

Global Designers Association (GDA) Management Regulations

Introduction

Global Designers Association Management Regulations serve as the fundamental document of the organization.

This document is defined and supplemented by the Association's internal rules and code of ethics.

The conduct of the Global Designers Association must be grounded in principles of integrity, equity, mutual respect, and service for urban sustainable development of international cities and the improvement of human settlements.

Objectives of the Global Designers Association:

The Association is committed to establishing an international non-profit organization that integrates designers, professionals, and artists from various design fields including architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, geography, ecology, public art, interior design, and lighting design.

It aims to organize and unite designers and artists, gather advanced global concepts, inherit and promote outstanding design philosophies, and continuously enhance the creativity and innovation of designers and artists.

Leveraging the strengths of an non-profit international organization, it contributes to establishing and improving the design discipline system, protecting natural and cultural heritage resources, promoting the improvement of living environments, fostering high-quality urban development, and advancing ecological civilization and sustainable social development.

Article 1 - Name, Location and Duration

Name.

The members who establish this regulation hereby create an association governed by the law of July 1, 1901 and the act of August 16, 1901, under the name: Global Designers Association.

The name and its abbreviation may only be used by the organization and its members, serving the organization and its members.

Location.

The headquarters of the Association is located at: 7 Rue Pierre Curie, 95360 Montmagny, Val-d'Oise, France.

The office location may be changed by resolution of the Executive Committee.

Duration.

The Global Designers Association is a permanent established organization.

Article 2 - Principles and Slogan

Principles:

With the goal of promoting sustainable development and better human settlement, the meeting is organized following the principles of in accordance with the law, democracy and independent activities, with the aim of enhancing interdisciplinary, cross-industry and cross-cultural communication and cooperation between design professionals and enthusiasts. Free discussions are carried out to stimulate the creative passion of designers, promote the development and innovation of design disciplines, enhance environmental awareness and aesthetics from professionals to the general public, and provide innovative and artistic perspectives for urban development and environmental construction in various regions.

Slogan:

Design Changes Life.

Article 3 - Membership Composition

The Association consists of the following members:

Honorary Members:

Honorary members are individuals who have made significant contributions to fields such as architecture, urban planning, environmental art, interior design, lighting art, landscape architecture, heritage conservation, wetlands, ecological environment, horticulture, planning, urban management, or to the Association itself.

包括荣誉会员、顾问、会士(院士)。

Including honorary members, advisors, and fellows (academicians).

Institutional Membership:

Institutional members are government agencies, organizations and design institutions from various countries or regions engaged in architecture, urban planning, public art, interior design, lighting art, landscape architecture, heritage conservation, wetlands, ecological environment, horticulture, planning and urban management.

Including member units, donor members, board member units, and executive board member units.

Each institutional member may have multiple representatives to vote in the Board of Directors, with representative qualifications nominated by the institutional member and approved by the Executive Committee.

Individual Membership:

Individual members are professionals, students and enthusiasts from various countries or regions engaged in architecture, urban planning, environmental art, interior design, lighting art, landscape architecture, heritage conservation, wetlands, ecological environment, horticulture, planning and urban management etc individuals.

Including executive board members, board members, honorary members, regular members,

youth members, student members, probationary members, and correspondence members.

All individuals or groups eligible for membership should apply and indicate their desire to become a member, comply with the Constitution and Guidelines of the Global Association of Designers, and submit an application form for membership.

Membership Admission

The Association is open to all. Applicants for any category of membership (except honorary members) must complete and submit a formal application form to the Association headquarters or its branches (such as chapters, committees, or offices) for review.

Honorary membership requires nomination by existing members, approval by the Executive Committee, and a simple majority vote at the General Assembly. Honorary members are exempt from membership fees.

Membership and employment status may overlap.

Membership Fees

Institutional Members

Member Units:

Universities, research institutions and organizations: €150/year.

Enterprises: €250/year.

Board Member Units:

Universities, research institutions and organizations: €250/year.

Enterprises: €500/year.

Fees in Latin America and Africa halved.

Individual Membership

Board members (individual): €75/year.

