



## **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BANGLA ACADEMY**

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### **ARTICLE 1**

#### **SECTION 1.**

**Organization Name:** The name of the organization shall be:

**The Mississippi Bangla Academy (MBA) / মিসিসিপি বাংলা একাডেমী**

#### **SECTION 2.**

**Organization Type:** MBA shall be a non-profit, non-political, and secular organization.

#### **SECTION 3.**

**Goals and Objectives:** The goals and objectives of the organization shall be to:

- Offer Bangla language and fine arts lessons to the children of Bengali descent and interested individuals from other communities
- Promote primarily, but not limited to Bangla arts and cultures in Mississippi and the USA
- Enhance friendship, social interaction, and community relationship, and other outreach activities between the Bengali and other communities living in Mississippi and the USA

### **ARTICLE 2**

#### **SECTION 1.**

**Eligibility of Membership:** General Membership is open to anyone interested in Bangla language and culture. Membership shall be open throughout the year and must be endorsed by the Executive Committee. Executive Members are elected during the Annual General Meeting.

#### **SECTION 2.**

**Membership Dues:** Annual membership dues shall be determined during the Annual Business Meeting based on consensus from two-thirds majority of the members.

### **SECTION 3.**

**Rights of Members:** Each member shall have the right to:

- Express his/her individual opinion and vote to elect the governing body of the organization
- Attend and actively participate in General Meetings of the organization
- Receive all organizational communications
- Be eligible to serve as an office bearer of the organization once the individual completes at least one year of uninterrupted membership as a paid General Member

### **SECTION 4.**

**Obligations of Members:** Each member shall have the obligations to:

- Act as a goodwill ambassador for the organization by spreading positive information related to various activities of the organization within the communities
- Attend meetings and activities regularly and pay membership dues on time

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **SECTION 1.**

**Governing Body:** The establishment of the governing body (herby referred as the Executive Committee) of the organization shall be instituted during the annual meeting. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members:

- President
- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Education Secretary
- Cultural and Outreach Secretaries (1-3)

### **SECTION 2.**

**Election of the Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee Members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a fixed term of one year. The meeting shall be held at the end of the year, preferably in December. Any member can nominate himself/herself or others to serve on the committee.

### **SECTION 3.**

**Duties of the Executive Committee:** The followings shall be the duties of the Executive Committee:

**President:**

- Shall be responsible for all general matters pertaining to MBA
- Shall serve as Chairperson of the Executive Committee
- Shall be responsible for calling special purpose meeting as needed

**General Secretary:**

- Shall call the General and the Executive Committee meetings when necessary
- Shall act as repository of all minutes, records, and publications of the organization
- Shall take minutes during organizational meetings and publish when necessary
- Shall be responsible for correspondence pertinent to MBA matters as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee
- Shall be responsible for printing and distributing materials to the members

**Treasurer:**

- Shall collect dues from all members of the MBA
- Shall handle all the financial business of the organization and keep records of all transactions
- Present budgetary situation during annual meeting of the MBA

**Education Secretary:**

- Shall develop Bangla School curricula and assessment criteria, and arrange time and venue of Bangla language and arts classes

**Cultural and Outreach Secretaries:**

- Shall be responsible for organizing cultural and outreach activities to promote friendship and cooperation with our neighbors and the communities

### **ARTICLE 4**

### **SECTION 1.**

**Meetings:** The meetings shall include the following:

**Annual General Meeting:** This meeting shall be held at the end of the year, preferably in December and shall conduct the following responsibilities:

- Executive Committee Reports
- Appointment of the new Executive Committee
- Old business
- New business
- Any other business deemed necessary

The presence of the two-thirds of the paid members at the meeting shall be considered a quorum.

**Quarterly Meetings:** The Executive Committee shall meet on a quarterly basis to discuss the performance of the MBA. A two-thirds majority of the executive committee members at these meetings shall be considered a quorum.

**Special Meetings:** Under exceptional circumstances, such meetings can be called by the President or the General Secretary.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **SECTION 1.**

**Replacement/ Exclusion of an Executive Committee Member:** An Executive Committee Member (ECM) shall be replaced under the following circumstances and such replacement must adhere to the following procedures:

- Relocation or death of an ECM
- Unwillingness or inability of an ECM to fulfill his/her obligations due to an unforeseeable situation
- Exclusion of an ECM due to disrespectful, hostile, or contumacious attitudes toward others or activities that are subversive to the values and goals of MBA
- President or General Secretary shall present this to the executive committee at the special purpose meeting
- The replacement shall be nominated, voted upon, and confirmed at that meeting. This replacement shall carry out the given responsibility until the next election

### **SECTION 2.**

**Exclusion of a General Member:** An exclusion process of a General Member may be triggered by the following circumstances and such exclusion must adhere to the following procedures:

- Disrespectful, hostile, or contumacious attitudes toward others or activities that are subversive to the values and goals of MBA

- President or General Secretary shall present this to the executive committee at the special purpose meeting
- The exclusion should be voted upon, and confirmed at that meeting

### **SECTION 3.**

**Dissolution:** The decision of Dissolution shall be approved by a two third majorities during the Annual Meeting of the organization. In case of Dissolution, all assets shall be donated to a charity organization.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **SECTION 1.**

**Amendments:** Any amendments to this Constitution must adhere to the following procedures:

- Proposed amendment shall be given in writing to the General Secretary
- General Secretary shall present this to the executive committee at the special purpose meeting
- A two-thirds majority among the attending members must be in favor of the amendments to the Constitution

### **SECTION 2.**

**Ratification:** Ratification of the Constitution must be approved by the majority votes during the Annual General Meeting of the organization.

**Mississippi Bangla Academy  
442 Fairfield Drive  
Madison, MS 39110  
Phone: 601-405-0038**

**Email: [msbangla@gmail.com](mailto:msbangla@gmail.com)**