

**Central Ohio Student Advocates for the Arts (COSAA)**  
***Constitution***  
**October 2023**

**Article I - The Name of the Organization**

The name of this organization is Central Ohio Student Advocates for the Arts (COSAA).

**Article II - Affiliations**

**Section 1:** Student Advocates for the Arts (SAA) is a national student organization with headquarters in the Program in Arts Administration at Teachers College, Columbia University. The Columbia chapter serves as a model; however, it will maintain no authority over COSAA.

**Section 2:** Ohio Citizens for the Arts (OCA) and the Greater Columbus Arts Council (GCAC) serve as founding partners.

**Article III – Mission and Goals**

COSAA will educate students about legislation and policy affecting the arts at the local, state, and national levels. Acting as a conduit, we will unify and mobilize student advocates to bring positive change to the arts community. We will provide a platform for students to engage in critical debate on arts advocacy issues.

**Goal 1:** COSAA will reach out to interested students from all departments at The Ohio State University to create a unified network of support for the arts and to provide a forum for informed discussion and debate.

**Goal 2:** COSAA will share artistic advocacy opportunities with students across campus. We will recruit and support new members in the process of building advocacy toolkits. These toolkits will aid members of our organization to advocate on multiple levels. Our members will represent The Ohio State University while networking with students, professionals, and legislators.

**Goal 3:** COSAA will utilize partnerships with Ohio Citizens for the Arts and Greater Columbus Arts Council to participate in arts advocacy on the local and state levels.

**Article IV – Membership Selection and Removal and Non-Discrimination Policy**

**Section 1:** COSAA is affected by the policies adopted by The Ohio State University Board of Trustees and follows the current non-discrimination policy of The Ohio State University.

**Section 2 – Non-Discrimination Policy:** COSAA’s non-discrimination policy follows true to the non-discrimination policy of The Ohio State University. COSAA is committed to building and

maintaining a diverse community to reflect human diversity and to improve opportunities for all. COSAA is committed to equal opportunity, affirmative action, and eliminating discrimination. This commitment is both a moral imperative consistent with an intellectual community that celebrates individual differences and diversity, as well as a matter of law.

COSAA 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.

**Section 3:** Members are welcomed on an ongoing basis. Students and alumni from institutions throughout Central Ohio are invited to be a part of COSAA.

**Section 4:** Active participation in the form of attendance at monthly meetings is required to maintain voting privileges and free membership in COSAA. COSAA members are expected to attend meetings and events as they are able. Attendance may be recorded through sign-up sheets and online records. Members are also expected to follow appropriate professional conduct, including The Ohio State University's Non-Discrimination Policy.

### **Article V – Officer Positions and Duties**

**Section 1:** The available positions in COSAA are as follows:

§ Primary Leader | *President*: One term of (1) academic year (no term limits)

§ Secondary Leader | *Vice-President*: One term of (1) academic year (no term limits)

§ *Treasurer*: One term of (1) academic year (no term limits)

§ *Faculty Advisor*: One term of (1) academic year (no term limits)

Primary Leader and Treasurer must be enrolled as full-time students; Secondary Leader(s) must be student(s) in good standing. Student Officers must be selected in accordance with the officer selection process specified in the organization's constitution. Student Officers must also meet minimum GPA requirements based on minimum requirements for good standing as set by the Office of Academic Affairs, Graduate School, and individual professional colleges.

§ 2.0 Term GPA for Undergraduates

§ 3.0 Term GPA for Graduate Students

§ 2.0 Term GPA for Professional Student

**Section 2:** Every officer **must:**

§ Comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and with University regulations, including but not limited to the provisions of the Ohio

Administrative Code, including the Rules, Regulations, and Bylaws of The Ohio State University, The Ohio State University Operating Manual, the Code of Student Conduct and guidelines promulgated by the Senior Vice President for Student Life

**Section 3:** The individual responsibilities are as follows:

§ *President* - Planning and implementing the programs and activities; Sponsoring and supervising their programs; The safe operation of their programs; Assuring that facilities are used for the purpose for which they were scheduled; The activities of non-student members and guests while participating in the activities of the student organization; Completing Presidents training.

§ *Vice-President* - Assisting the President in:

- Planning and implementing the programs and activities; Sponsoring and supervising their programs; The safe operation of their programs; Assuring that facilities are used for the purpose for which they were scheduled; The activities of non-student members and guests while participating in the activities of the student organization; Staying updated on training

§ *Treasurer* - Sound fiscal management and prompt payment of debts incurred, including maintaining fiscal records; Expending student organization funds to further the purpose(s) of the student organization and not for the private benefit of its officers or members; Keeping the organization's faculty/staff advisor informed of its activities, programs, and financial standing. Completing Treasurers training

§ *Faculty Advisor*: Advising officers as a stable leader in the organization; Confirming up-to-date online registration records – including officer contact information, advisor contact information, and constitution – with the Office of Student Life.

### **Article VI – Officer Selection and Officer/Member Removal**

**Section 1:** During the spring semester, in the month of April, nominations will be accepted for executive positions for the next academic year. Nominees for the Primary Leader or Treasurer must have served as members of COSAA for at least one academic year. In order to serve in executive positions, members may be nominated or self-nominate by submitting a letter of intent. If multiple members indicate interest in the same position, a vote is held. When a vote is held for these positions, candidates may provide a short written statement supporting their candidacy. The advisor, with current COSAA officers, if applicable, will host an election meeting for COSAA members. Voting may also take place virtually using an anonymous survey. By the end of the academic year, the new COSAA officers will be announced. If there is a vacant position at the end of the spring election, said position can be filled at the start of the autumn semester and confirmed by an open vote by COSAA members.

**Section 2:** Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization's advisor.

**Section 3:** 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 VII - Advisor**

The executive committee shall select a faculty advisor for COSAA.

#### **Article VIII - Meetings**

**Section 1:** An open meeting is held annually in April to nominate and elect officers.

**Section 2:** The executive committee of COSAA will hold an open meeting once per semester. The Treasurer will report on finances, and committees, if formed, will report on issues and action plans.

**Section 3:** Additional meetings, actions, and gatherings will be held as needs arise. Meetings might consist of workshops, guest speakers, and other advocacy-related projects.

#### **Article IX - Quorum**

The presence of a majority of elected officers is required to conduct official business. In the case of an insufficient quorum, members are allowed to vote by proxy.

#### **Article X - Amendments**

Amendments to the Constitution are proposed by written submission of the amendment to the President. Once a proposal for an amendment is submitted, the President is responsible for notifying all organization members at least 1 week before holding a meeting in which a vote will be taken on said amendment. At this meeting, a vote will be taken on the proposed amendment, and a favorable majority vote is required to pass the amendment.

#### **Article XI - Ratification**

See Article IX for the procedure used in ratifying the constitution.

Hereby signed and approved by:

*Dana Carlisle Kletchka*

Faculty Advisor

Dana Carlisle Kletchka

Print Name

*Terrena Conson*

President

Terrena Conson

Print Name

*Morgan McDonald*

Vice President

Morgan McDonald

Print Name

*Mallory Petrucci*

Treasurer

Mallory Petrucci

Print Name