Regular members (individual): €50/year.

Youth members (individual): €20/year.

Probationary members and student members (individual): €10/year.

Fees in Latin America and Africa halved.

Honorary members are those who have made significant contributions to the discipline or the Association and are exempt from fees; honorary membership requires application by members and approval by the Executive Committee.

Donor members may have fees waived through sponsorships, subject to resolution by the Executive Committee based on specific circumstances.

Corresponding members may have fees waived through participation in Association communications, subject to resolution by the Executive Committee based on specific circumstances.

To avoid frequent amendments to the charter, fee amounts may be adjusted in internal bylaws, effective upon approval by the Executive Committee.

Article 4 - Termination of Membership.

Members may voluntarily resign in writing. The Executive Committee may terminate membership under the following circumstances:

Change in professional status disqualifying from membership.

Violation of professional ethics.

Behavior severely inconsistent with the Association's objectives.

Failure to pay annual fees after formal notice.

Article 5 - Annual Membership Fees

Membership Fee Payment Cycle:

The annual membership fee payment cycle shall be two calendar years.

Payment Deadline:

Membership fees must be paid to the Association headquarters by the last day of the month preceding the membership anniversary date. This date shall also be considered the annual fee payment date.

Chapter Due:

The working rules formulated by each chapter, upon approval by the Association, shall be regarded as supplementary to the Association's membership fee standards for similar members. Chapters may apply to headquarters for funding chapter activities from their membership fees.

Member Chapter Transfer:

When a regular member, youth member, corresponding member or student member transfers from one chapter to another, if the annual fee has been paid to the former chapter, no additional payment is required to the new chapter. If unpaid to the former chapter, payment must be made to the new chapter.

Delinquent Fees:

Members who fail to pay within 90 days after the annual fee payment date will be considered delinquent. The Association must notify the member in writing of the delinquency. If payment is not received within the 30-day grace period, the member will be expelled from the Association and its chapters.

Reinstatement Fees:

Members seeking reinstatement must pay all membership fees and chapter fees for each year during the period of absence (from the date of departure to the date of reinstatement).

Article 6 - Membership Privileges

Membership Certificate:

Entitles members to special privileges as defined by the Global Designers Association.

Voting Rights:

Individual members in good standing and institutional member representatives have the right to participate in elections:

(1) Right to apply for Executive Committee membership

(2) Right to apply for Academic Committee membership

(3) Right to apply for chapter, professional committee membership or regional representative positions

(4) Right to attend Association meetings and exercise voting/election rights according to regulations. Right to critique, suggest and supervise Association work.

Non-voting Members:

Student members, sponsor members and honorary members do not have voting rights.

(6)特殊地位:

Special Status:

Honorary members and sponsor members are granted membership rights and benefits, but may not hold any substantive positions in the Global Designers Association.

Association Logo Usage:

The Association logo may be used by members, individually or institutionally, on academic letterheads, business cards, signatures, telephone directories and professional directories. Such usage does not indicate any company's membership status or position in the Association.

Event Participation Rights:

Right to participate in academic exchange activities hosted or co-hosted by the Association

Right to participate in international competitions and award events hosted or co-hosted by the Association

Honorary Retirement:

Regular members with 15+ years of membership may apply for honorary retirement.

Honorary retirement shall be determined by headquarters. Applicants should designate honorary regular members as appropriate and shall be exempt from chapter fees.

Institutional Member Privileges:

Institutional members may appoint their employees as regular, youth corresponding or student members, provided they meet membership requirements. Institutional members receive free access to the Association's talent market, free links on the official website, and company profiles on the website.

(1) Member units may appoint up to one employees

(2) Board member units may appoint up to two employees

Recognition Awards:

Individual and institutional members who make significant contributions to the Association shall receive recognition awards from the Association.

Article 7 - Association Operations Management

Executive Committee Composition:

The Executive Committee consists of the Executive Chair, Vice Chairs, CFO, branch and regional representatives, who are responsible for managing the Association.

Academic Committee Composition:

The Academic Committee consists of a Chair, Vice Chairs, committee members, who represent members in an academic advisory capacity.

