**Sammons Center for the Arts**

SAMPLE FORM BYLAWS FOR
TEXAS NONPROFIT CORPORATION
(WITHOUT MEMBERS)

This is a form of amended and restated bylaws for a Texas nonprofit corporation that will not have members. Most arts organizations are organized to be managed by a Board of Directors (rather than Members). The Articles of Incorporation or Certificate of Formation for the organization filed with the Texas Secretary of State’s office would indicate whether or not the organization has members for the purpose of corporate governance. An organization that sells memberships or has levels of membership for the purpose of member benefits does not constitute an organization with members for the purpose of corporate governance. If the nonprofit corporation has been formed to have members for corporate governance purposes, a different form of bylaws would be required.

The attached is a sample of amended and restated bylaws for an existing organization that has previously adopted bylaws and wants to adopt a new set of bylaws to replace the prior bylaws. If the organization has not previously adopted bylaws, the title of the document should be changed to delete “First Amended and Restated” from the title and the first paragraph should be modified to delete the reference to amending and restating the bylaws. If the bylaws have been previously amended and restated, the title of the document would be changed to “Second Amended and Restated Bylaws.”

This sample is annotated to provide alternative provisions and explanations of possible variations for certain provisions that may be considered by the organization’s governing body. Please note that the actual bylaws to be adopted would delete all of the annotations and footnotes.

Terms of Use.

This sample form is provided as a guide to existing tax exempt Texas non-profit corporations. The use of this sample by any organization constitutes the acknowledgement of such organization that:

1. Sammons Center for the Arts (“SCA”) is providing this sample solely as information for interested organizations working with SCA. This sample is necessarily incomplete and must be reviewed and completed by the applicable organization. The attached sample may include certain sections that may or may not be applicable to a specific organization.
2. This sample assumes that the organization is a Texas non-profit corporation. It should be noted that specific provisions in this sample may need to be conformed to existing charter documents of a specific organization to avoid any conflict between an organization’s various documents. SCA does not review any existing charter documents of any other organization.
3. SCA does not provide legal advice. Nothing provided herein shall be construed to constitute legal advice. An organization must consult with its own legal advisors regarding the use of any sample documents and the applicability of specific provisions in a document.
4. Any final document prepared to be adopted by an organization is subject to the approval of the organization’s governing body. The specific terms and provisions adopted in a final document may vary by organization.
5. Changes in applicable laws, regulations or best practices may occur from time to time and require conforming changes to this sample document. SCA expressly disclaims any obligation to change, modify or update this sample at any time for any reason.
6. Any organization that uses this sample document shall hold SCA harmless for the use of this document by such organization.

**FIRST AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS**

**OF**

**[●]**

**A TEXAS NONPROFIT CORPORATION**

#

These First Amended and Restated Bylaws (“***Bylaws***”) constitute the code of rules adopted by the Board of Directors of **[●]**, a Texas non-profit corporation (the “***Corporation***”) and amend and restate in their entirety the bylaws of **[●]**, a Texas non-profit corporation, for the regulation and management of its affairs, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 22 of the Texas Business Organizations Code, as amended from time to time (the “***TBOC***”).

# PURPOSE[[1]](#footnote-1)

The Corporation is formed for the following purpose or purposes:

### The Corporation is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code (the “***Code***”), including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. [*Within the scope of the foregoing purposes, and not by way of limitation thereof, the Corporation is dedicated to [describe the Corporation’s mission more specifically]*].[[2]](#footnote-2)

### No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Article II. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, or (ii) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

### As provided by Section 22.304 of the TBOC, after all liabilities and obligations of the Corporation in the process of winding up are paid, satisfied and discharged in accordance with Section 11.053 of the TBOC upon the dissolution of the Corporation,

#### property held by the Corporation on a condition requiring return, transfer or conveyance because of the winding up or termination shall be returned, transferred or conveyed in accordance with that requirement; and

#### the remaining property of the Corporation shall be distributed only for tax-exempt purposes to one or more organizations that are exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, or described by Section 170(c)(1) or (2) of the Code, under a plan of distribution adopted under the TBOC.

