

## **NYTDC BYLAWS**

### **GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

- General Body
- Executive Committee
- Active Member vs Inactive Member

### **ARTICLE 1: NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The organization shall be known as “New York Tamil Development Council” (NYTDC), here in after referred to as the ‘NYTDC.’ The name of the organization shall not be altered without the approval of the General Body.

### **ARTICLE 2: OBJECT AND AIM OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Our mission is to unite all Tamils in Staten Island and promote Tamil heritage, language, sport, art, and culture. We aim to support Tamil language education, Bharatanatyam, Carnatic music, and other Tamil arts programs, fostering pride, and continuity in our rich traditions. Additionally, we strive to establish a Tamil community center that serves as a hub for educational, cultural, and social activities, strengthening connections within the community. Through charitable efforts, we are committed to assisting Tamil immigrants and organizing social service initiatives that uplift and support our broader community.

### **ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP**

Every member shall be 18 or more years of age, shall reside or have resided in New York, shall not have been a director of any organization, or registered charity. Every member shall recognize the Tamils with a unique culture, socioeconomical way of life, language, heritage and have traditionally inhabited a distinct geographical area that comprises their homeland, North and East of the current island of Sri Lanka.

### **ARTICLE 3A: TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

Single Member - \$100

Family Membership - \$200

Dues can be subject to change yearly, based on organizational needs.

### **ARTICLE 3B: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS**

- Right to vote in elections.
- Right to propose agenda items of bylaws
- Responsibility to uphold the mission, attend meetings, and maintain respectful conduct
- Requirement to pay dues on time
- Loss of voting privileges if dues lapse

### **ARTICLE 3C: TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership may be suspended or terminated due to:

- Non-payment of dues
- Violation of the Code of Conduct
- Actions deemed harmful to the organization
- Misuse of organizational property or funds

If membership is terminated or suspended, the decision can be appealed via a written or verbal appeal to the Executive Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 4: OFFICERS AND CHAIRS**

President - provide leadership, presides over meetings, and represents the organization

Vice President - assists the President and assumes responsibilities in their absence

General Secretary - maintains records, oversees communication, and prepares reports

Treasurer - manages financial records, prepares budgets, and oversees fundraising efforts

Board Members - assist with decision-making, providing strategic guidance and oversight

The number of board members can be subject to change based on interest, no less than 5, no more than 9.

#### **ARTICLE 4A: VACANCIES & REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

- Officers may resign in writing
- Vacancies filled by special election or appointment until next election
- Officers may be removed by  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote for:
  - Misconduct
  - Failure to fulfill duties

#### **ARTICLE 5: COMMITTEES**

1. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The Executive Committee (EC) shall manage the organization's affairs. Expectations of the Executive Committee Members:
  - a. Be a member of New York Tamil Development Council
  - b. To advance the purpose and objectives of the Corporation
  - c. Act with diligence, honesty, good faith, and in the best interests of the Corporation
  - d. Regularly attend meetings of the Board and the meetings of any Board committees to which they have been appointed;
  - e. Engage the Tamil community and other stakeholders in Staten Island
  - f. Liaison with stakeholders that align with the Purpose and Objectives of the TDC and values found under the Basic Qualifications for Membership.
2. **ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**
  - a. Provide expert advice and guidance to the board and executive team.
  - b. Support strategic planning and organizational growth
  - c. Help with networking and building community relationships.
  - d. Conduct and oversee the NYTDC Election process
3. **FINANCE & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**
  - a. Helps develop and monitor the annual budget
  - b. Ensures compliance with financial policies and transparent reporting
  - c. Plan and executes fundraising events and campaigns
  - d. Pursues sponsorships, partnerships, and grant opportunities
4. **BUSINESS & MARKETING COMMITTEE**
  - a. Promote the organization's events and initiatives
  - b. Manage social media accounts and digital content

- c. Oversee branding and public messaging
  - d. Handle external outreach
  - e. Support other committees with marketing needs
  - f. Create and develop social networking events
  - g. Foster connections for potential partnerships with external organizations and businesses
5. CULTURAL & ARTS COMMITTEE
- a. Promotes and preserves cultural heritage and artistic expression
  - b. Organizes cultural programs, performances, and exhibitions
  - c. Hosts workshops and events showcasing community arts
  - d. Collaborates with local artists, performers, cultural groups, and nonprofit organizations
  - e. Encourages community involvement through arts and culture
6. COMMUNITY SERVICE & WELFARE COMMITTEE
- a. Identifies and addresses community needs
  - b. Plans and coordinates volunteer activities and service projects
  - c. Organizes initiatives such as food drives, health fairs, and outreach events
  - d. Supports vulnerable and underserved community members
  - e. Promotes equity and community well-being
7. SPORTS COMMITTEE
- a. Organizes sports leagues, tournaments, and fitness events
  - b. Coordinates recreational activities for all age groups
  - c. Partners with coaches, trainers, and local facilities
  - d. Promotes inclusivity and community engagement through sports
8. YOUTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE
- a. Supports academic and personal development of youth
  - b. Organizes tutoring, mentorship, and leadership programs
  - c. Develops a Tamil Language education program for all ages
  - d. Plans youth-focused events and workshops
  - e. Collaborates with schools, parents, and community groups
  - f. Encourages educational success, cultural pride, and future achievement

#### **ARTICLE 6: ELECTIONS**

Elections shall be held every two years during the 1st weekend of November through an anonymous electronic or in-person ballot. Once an individual is voted in, they will hold an elect position until January when the transition will take place.

#### **ARTICLE 7: DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the need for the dissolution, all finances will be donated to a non-profit organization.

#### **ARTICLE 8: BYLAW CHANGES**

Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any active member and shall be adopted only upon receiving a two-thirds majority vote of the voting membership with the exception of article 2, which cannot be changed.