General Assembly:

The General Assembly will meet every three years (online or offline) to review the Association's key strategy and financial status.

The General Assembly of Members composed of the Chair, Vice Chairs, Executive Committee members, Academic Committee representatives, and representatives from branches

including executive board members, board members, individual members, youth members and student members etc. Specific quotas shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

Members representing at least 10% of the Association may request additional agenda items to be included, provided such requests are submitted no later than 30 days before the Assembly.

Extraordinary General Assemblies may be arranged at the request of the Executive Committee or by at least 35% of the members.

Meeting Agenda:

The Executive Committee establishes the General Assembly agenda and issues notices at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Article 8 - Elections and Voting

(1) All elections within the Association shall be conducted through secret, verifiable online voting, using a secure platform.

(2) Every member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote.

(3) The Association shall ensure that elected bodies reflect the diversity of regions, professional stages, and backgrounds within the membership.

Article 9 - Recall Procedure

(1) Members may request a vote of confidence on any elected officer during their mandate.

(2) The request must be supported by at least 35% of the members in good standing.

(3) Upon such request, an extraordinary online vote shall be organized within 60 days.

(4) If a majority of members vote in favor of the recall, the officer shall step down and the vacancy shall be filled according to the succession rules of the Association.

Article 10 – Collective Action and Member Initiatives

(1) Members are encouraged to form working groups, task forces, or special committees

around shared themes or projects (e.g. sustainable design, heritage, community engagement, digital innovation).

(2) Chapters may launch local or regional initiatives, which shall be reported to the Executive Committee and integrated into the Association's global activities.

(3) The Association shall promote joint projects and co-design activities (publications, exhibitions, competitions, research programs) that foster collaboration across borders and disciplines.

(4) Recognition and awards may be granted to teams, chapters, and community partnerships, not only to individual members.

Article 11 – Accountability and Reporting

(1) The Executive Committee shall publish an annual report covering finances, activities, and outcomes, accessible to all members.

(2) Periodically updates on decisions and activities shall be circulated to members via newsletters or equivalent communication channels.

(3) An online members' portal shall be established to provide access to key documents, including minutes of meetings, budgets, and strategic plans.

(4) The Association shall hold at least one open online Q&A session per year, where members can directly engage with the leadership.

(5) A feedback mechanism (surveys or suggestion tools) shall be maintained, and the Committee Secretariat shall provide responses to members' proposals.

Article 12 – Transparency

(1) The Association's annual budget and financial accounts shall be published and made available to all members.

(2) A supervisor, elected by the General Assembly, shall review the accounts and other info etc.

(3) The resolutions of the association and minutes of the general meeting should be archived and accessible to all members.

Article 13 - Executive Council

Organization:

The Executive Council is the decision-making body of the Association. It consists of 9 to 15 elected members. In principle, the chair of the executive council shall concurrently be the chair of the association.

The Executive Vice Chair of the Academic Committee, the Secretary-General, and the CFO shall be members of the Executive Committee.

Chapter (Professional Committee) Chairs (Vice Chairs), Secretaries-General, and regional representatives shall be recommended as Executive Council members or observers.

Term of Office:

Regular members may be reelected for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Meeting Procedures:

(1) The Executive Council shall hold regular meetings at least twice a year, with one meeting coinciding with the annual General Assembly.

(2) The Association President shall chair Executive Council meetings. In the President's absence, the Executive Chair shall assume presiding duties.

Responsibilities:

(1) Ensure effective governance of the Association

(2) Oversee all Association resources (financial, personnel, talent, technological) and their development

(3) Safeguard the Association's reputation, international dignity and public relations

(4) Provide recommendations on membership fee structures to the General Assembly

Deliberation Rules:

(1) A quorum requires a simple majority of total members

(2) Decisions shall be made by simple majority vote

Committee:

The Association Chair may, with Executive Council approval, establish reputable committees, task forces and working groups with defined mandates.

Committee, task force and working group members may serve no more than two consecutive terms without Executive Council approval.

Article 14 - Executive Council Officers

Positions:

Executive Council officers include the Executive Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary-General, and CFO.

