the management committee referred to below) to supervise, organise and carry on the work of the Association and make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of remuneration to employees;

2.2.11 all other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objects.

3 Membership

3.1 People resident in the area of benefit without distinction of gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnic origin, nationality, physical disability, religion or political affiliation shall be entitled to vote at general meetings of the Association. Full Members aged 18 years or over shall be eligible for nomination to the Management Committee;

3.2 The Committee shall make rules governing the conditions for and the rights and privileges of Members, and shall make regulations for the admission to and termination of membership **provided that** any Member affected by a proposal to terminate her or his membership shall have the right to state a case against such a proposal.

4 Meetings

4.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such a place and time, not being more than 15 months since the previous Annual General Meeting, as the Committee shall decide.

4.2 The business of the Annual Meeting shall be:

4.2.1 to receive and approve reports on the activities of the past year from members of the Committee;

4.2.2 to receive and approve independently examined accounts of the Association;

4.2.3 to appoint two persons who are not members to act as independent examiners of the accounts for the incoming year;

4.2.4 to elect the Officers and Committee according to such nomination and voting procedure as the Association may for time to time decide;

4.2.5 to deal with resolutions and other such matters, notice of which shall have been given 14 days in advance of the AGM to the Secretary of the Association by the Member proposing such resolutions or other matters.

4.3 Other meetings of the Association shall be called General Meetings (or in the case of alteration of the Constitution or dissolution of the Association, Extraordinary General Meetings) and shall be called at not less than 14 days' notice to Members.

4.4 Extraordinary General Meeting: the Committee shall have the power to call a General or Extraordinary General Meeting, and shall be bound to do so within 21 days of receiving notice in writing signed by not less than 10 members. The business to be transacted must appear on the agenda, and no other business shall be discussed.

5 Management

5.1.1 Except as provided otherwise in this Constitution, the Association shall be managed by a Committee consisting of a Chairperson, Festival Director, Committee Secretary, Festival Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Stage Manager and not fewer than two nor more than five members of the Group elected by and from amongst the Members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting;

5.1.2 only Committee Members who have served for a minimum of two years on the Committee are eligible to serve as either Chairperson or Festival Director;

5.1.3 no Committee Member will serve in the same post for more than three consecutive years.

5.2 The Committee so constituted shall have the power to co-opt further members **provided that** the number of co-options shall not exceed one-third of the total membership of the Committee.

5.3 The Committee shall meet for the conduct of business as they shall see fit but in any event shall meet not less than two times a year.

5.4 The Committee shall maintain affiliation to the Amateur Drama Council of Ireland (ADC), the Association of Ulster Drama Festivals (AUDF) and the Drama League of Ireland (DLI) to ensure that people in the area of benefit have access to the highest calibre of community drama.

5.5 The Committee will ensure that all necessary legal requirements are met and will maintain current policy documents in regard to Child Protection matters and Health & Safety. Such policies are to be reviewed annually.

6 Functions of the Committee

The Committee may among other things:

6.1 Make such regulations as it considers appropriate for the efficient conduct of the business of the Committee and the Association;

6.2 Appoint all such staff as it may consider necessary, and on such terms as to duties and remuneration as it determines. Employees of the Association shall not be eligible to serve as Members of the Committee;

6.3 Establish sub-committees consisting of member of the Association or other persons and shall determine their terms of reference, membership and duration. All such sub-committees shall make regular reports on their work to the Committee.

7 Finance

7.1 All income of the Association, wheresoever derived, shall be applied to the charitable purposes of the Association and to no other purpose **provided that** nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment of legitimate out-of-pocket expenses to members of the Association engaged upon the approved business of the Association.

7.2 The financial year of the Association shall run from 1 July to 30 June.

7.3 The Committee shall open a bank account or accounts in the name of the Association and shall specify those Members of the Committee (being not less than two Members) authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Association.

7.4 The Committee shall authorize the keeping of proper books of account and shall designate responsibility for the preparation of an annual Statement of Accounts for submission to the Annual General Meeting.

8 Alterations to the Constitution

Any alteration to this Constitution shall receive the assent of not less than two-thirds of the Members of the Association present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting called at not less than 14 days' notice to members for that purpose **provided that** no alteration shall be approved which would cause the Association to cease to be a charity at law.

9 Dissolution

9.1 If on the grounds of expense or otherwise the Committee shall decide upon the dissolution of the Association, a resolution to dissolve shall be considered by an Extraordinary General Meeting called at not less than 14 days' notice to members for that purpose.

9.2 The Association shall be dissolved only by a majority of two-thirds of members present and voting at such a Meeting.

9.3 Following a decision to dissolve, the assets of the Association shall, following satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, be transferred to one or more charitable associations having objects similar or related to those of the Association, as determined by a simple majority at such meetings.

10 Indemnity

The Association shall indemnify and keep indemnified every officer, member, volunteer and employee of the Association from and against all claims, demands, actions and proceedings (and all costs and expenses in connection therewith or arising there from) made or brought against the Association in connection with its activities, the actions of its officers, members, volunteers or employees, or in connection with its property and equipment **except that** this indemnity shall not extend to liabilities arising from wilful and individual fraud, wrongdoing or wrongful omission on the part of the member sought to be made liable. The Treasurer shall effect a policy of insurance in respect of this indemnity.

Chairperson _____

Committee Secretary _____

Date _____