A district court of the county in which the Corporation’s principal office is located shall distribute to one or more organizations exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, or described by Section 170(c)(1) or (2) of the Code, the property of the Corporation remaining after a distribution of property under a plan of distribution under the TBOC. The court shall make such distribution in the manner the court determines will best accomplish the general purposes for which the Corporation was organized.

### Subject to the foregoing, the Corporation is formed for any and all lawful purposes for which a nonprofit corporation may be formed under the TBOC.

# Board of Directors

## **Powers**. The Board is vested with the management of the business and affairs of the Corporation, subject to the TBOC, the Corporation’s Certificate of Formation, as it may be amended or restated from time to time (the “***Certificate***”), and these Bylaws.

## **Qualifications**.[[3]](#footnote-3) A directorship shall not be denied to any person on the basis of race, creed, sex, religion or national origin.

## **Number of Directors**. The number of directors initially constituting the Board shall be [*three*].[[4]](#footnote-4) Thereafter, the number of directors constituting the Board may be determined from time to time by the Board, but in no event shall a decrease have the effect of shortening the term of an incumbent director or decreasing the total number of directors to fewer than three directors.[[5]](#footnote-5)

## **Term of Directors**.[[6]](#footnote-6)

[*Option 1: No Terms*] [*There shall be no fixed term for any director. Consequently, a director shall serve until his or her successor has been elected and qualified or until the director’s earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal.*]

[*Option 2: One-year Terms*] [*Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Board (the “****Annual Meeting****”) to hold office until the next succeeding Annual Meeting, except that the initial directors of the Corporation and any other persons elected as directors prior to the first Annual Meeting shall hold office until the first Annual Meeting. A director shall hold office until his or her successor has been elected and qualified or until the director’s earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal.*]

[*Option 3: Staggered, Three-year Terms*][[7]](#footnote-7) [*Directors shall be divided with respect to the time for which they hold office into three classes, as nearly equal in number as possible and designated Class I, Class II and Class III. The initial division of the Board into classes shall be made by the Board. The term of the initial Class I Directors shall expire at the first annual meeting of the Board (the “****Annual Meeting****”); the term of the initial Class II Directors shall expire at the second Annual Meeting; and the term of the initial Class III Directors shall expire at the third Annual Meeting. At each Annual Meeting, successors to the class of directors whose term expires at that Annual Meeting shall be elected to hold office for a term expiring at the Annual Meeting to be held in the third year following the year of their election. If the number of directors is changed, any increase or decrease shall be apportioned by the Board among the classes so as to maintain the number of directors in each class as nearly equal as possible, but in no case will a decrease in the number of directors shorten the term of any incumbent director.*]

## **Filling of Vacancies**.[[8]](#footnote-8) Any newly-created directorships resulting from an increase in the number of directors and any vacancy occurring in the Board resulting from the death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal of a director may be filled by a majority vote of the directors then in office, even if less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director[*, and any director so chosen shall hold office until his or her successor has been elected and qualified or until such director’s earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal*][[9]](#footnote-9) [*, and any director so chosen shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified or until such director’s earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal*][[10]](#footnote-10) [*, and any director so chosen shall hold office for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors to which the new directorship was added or in which the vacancy occurred and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified, subject, however, to such director’s earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal*].[[11]](#footnote-11)

## **Resignation**. Any director may resign at any time by delivering written notice to the Corporation. Such resignation shall take effect upon receipt of the notice or, if later, at the time specified in the notice.[[12]](#footnote-12)

## **Removal**. Any director may be removed with or without cause, at any time, by a majority of the entire Board, at a regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. Any director under consideration for removal must first be notified about the consideration by written notice at least five days before the meeting at which the vote takes place.[[13]](#footnote-13)

## **Compensation**. Directors shall not receive any salaries or other compensation for their services, but, by resolution of the Board, may be reimbursed for any actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties for the Corporation, as long as a majority of disinterested directors approve the reimbursement. The Corporation shall not loan money or property to, or guarantee the obligation of, any director.[[14]](#footnote-14)

## **Ex Officio Directors**. The Board may designate, from time to time, one or more persons as ex officio directors who shall serve in that capacity at the discretion of the Board. Such persons shall be entitled to receive notices of and to attend meetings of the Board but shall have no right to vote and shall have no duties or liabilities of a director, all in accordance with Section 22.210 of the TBOC.[[15]](#footnote-15)

