**Constitution**

**Article I**

(Identity)

This organization is to be named BLMBegonias.

*During the summer of 2020, protests erupted across the United States in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. As people took to the streets to raise their voices about racial injustices and police brutality, JL Hartman, a PhD student in the Horticulture and Crop Sciences Department at The Ohio State University and the founder of BLMBegonias, had the idea to sell house plants to support protestors. Initially, JL propagated his beloved begonia, Belinda (cultivar ‘Midnight Twist’), and sold these propagules with the intention of supporting the immediate needs of his community. The initial revenue JL received went towards triage in the form of sunscreen, eye rinse, water, snacks, and face masks for protestors. Then, as the protests began to die down, the remaining proceeds went to’ The District’, a black-and-queer owned business in Raleigh, North Carolina that closed in solidarity with protestors. Given the overwhelming support received, JL decided to found the student-led organization, BLMbegonias, for the purpose of offering continued support to Black Columbus communities.*

**Article II**

**(Guiding Principles)**

members of BLMbegonias will:

1. Reject performative allyship in favor of tangible effort.
2. Reject the idea of prescribing solutions to communities in favor of collaborative solutions.
3. Acknowledge that racism is a public health crisis and act to support the health of Black Columbus communities through improving food access and sovereignty.
4. Recognize the injustices resulting from systematic racism and seek abolition of oppressive food systems.
5. Commit to educating themselves on each of these principles, starting with the BLMbegonias library.

**Article III**

(Purpose)

Inspired by our guiding principles listed in Article II, this organization is structured as a nonprofit organization with a purpose to:

1. Support Black communities in Columbus by raising money through the sale of begonias and related items.
2. Establish connections with Black Columbus communities through collaboration with community activists and local non-profits.
3. Educate members and the local community about racial justice and allyship.

**Article IV**

(Membership and Non-discrimination statement)

As an official Ohio State University (OSU) Student Organization, any active OSU student is able to become a member of BLMBegonias. This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

members are expected to:

1. Not discriminate against any individual(s) as described above. Actions taken against this mandate are subject to member termination.
2. Abide by all guiding principles in Article II.
3. Participate in one committee or plant sale task per semester.

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, BLMbegonias expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here: https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf. If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at http://titleIX.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu.

If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization’s constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization’s advisor.

**Article V**

(Officers and Chair Members)

The officers of this organization consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Chair member(s) will be elected as needed for the following committees:

1. Plant Sale Committee
2. Outreach Committee
3. Campaign(s)

Elections will be held annually for all positions except for Campaign Chair, and there is no limit to the number of terms an individual can hold any elected position.

**Article VI**

(Executive Board)

The governing body of this organization is the Executive Board, consisting of the officers and chair members of all standing committees listed in article V. Upon accepting an executive board or chair member position, all leading members will meet to review the constitution and bylaws and make necessary changes.

In the event of the dissolution of the organization, the Executive Board, after the payment of all just debts and obligations, will distribute any remaining assets of the Branch for educational, scientific, or charitable purposes in compliance with the current regulations of the Internal Revenue Service.

**Article VII**

(Meetings)

Meetings for BLMbegonias will be held at least bi-annually. Notice of meetings will be given to all members at least two weeks before the meeting date with required materials being made accessible to all members. Meeting locations will be decided upon by the meeting organizer and will be easily accessible to all members. Meeting attendance will be recorded by the acting secretary for all meetings at which a vote will commence to ensure that quorum has been met. Meetings will be run by the President or acting President.

**Article VIII**

(Amendments)

Any member of this organization may propose at any regular meeting an amendment to the Constitution. Proposals must be made in writing and provided to the Executive Board for distribution along with other meeting materials. At the time of voting, a quorum of the members must be present for adoption of the proposed amendment. Requirements for quorum can be found in the BLMBegonias bylaws article II. Additionally, as stated in article VI, the board will review the constitution and bylaws annually as a matter of regular business.

**Bylaws**

**Article I**

(Duties of Officers and Chair Members)

The roles and duties of the officer and chair member positions are detailed below. If an executive board member is unable to attend a bi-annual meeting, they are responsible for finding a member representative to stand-in. If an executive board member is unable to fulfill his or her duties, the President has the right to motion for the replacement of that member; if a majority vote of the executive board members is acquired, the executive board member can be replaced by a member chosen by the President before an election cycle.

*President*. The President is responsible for overseeing activities of BLMBegonias. Duties of the president include organizing and leading bi-annual meetings, ensuring the duties of all executive board officers are being fulfilled, organizing election nomination and vote collection, and maintaining a safe, welcoming environment to all BLMBegonias members. The president will personally reach out to members whose participation is below average to see if they wish to remain involved.

