

Proposed changes to bylaws of Wickford Art Association – September 2024

Section 6.1

Reason For Change

The new language allows the President to appoint any Association member to the nominating committee while ensuring the committee is chaired by a Juried Artist Member. For the past several years the President has struggled to find volunteers for the nominating committee that meets the criteria laid out in the bylaws. This has made the nominating process difficult. The proposed changes will give flexibility in appointing a committee by widening the eligibility of who can sit on the committee while it still being chaired by a JAM.

Previous Language

A Nominating Committee of three Juried Artist Members shall be appointed by the President to prepare a list of nominees for all vacant positions on the Board of Directors, including the four officers. The list is to be published not less than 15 days prior to the election and is to be provided to each member.

Proposed Language

A Nominating Committee of three Association members, one of whom shall be a Juried Artist Member and act as the chair of the committee, shall be appointed by the Board President to prepare a list of nominees for all vacant positions on the Board of Directors, including the four officers. The list is to be published not less than 15 days prior to the election and is to be provided to each member.

Section 3.1

Reason for Change

Over the past several years the membership classes offered by the Association diverged from what is laid out in the bylaws. These proposed changes align the membership classes in the bylaws to what the Association offers in the marketplace.

Previous Language

Eligibility. The Association shall have six (6) membership Classes: Juried Artist (JAM), General Artist (GAM), Life, Community, Student, and Patron.

General Artist Member: Any person interested in the arts or actively engaged in any of the accepted branches of the arts can become a member upon application and payment of the annual dues as established by the Board.

A GAM may become a Juried Artist after six (6) months and completion of the requirements for JAM membership as set by the Board.

Juried Artist Member: A GAM who has been judged to merit the distinction of Juried Artist by completing satisfactorily the requirements set by the Board.

Life Member: Any member who is recognized by the Board for long and/or distinguished service to the WAA. Past presidents shall automatically become Life Members at the end of their term as president.

Community Member: a non-artist member who wishes to support the Association and participate in its activities.

Student Member: a member who is currently a student with valid student identification. Membership to this class ceases when the status as student ends.

Patron: a member who has, in the determination of the Board, distinguished him/herself through substantial financial support of WAA. Community, Student and Patron members may not become JAM members unless they change their status to GAM and complete the requirements for JAM membership herein described.

Proposed Language

Section 3.1 Eligibility: The Association shall have six membership classes: Juried Artist (JAM), General Artist (GAM), Life, Student, Individual/Patron, and Family.

General Artist Member: Any person interested in the arts or actively engaged in any of the accepted branches of the arts can become a member upon application and payment of the annual dues as established by the Board. A GAM may become a Juried Artist after six (6) months and completion of the requirements for Juried Artist Member membership as set by the Board.

Juried Artist Member: A GAM who has been judged to merit the distinction of Juried Artist by completing satisfactorily the requirements set by the Board.

Lifetime Member: Any member who is recognized by the Board for long and/or distinguished service to the WAA. Past presidents shall automatically become Life Members at the end of their term as president. Payment of annual dues for life membership is waived.

Student Member: A member who is currently a student with valid student identification. Membership to this class ceases when the member is no longer a student.

Individual/Patron: A member who is a friend of the arts and wants to be part of a community of artists.

Family: Membership includes up to two adults and all children within a household.

Section 8.1

Reason for Changes

In 2023 the Board created the position of Executive Director under which all Association staff positions report. Previously, all staff positions reported to the Board, creating undue administrative burden on the Board of Directors. As the Board looked to update Article VIII/ Section 8.1 to reflect this new structure it became clear that a prescriptive paragraph on Association leadership is not needed, thus the recommendation to remove. The Board agrees that oversight of Association staff positions will come through the annual budgeting process, personnel policies and monthly board of directors meetings.

Current Language

Gallery Director. The Gallery Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. The Gallery Director shall see that all order and resolutions of the Board of Directors are carried into effect. The compensation and terms of employment of the Gallery Director shall be determined at least annually by the Board of Directors. The Board will meet in executive session to evaluate the Gallery Director's performance and decide upon the annual salary of the Gallery Director.

Proposal

Remove Article VIII with Section 8.1 from bylaws. This is the only item listed under this article.

Section 3.14a

Reason for Change

There are several reasons why this change is needed. New memberships fall off towards the end of the year. Most people do not want to pay the full annual dues amount for only a few months of benefits. The mass renewal of memberships at the end of the year also created two issues. First, it is an administrative burden on the staff to process and send reminders to all 400-plus members at once at the end of each year. Second, it created a cashflow issue as not all members renewed right at the start of the year. Moving to an annual renewal cycle based on the member's anniversary date will smooth out these effects and provide better value for members.

Current Language

Non-payment of dues.

Annual dues shall be payable by January 31st. Notice of non-payment shall be sent to the member at the last email or postal address supplied by the member no later than 30 days after the due date. Failure to deliver to the Association full current payment (and one year of any prior unpaid dues for Juried Artist Members) on or before the 60th day after the due date shall result in the removal of the member from the rolls and the automatic cancellation of membership. Notice of cancellation shall be provided by either email or postal service.

Proposed Language

Non-payment of dues.

Annual dues shall be payable by the last day of the month of the anniversary of membership payment. Notice of non-payment shall be sent to the member at the last email or postal address supplied by the member no later than 30 days after the due date. Failure to deliver to the Association full current payment (and one year of any prior unpaid dues for Juried Artist Members) on or before the 60th day after the due date shall result in the removal of the member from the rolls and the automatic cancellation of membership. Notice of cancellation shall be provided by either email or postal service.

ARTICLE VII: Powers and Duties of Officers.**Reason for Change**

This change removes reference to “Gallery Director” and replaces with “Association leadership” to align to the removing Article VIII from the bylaws, as explained above.

Current Language

A. *President.* The President shall preside at each meeting of the Directors and shall have such powers and duties as usually pertain to the office of President and shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to him or her, or specifically required to be performed by him or her, by these Bylaws, by the Board of Directors or by law. In general, the President shall consult with and advise the Gallery Director with respect to the achievement of the mission of the Association.

Proposed Changes

A. *President.* The President shall preside at each meeting of the Directors and shall have such powers and duties as usually pertain to the office of President and shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to him or her, or specifically required to be performed by him or her, by these Bylaws, by the Board of Directors or by law. In general, the President shall consult with and advise Association leadership with respect to the achievement of the mission of the Association.