# Board Meetings

## **Place of Board Meetings**. Meetings of the Board shall be held at such places, within or without the State of Texas, as may from time to time be fixed by the Board.[[16]](#footnote-16)

## **Annual Meeting**. An Annual Meeting of the Board, beginning with the year **[●]**, shall be held each year during the month of **[●]** at such date, time and place as determined by the Board. At the Annual Meeting, the Board shall elect directors and officers and transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Notice of the date, time and place of the Annual Meeting shall be given to each director personally or by regular mail, telephone, facsimile or e-mail at least seven days before the Annual Meeting.

## **Regular Meetings**. The Board may provide for regularly scheduled, periodic meetings of the Board by resolution stating the time and place of such meetings. Notice of such meetings shall not be required.[[17]](#footnote-17)

## **Special Meetings**. Special meetings of the Board (a) may be called by the President and (b) shall be called by the President or the Secretary on the written request of [*two*] or more directors. Notice of the date, time and place of special meetings of the Board shall be given to each director personally or by regular mail, telephone, facsimile or e-mail at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.[[18]](#footnote-18) Any and all business that may be transacted at a regular meeting of the Board may be transacted at a special meeting. Except as otherwise required by law, neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any special meeting need be specified in the notice of the meeting.[[19]](#footnote-19)

## **Waiver of Notice**. Attendance by a director at any meeting of the Board for which the director did not receive the required notice will constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting unless the director objects at the beginning of the meeting to the transaction of business on the grounds that the meeting was not lawfully called or convened.[[20]](#footnote-20)

## **Quorum; Required Vote**. [*A majority of the number of directors constituting the Board*] [**[●]** *directors*] shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of convening a meeting of the Board or conducting business.[[21]](#footnote-21) [*A director present by proxy at a meeting may not be counted toward a quorum.*][[22]](#footnote-22) At Board meetings where a quorum is present, a majority vote of the directors present in person [*or by proxy*][[23]](#footnote-23) shall constitute an act of the Board, unless a greater number is expressly provided by applicable law, the Certificate or these Bylaws.[[24]](#footnote-24) If a quorum shall not be present at any meeting, a majority of directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time, without notice other than announcement at the meeting, until a quorum is present.

## **Actions Without a Meeting**. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board, or of any committee designated by the Board, may be taken without a meeting, without prior notice and without a vote, if a written consent, stating the action to be taken, is signed by the number of directors, or committee members, as the case may be, necessary to take such action at a meeting at which all of the directors, or committee members, are present and voting, as provided herein.  Such written consent shall state the date of each director’s or committee member’s signature. Prompt notice of the taking of an action by directors or a committee without a meeting by less than unanimous written consent shall be given to each director or committee member who did not consent in writing to the action.[[25]](#footnote-25)

## **[*Proxy Voting Permitted****. A director may vote by proxy executed in writing by such director and granted to any other director or the secretary of the meeting; provided, however, that no proxy shall be valid more than three months after the date the proxy is executed.*][[26]](#footnote-26)

## **Meetings by Remote Communications Technology**. A meeting of the Board or any committee designated by the Board may be held by means of a remote electronic communications system, including videoconferencing technology or the Internet, only if the system provides access to the meeting in a manner or using a method by which each person participating in the meeting can communicate concurrently with each other participant. If voting is to occur at the meeting, the Secretary of the meeting shall take reasonable measures to verify that every person voting at the meeting by means of remote communications is sufficiently identified and keep a record of any vote or other action taken.[[27]](#footnote-27)

# COMMITTEES

## **Executive Committee**. The Board may by resolution establish, name, fill vacancies in, change the membership of, or dissolve an executive committee to have and exercise the authority of the Board in the management of the Corporation (the “***Executive Committee***”). Such Executive Committee shall consist of two or more [*persons, the majority of whom must be directors*] [*directors and must be composed entirely of directors*].[[28]](#footnote-28)