*Vice President*. The Vice President is responsible for fulfilling the President’s duties when they are unable to do so. Additional duties of the Vice President include overseeing recruitment, responding to new-member inquiries and leading the annual review of the BLMBegonias constitution and bylaws. As part of the annual review, the Vice President is responsible for presenting and/or fielding any proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws at a bi-annual meeting. Following any amendments made to the constitution and bylaws, the Vice President is responsible for distributing the amended version of these documents to all members of BLMBegonias promptly following the meeting.

*Secretary*. The secretary is responsible for taking meeting minutes and attendance at the bi-annual meetings as well as distributing the minutes to all members in a timely manner. The secretary will determine meeting times, dates, and locations based on availability of the group.

*Treasurer*. The treasurer is responsible for handling BLMBegonias finances. Duties include acquiring and/or maintaining an Employer Identification Number (EIN), opening and maintaining a bank account for the organization, documenting income and spending, and creating an annual budget. At the first bi-annual meeting for the term they are elected, the treasurer is to propose the annual budget to members for approval by vote.

*Outreach Chair*. The outreach chair is responsible for maintaining the image of the organization on social meeting platforms and at new-member events. The outreach chair should also oversee and assist with organizing community involvement activities. Public relation duties of the outreach chair position include: keeping up-to-date social media pages and responding to messages as well as documenting group events (such as fundraising sales, bi-annual meetings, journal clubs, etc.). Community engagement duties of the outreach chair position include: finding or creating community activities, ensuring BLMBegonias members can participate, promoting the event and coordinating with location and event services before during and after the event. Event opportunities should be presented to the members of BLMBegonias either at bi-annual meetings or via virtual announcement (if an outreach event is to be presented via virtual announcement, a written proposal must first be submitted to the President for approval).

*Plant Sale Chair(s)*. The Plant Sale Chair(s) is(are) responsible for organizing the plant sale(s) to raise money for causes voted upon by the members of BLMBegonias. Duties include ensuring and maintaining space to grow plants for sale, organizing propagation and transplant events, coordinating watering schedules, advertising sales, and coordinating with location and event services before, during, and after a sale. Plant Sale Chair(s) will present causes for donation during one of the bi-annual meetings as well as a goal (prior to a sale) or set-amount (subsequent a sale) to be donated to each cause voted upon by the members of BLMBegonias.

*Campaign Chair.* Campaign Chairs are volunteers who propose campaigns during a collective meeting and are elected as needed. Once elected, campaign chairs are responsible for collaborating with the Executive Board, Plant Sale Chair(s) and Outreach Chair to meet the goals of the campaign.

**Article II**

(Quorum)

To meet the quorum, all board members must attend each bi-annual meeting or elect a designated representative to serve in their place. Additionally, a minimum of 10% of eligible voting members must be present or have submitted written notice waiving their vote to the President or Vice President prior to the meeting. If the quorum has not been met for a bi-annual meeting, any votes established at the meeting will be voided.

**Article III**

(Nominations and Elections)

Elections for executive board positions will be held annually during Fall semester. A minimum of one month prior to elections, the President will begin collecting nominations for all Board positions. A minimum of one week prior to elections, the president will distribute inquiries to all nominated individuals confirming their willingness to run for their nominated position(s). On election day, the President will distribute a ballot containing all confirmed nominees to BLMbegonias members and provide 24 hours for ballot casting. Cast ballots should be accessible to both the President and the Vice President.

All BLMBegonias members are eligible to run for an executive board position. There is no limit to how many terms an individual can hold an executive board position.

**Article IV**

(Selecting Campaigns)

Campaigns are the predetermined, philanthropic targets of BLMbegonias fundraising efforts. Confirmed campaigns should have specific, actionable, and immediate goals that are designed to explore and support an area of racial inequity in Black Columbus communities. Campaigns are proposed by any member of BLMbegonias at a meeting and must be presented to the group in an oral and written format. The goal of a campaign pitch is to convince members that the campaign is feasible and aligns with one-or-more of the purposes stated in Article III. Campaign pitches are to be competitive and selected based on merit. Once a campaign is approved, a Campaign Chair will be elected to ensure the completion of the campaign goals. Successful pitches should include, at minimum:

1. A target community and topic of racial inequity
2. A confirmed point-of-contact from a Columbus-specific resource, group, or individual with whom the Campaign Chair will collaborate.
3. Ideas for community engagement and/or member enrichment
4. Attainable and measurable goals aimed at keeping the campaign on-track
5. (Optional): A fundraising target goal

Campaign pitches can be made at any time of the year by any member. If an outside organization wishes to collaborate with BLMbegonias, a member must volunteer as a liaison for the campaign to qualify for approval. In the case that no campaign pitches are confirmed by the second meeting, members can vote to continue an existing campaign if applicable; in this case, a summary of activity for the existing campaign must be made available prior to voting. No more than three campaigns may be \at any time.

**Article V**

(Rules of Order)

Roberts Rules shall be abided during bi-annual meetings under the discretion of the meeting leader. Should a meeting organizer elect to use Roberts Rules, proper instruction is to be provided to all attendees to ensure equal opportunity to participate. All votes are decided upon by a simple majority.