Executive Chair:

(1) Establish strategic direction for the Association representing design disciplines

(2) Represent the Association in official matters and execute agreements with third parties

(3) Preside over Executive Council and General Assembly meetings

Vice Chairs:

(1) Elected at General Assemblies, serve for two consecutive terms.

(2) Implement duties and tasks assigned by the Vice Chair

(3) The Executive Chair shall assist the President and assume presiding duties during the President's incapacity

Secretary-General:

(1) Elected at General Assemblies, serve for two consecutive terms.

(2) Develop fiscal policy guidelines for Executive Council approval

(3) Conduct regular financial audits and reports to the Executive Council

Emergency Response:

Officers of the Executive Council shall highlight urgent issues and propose solutions.

All actions taken by officers shall be reported to the full Executive Council, with explanations required for both the urgent issues and the measures taken.

Regional Representatives:

The Executive Council may appoint country-resident members as regional representatives, with key regional representatives eligible for Council membership. Regional representatives may attend Council meetings as observers.

Article 15 - Regional Executive Councils

Authorization Scope:

Regional Executive Councils, delegated by the Executive Council shall be the primary implementation bodies for Association programs.

Functions:

- (1) Serve as liaison for members with shared academic/professional interests
- (2) The activities of the Regional Executive Committee shall be governed by its own rules of procedure
- (3) Submit annual reports to the central Executive Council

Governance Rules:

- (1) Detailed records of all regional council meetings shall be archived
 - (2) Major decisions must be reported to the central Executive Council for approval
 - (3) Financial revenue and expenditure shall be included in the unified audit system of the General Assembly.
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Article 16 - Revenue and Expenditure

Revenue Sources

The Association 's financial resources include:

- (1) Membership fees payable by members
- (2) Income generated from Association assets and activities
- (3) Private donations approved by the Executive Committee or donations from the Association 's foundation
- (4) Compensation received for services rendered and completed projects/plans under contract

Expenditure Approval

All expenditures shall be proposed by the CFO, Secretary-General, and approved by the Executive Committee prior to disbursement.

Article 17 - Chapters

Establishment Requirements

- (1) A chapter shall comprise no less than 60 regular/youth members in 4 countries/regions
- (2) A professional committee shall comprise no less than 40 regular/youth members in 4 countries/regions
- (3) The Executive Committee may setup regional offices in key areas, with no less than 30 regular/youth members.

Branch Categories

Chapters may establish branches in architecture, urban planning, landscape, art design, human settlements, heritage conservation, etc., as well as youth/student branches. Regional Executive Committees may be established in Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa, and America.

Naming Convention

The official name shall be "Global Designers Association [Location/Field] Chapter"

Governance Structure

- (1) Chapters shall be governed by the Executive Committee
- (3) Chapters may elect one or more Vice Chairmen and Deputy Secretary-Generals
- (4)
- (3) Except for student chapters, all Chapter Chairman, Chairman-designate, Vice Chairman and directors must be regular members
- (4)

Election Procedures

Chapter elections must be completed 30 days prior to the Annual meeting. The term of the chapter board of directors begins when the chairman of association is on board at the annual meeting, and in principle, no more than two sessions.

Financial Management

- (1) Chapters may collect fees and donations for operational purposes
- (2)
- (2) Chapter funds shall not benefit any individual personally
- (3) Upon dissolution, chapter assets revert to the Association
- (4) Proposed fee increases require written notice to association 60 days prior to the fiscal year

Compliance requirements

- (1) Chapter bylaws must align with Association statutes
- (3) Local national requirements supersede Association rules when in conflict
- (4)
- (3) Only regular members may vote on chapter bylaw amendments

Dissolution Procedures

- (1) Requires 2/3 approval of regular members via secret ballot
 - (2) Automatic dissolution takes effect upon headquarters receiving formal notice
 - (3)
 - (3) Adjacent chapters shall absorb the dissolved chapter's territory
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Article 18 - Application and Amendment of Articles

Implementation

These Articles have immediate effect upon Executive Committee approval.

Amendment Process

The Executive Committee and subordinate organizations may propose amendments.