## **Other Committees**. The [*Board*] [*President*] may establish, name, fill vacancies in, change the membership of, or dissolve such other committees that do not have the authority of the Board in the management of the Corporation. [*Each such committee shall consist of two or more directors, but need not be composed entirely of directors.*][[29]](#footnote-29)

## **Procedures**. Unless the Board otherwise provides, the time, date, place, if any, and notice of meetings of a committee shall be determined by such committee. At meetings of a committee, a majority of the number of members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The act of a majority of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee, except as otherwise specifically provided by applicable law, the Certificate, these Bylaws or the Board. If a quorum is not present at a meeting of a committee, the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time, without notice other than an announcement at the meeting, until a quorum is present. Unless the Board otherwise provides and except as provided in these Bylaws, each committee designated by the Board may make, alter, amend and repeal rules for the conduct of its business. Each committee designated pursuant to this Article V shall conduct its business in the same manner as the Board is authorized to conduct its business pursuant to Article III and Article IV of these Bylaws. Each committee shall keep regular minutes of its meetings and report the same to the Board when required.

# Officers[[30]](#footnote-30)

## **Roster of Officers** The Corporation shall have a President and Secretary. The Corporation may have, at the discretion of the Board, such other officers as may be appointed by the directors. One person may hold two or more offices, except that the offices of President and Secretary may not be held by the same person.[[31]](#footnote-31)

## **Election and Removal of Officers**. [*Officers shall be elected annually by the Board at the Annual Meeting and shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting and until their successors are duly elected and qualified or until their earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal from office.*] [*Each officer shall be elected for a [two-] [three-]year term[[32]](#footnote-32) and until his or her successor has been elected and qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal from office.*] Officers may serve consecutive terms without limit. Any officer may be removed, with or without cause, by the Board.

## **Vacancies**. If a vacancy occurs during the term of office for any officer, the Board shall elect, as soon as practical, a new officer to fill the position for the remainder of the term.

## **President**. The President [*shall preside at all meetings of the Board and*] shall supervise and control the affairs of the Corporation and exercise such supervisory powers as may be given him or her by the Board. The President shall perform all duties incident to such office and such other duties as may be provided in these Bylaws or as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board.

## **Vice President**. If the Corporation has one Vice President, the Vice President shall assume the powers and duties of the President in the absence, refusal or incapacity of the President or vacancy of the office of the President. If the Corporation has more than one Vice President, the Vice President designated by the Board shall so act in the absence, refusal or incapacity of the President or vacancy of the office of the President. The Vice President(s), if any, shall have such other duties as may be prescribed by [*the Board or the President*] from time to time.

## **Treasurer**. The Treasurer, if any, shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the Corporation, receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the Corporation from any source whatsoever, deposit all such moneys in the name of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board may determine, and in general perform all the duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed by [*the Board or the President*]. The Treasurer shall report to the directors at regular intervals or as required by the Board the finances of the Corporation. If the Treasurer is absent or unavailable, an Assistant Treasurer, if any, shall have the duties and powers of the Treasurer.

## **Secretary**. The Secretary shall perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as may be required by law, the Certificate or these Bylaws or as may be prescribed by [*the Board or the President*]. The Secretary shall have general charge of the records of the Corporation and shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board. The Secretary shall give such notice as is required of meetings of the Board. If the Secretary is absent or unavailable, an Assistant Secretary, if any, shall have the duties and powers of the Secretary. If both the Secretary and any Assistant Secretary is absent from or unavailable for any meeting, a person appointed by the meeting shall keep the records of such meeting and perform such other duties in connection with the office of secretary as the meeting may prescribe.

# Members

The Corporation shall not have members.

