

VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION OF THE GAMBIA (VAAG)

CONSTITUTION

The visual art association of The Gambia is a non-profit and non-political association. It is an association incorporated under the laws of The Gambia. The Association is based in The Gambia; it was formed in April 2014. The association is associated with the American Chamber of Commerce. It shall also associate itself with the national Centre for arts and culture under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and all other relevant art institutions in the Gambia and beyond.

Vision Statement

VAAG is an art association set up by Gambian and local base artists seeking to improve, promote and foster understanding among themselves. The association seeks to create awareness and better appreciation of art work, transfer skills and expertise to the young ones with creativity and innovation wishing to take up fine arts as a profession.

Mission Statement

The Visual Arts Association of the Gambia (VAAG) is a non-profit making organisation that aims to promote fine arts, and preserve our Gambian culture; support and promote the development of art in the Gambia; transfer skills and knowledge to others; to build the creativity and innovation among artist both in and outside the Gambia.

Aims and objectives:

1. To promote the interest of the members of the association both locally and internationally
2. To encourage training and development of visual artists and to contribute to national development.
3. To create a network for artist and encourage cultural exchange and cooperation amongst artist
4. Offer advice and seek legal assistance to members on copyright infringements and other legal issues that relate to their profession.

ARTICLE 1

SECTION 1

Name

The name of the Association shall be the VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION OF THE GAMBIA

The address of the registered office is situated at 54, KAIRABA AVENUE.....

SECTION 2

Objective

- The VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION OF THE GAMBIA (VAAG) is a non-profit association of professional visual artists.
- To promote, foster understanding and collaboration among members.
- To preserve our national culture in the arts; create and develop better arts work in the Gambia.
- Keep the works of Gambian Artists alive.
- To foster Unity among Artist
- Establish an art centre to serve as permanent home for display, promotion of the works of the Artists; provide meeting place to bring all members together.
- Elevate and give prominence to arts education at all level in Gambia education system.
- Collaborate with other associations to boost the art of creativity and innovation.

ARTICLE 2

SECTION 1

Membership

Membership is open to visual artists both Gambian and non-Gambians living and working in The Gambia. Members are obliged to pay an annual subscription fee and to abide by the constitution of the association. All interested persons belonging to the art profession shall be eligible for membership subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. Applicants must be willing to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws, and must maintain an interest in the activities of [VAAG].

SECTION 2

Executive Members

There shall be the following Executive Members elected annually: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary General, and Assistant Secretary General, Program officer, Public Relation Officer.

SECTION 3

Qualifications of Executive Members

Any candidate vying for an executive position must be a member in good standing, must be eighteen (18) years of age or older, and must have been a member of the Association for a minimum of six (6) months.

SECTION 4

Election of Officers

Candidates for each Executive Member shall be presented by the nominating committee at the regular meeting annually. Candidates must have given their permission to run, verbally to three (3) members or in writing. Officers shall be elected by ballot and installed immediately after the election.

SECTION 5

Each member of the Board of Directors should be in line with the development of the association. This will enable them know their areas of intervention. They will serve as a guide in running and operation of the Visual Arts Association of the Gambia (VAAG)

ARTICLE 6

Meetings

VAAG shall hold regular General meetings once a month at a time and place designated by the Executive Members. The Board of Directors/Executive Committee shall meet at their discretion.

ARTICLE 7

PUBLICATION

VAAG shall have the authority to publish a journal which shall be known as THE VAAG Website. It shall be distributed to all Association members, exchange clubs, and non-member donors.

ARTICLE 8

Logo

The Visual Arts Association of the Gambia [VAAG] shall have the authority to establish a logo.

ARTICLE 9

SEAL

The society seal shall be kept by the Treasurer, to be used as required.

ACTIVITIES

- Exhibitions
- Workshops
- Seminars

ARTICLE 10

Signing Officials

The only association members authorized to use their signature for business transactions of the association are as follows (except as noted elsewhere in the Constitution):

- A. Checks drawn upon the funds of the association shall require the signature of the Treasurer, the Chairperson and the Secretary General.
- B. Withdrawal of any other association funds from repository shall require three (3) signatures: Treasurer, the Chairperson and the Secretary General.
- C. Signing Association members shall not be related by marriage, blood or cohabitation.

ARTICLE 11

Affiliations

VAAG may enter into any affiliation with approval of the general membership.

ARTICLE 12

Amendments

Any proposed amendments to this constitution must be submitted in writing to the executive via any elected officer. Such proposed amendments must be signed by five (5) active members of the association before being submitted. Upon

deliberation the executive may referred the matter in writing to the Board of Directors for further advice and recommendation. Proposed amendments will then be published within sixty (60) days and will be read and voted upon at the next regular meeting after publication. They shall become a part of this Constitution only if approved by a two thirds (2/3) majority of the members present and voting at the said meeting.

BYLAWS

Bylaw 1

SECTION 1

Membership

All prospective members must submit a written application accompanied by membership Fee of D100. The said application to be approved or rejected by the Chairperson and the Secretary General. If rejected, the chairperson shall provide an explanation to the applicant and a full refund will be made.

SECTION 2

Dues

Dues are on a twelve (12) month basis from meeting date of application. The Executive Members will review the dues schedule each November. Their recommendations will be presented at the general meeting for approval.

SECTION 3

Types of Membership

Regular Professional Artist: This will comprises of any individual working in the creative arts industry and expresses interest in the association.