# Indemnification[[33]](#footnote-33)

## **Indemnification of Directors and Former Directors**. Each person who was or is a respondent or defendant or is threatened to be made a respondent or defendant, in any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, arbitrative or investigative, any appeal in such an action, suit or proceeding, or any inquiry or investigation that could lead to such an action, suit, or proceeding (any of the foregoing, a “***proceeding***”), whether or not by or in the right of the Corporation, because such person is or was a director of the Corporation or, while a director of the Corporation, is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, partner, venturer, proprietor, trustee, employee, administrator, agent or similar functionary (a “***representative***”) of another foreign or domestic corporation, limited or general partnership, limited liability company, business trust, real estate investment trust, joint venture, joint stock company, cooperative, association, bank, insurance company, credit union, association, proprietorship, trust, employee benefit plan, other enterprise or other organization (each, an “***organization***”) (hereinafter, a “***Covered Director***”) shall be indemnified by the Corporation to the fullest extent authorized or permitted by applicable law, as the same exists or may hereafter be changed, against all judgments (including arbitration awards), court costs, penalties, excise and similar taxes (including excise taxes assessed against such person with respect to an employee benefit plan), fines, settlements, reasonable attorneys’ fees and other reasonable expenses (all of the foregoing, “***expenses***”) actually incurred by such person in connection with such proceeding, and such right to indemnification shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director or representative and shall inure to the benefit of his or her heirs, executors and administrators. Without limiting the foregoing, the right to indemnification hereunder includes the right to such indemnification if the Covered Director has met the standard of conduct under Section 8.101(a)(1) of the TBOC. It is expressly acknowledged that the indemnification provided in this Article VIII could involve indemnification OF A COVERED PERSON for THE COVERED PERSON’S OWN negligence or under theories of strict liability.

## **Indemnification of Officers****[[34]](#footnote-34) and Former Officers**.34 The Corporation shall indemnify each person who was or is a respondent or defendant or threatened to be made a respondent or defendant, in any proceeding, whether or not by or in the right of the Corporation, because such person is or was an officer of the Corporation or, while an officer of the Corporation, is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a representative of another organization (a “***Covered Officer***” and together with a Covered Director, a “***Covered Person***”), to the same extent that the Corporation may indemnify and advance expenses to a director of the Corporation under the TBOC, and such right to indemnification shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be an officer or representative and shall inure to the benefit of his or her heirs, executors and administrators. Without limiting the foregoing, the right to indemnification hereunder includes the right to such indemnification if the Covered Officer has met the standard of conduct under Section 8.101(a)(1) of the TBOC. It is expressly acknowledged that the indemnification provided in this Article VIII could involve indemnification OF A COVERED PERSON for THE COVERED PERSON’S OWN negligence or under theories of strict liability.

## **Right to Advancement of Expenses**. In addition to the right to indemnification conferred in Section 8.1 or Section 8.2, as the case may be, a Covered Person shall also have the right to be paid or reimbursed by the Corporation the reasonable expenses incurred in defending, testifying or otherwise participating in any such proceeding, in advance of the final disposition of the proceeding (an “***advancement of expenses***”) and without any determination as to the person’s ultimate entitlement to indemnification; provided, however, that an advancement of expenses incurred by a Covered Person in advance of the final disposition of a proceeding shall be made only upon delivery to the Corporation of a written affirmation by such person of such person’s good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification under the TBOC and a written undertaking (an “***undertaking***”), by or on behalf of such person, to repay all amounts so advanced if it shall be ultimately determined by final judicial decision from which there is no further right to appeal (a “***final adjudication***”) that the Covered Person has not met that standard or that indemnification of the Covered Person against expenses incurred by such person in connection with that proceeding is prohibited by the TBOC. The undertaking must be an unlimited general obligation of the Covered Person but need not be secured and shall be accepted by the Corporation without regard to the Covered Person’s ability to repay.