Honorary membership: Individuals who wish to support the association and art in general but does not fall into the professional arts category

SECTION 4

Reinstatement

In the event any member drops out or is expelled from the association for a period of one year or more and wishes to rejoin, he may rejoin the association. At the discretion of the Executive Members, full former membership rights and

privileges may be reinstated. No cancellations or refund of dues shall be paid if a member resigns before the close of his membership year.

SECTION 5

Non-Payment of Dues

Non-payment of dues by a member shall be considered equivalent to a resignation. The name will be dropped from the membership rolls, unless extenuating circumstances are given or known.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

The funding policy and sources for sustenance of this association are as listed below:-

- i) The monthly contributions;
- ii) Obtained funds and or subsidiaries;
- iii) Commissions from exhibition sales;
- iv) Donations and inheritances;
- v) All other receipts and benefits

SECTION 6

Membership Benefits

The privileges of membership are: those of voting, and the participation in all functions of the Association.

- A. Voting: Eligibility to vote is limited to members in good standing. All voting is decided by simple majority except where specifically noted in the Constitution and By-Laws. The Responsibility of conducting the balloting rests with the selected election committee. He may appoint assistants. The ballots must be retained by the secretary for sixty (60) days, after which time the votes may no longer be challenged.
- B. Only registered Members of VAAG will be given opportunities and benefits from the Association.

Bylaw 2

Duties of Officers

Chairperson

The Chairperson shall preside at all general meetings, Executive meetings, and Board of Directors meetings at which he is present, shall exercise general

supervision over the affairs and activities of the Association, and shall serve as a member ex-officio on all committees except the nominating committee.

In addition, the Chairperson appoints all committee chairpersons, subject to the approval of the General Executive Body.

He/she also serves in any other capacity as required elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws.

The primary function of the Chairperson is to see that all general meetings and other functions, as directed by the Board of Directors, are conducted in an orderly manner and to render assistance in any capacity for which he/she may be called upon

SECTION 2

Vice-Chairperson

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson.

SECTION 3

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive all Association funds and keep them in a bank or repository selected or approved by the Executive Board. Accurate records must be kept of all monetary transactions. The Treasurer shall require a bill or signed voucher for all disbursements and will issue receipts for all incoming funds. The Treasurer must present a monthly financial report at each Board of Directors and general meeting. All records to be audited annually within sixty (60) days of the July regular meeting and to be kept a minimum of three (3) years.

BY-LAW 3

Vacancy of an Elected Office

In the event of a vacancy of any elected office (as defined in the Constitution) for any reason, the Executive Members shall collectively appoint a successor to serve the unexpired term within thirty (30) days of the vacancy.

BY-LAW 4

VOTING AND RESOLUTIONS

- i) Request for resolutions can be taken at meetings on all subjects discussed by the general voting of all members present or by proxy even where the formalities for calling such a meeting have not been observed. When a tie in votes occurs, the chairperson shall have a casting vote.
- ii) Every member is entitled to one vote.
- iii) All voting to be done verbally unless the chairperson or any other member requests that voting be done by ballot. Ballot will take the form of unsigned close notes.
- iv) The Executive can also take resolutions outside the meeting, provided that all the members have had the opportunity to express their opinion in writing by way of letter, telex, fax or e-mail.
- v) In all other cases of disagreements concerning votes not provided for under these articles, the chairperson shall decide.

BY-LAW 5

SECTION 1

Expulsion

The Executive Body, by two thirds (2/3) majority vote, can expel any member of the association for the following reasons:

- A. Conduct unbecoming a member of the Association.
- B. Malfeasance in office.

SECTION 2

Any VAAG member may be expelled from the Association for failing to attend two (2) consecutive General meetings without extenuating circumstances.

BY-LAW 6

SECTION 1

Committees

The standing committees are:

- A. The Media /TV & Radio Programs
- B. Fund Raising committee
- C. Social
- D. Disciplinary Committee
- E. Publication, Website and Blogging

F. Membership

All the members shall be part of at least one committee and the Chairperson is responsible for overseeing the effectiveness and productivity of the various committees as the very key to the development of VAAG.

SECTION 2

The Chairperson shall establish or dissolve such special committees, with the advice and consent of the General Body, as from time to time may be required, to sustain the functions of the Association.

BY-LAW 7

Quorum

One fourth (1/4) of the membership, with a minimum of ten (10) shall constitute a quorum at the regular meetings of the association requiring a vote. At Executive meetings, two thirds (2/3) of the Executive Members of the association shall constitute a quorum. At the Executive meetings, two thirds (2/3) of the Executive Members and one half (1/2) of the standing committees shall constitute a quorum. Ad hoc committees and the nominating committee do not count for quorum.

BY-LAW 8

Amendments

Proposed amendments to the By-laws will be submitted in writing to the Chairperson, signed by three (3) active members. The Chairperson with his executive members will investigate and make their recommendations at the next general meeting. Voting will proceed at said meeting with a simple majority of eligible members present and voting required for passage.

BY-LAW 9

Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this Association, any remaining funds and other assets will be donated to any Association with the same objective with VAAG.

BY-LAW 10

This Constitution and By-Laws shall supersede all previous documents and shall become effective 1st June, 2014.

LIST OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

<u>List of executive members</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Sampierre Sambou: Chairman	7590827
Baboucarr Faal: Vice Chairman	9901143
Michael Manga: Secretary General	9987770
Ibrahim Dumbuya: Assistant Secretary General	7251406
Cherno P Bah: Treasurer	3751516
Njogu Touray: Assistant Treasurer	9928371
Alieu Jallow: Administrator	7508853