## **Right of Indemnitee to Bring Suit**. If a claim under Section 8.1, Section 8.2 or Section 8.3 is not paid in full by the Corporation within 60 days after a written claim therefor has been received by the Corporation, except in the case of a claim for an advancement of expenses, in which case the applicable period shall be 20 days, the Covered Person may at any time thereafter bring suit against the Corporation to recover the unpaid amount of the claim. If successful in whole or in part in any such suit, or in a suit brought by the Corporation to recover an advancement of expenses pursuant to the terms of an undertaking, the Covered Person shall also be entitled to be paid the expense of prosecuting or defending such suit. In (a) any suit brought by the Covered Person to enforce a right to indemnification hereunder (but not in a suit brought by a Covered Person to enforce a right to an advancement of expenses) it shall be a defense that such Covered Person has not met the applicable standard for indemnification set forth in the TBOC, and (b) any suit brought by the Corporation to recover an advancement of expenses pursuant to the terms of an undertaking, the Corporation shall be entitled to recover such expenses upon a final adjudication that the Covered Person has not met any applicable standard for indemnification set forth in the TBOC. Neither the failure of the Corporation (including its directors who are not parties to such action or any committee of such directors) to have made a determination prior to the commencement of such suit that indemnification of the Covered Person is proper in the circumstances because the Covered Person has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in the TBOC, nor an actual determination by the Corporation (including a determination by its directors who are not parties to such action or a committee of such directors) that the Covered Person has not met such applicable standard of conduct, shall create a presumption that the Covered Person has not met the applicable standard of conduct or, in the case of such a suit brought by the Covered Person, shall be a defense to such suit. In any suit brought by the Covered Person to enforce a right to indemnification or to an advancement of expenses hereunder, or by the Corporation to recover an advancement of expenses pursuant to the terms of an undertaking, the burden of proving that the Covered Person is not entitled to be indemnified, or to such advancement of expenses, under this Article VIII or otherwise shall be upon the Corporation.

## **Indemnification of Other Persons**. This Article VIII shall not limit the right of the Corporation to the extent and in the manner authorized or permitted by law to indemnify and to advance expenses to persons other than Covered Persons. Without limiting the foregoing, the Corporation may, to the extent authorized from time to time by the Board, grant rights to indemnification and to the advancement of expenses to any employee or agent of the Corporation and to any person who is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a representative of another organization to the same extent that it may indemnify and advance expenses to Covered Persons under this Article VIII and to any such further extent as may be authorized or permitted by law.

## **Appearance as a Witness**. To the extent a Covered Person is, by reason of being or having been a director or officer of the Corporation or a representative serving at the request of the Corporation, a witness or otherwise participates in any proceeding at a time when the Covered Person is not a defendant or respondent in the proceeding, the Corporation shall pay and reimburse reasonable expenses actually incurred by the Covered Person in connection therewith.

## **Non-Exclusivity of Rights**. The rights provided to a Covered Person pursuant to this Article VIII shall not be exclusive of any other right that any such person may have or hereafter acquire under any law (common or statutory), provision of the Certificate or these Bylaws, agreement, vote of disinterested directors, or otherwise.

## **Insurance and Other Arrangements**. The Corporation may, to the extent permitted by law, purchase and maintain insurance, create a trust fund, establish any form of self-insurance (including a contract to indemnify), secure its indemnity obligation by grant of a security interest or other lien on assets of the Corporation, establish a letter of credit guaranty or security arrangement, or establish and maintain any other arrangement (any of the foregoing, an “***arrangement***”) on behalf of any person who is or was serving as a director, officer, employee, agent or volunteer of the Corporation or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a representative of another organization against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in such a capacity or arising out of his or her status as such a person, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability. If the insurance or other arrangement involves self-insurance or is with a person or entity that is not regularly engaged in the business of providing insurance coverage, the insurance or arrangement may provide for payment of a liability with respect to which the Corporation would not have the power to indemnify the person only if the insurance or arrangement has been approved by the Board.

## **Notification**. To the extent required by law, any indemnification of or advancement of expenses to a director or officer by the Corporation shall be reported in writing to the Board with or before the notice or waiver of notice of the next meeting of the Board or with or before the next submission thereto of a consent to action without a meeting and, in any case, within the 12-month period immediately following the date of the indemnification or advance.

## **Amendments**. Any repeal or amendment of this Article VIII by the Board or by changes in applicable law, or the adoption of any other provision of these Bylaws inconsistent with this Article VIII, shall, to the extent permitted by applicable law, be prospective only (except to the extent such amendment or change in applicable law permits the Corporation to provide broader indemnification rights on a retroactive basis than permitted prior thereto), and will not in any way diminish or adversely affect any right or protection existing hereunder in respect of any act or omission occurring prior to such repeal or amendment or adoption of such inconsistent provision.

## **Contract Rights**. The rights provided to Covered Persons pursuant to this Article VIII shall be contract rights and such rights shall continue as to a Covered Person who has ceased to be a director, officer, agent, employee or volunteer and shall inure to the benefit of the Covered Person’s heirs, executors and administrators.

## **Certain Limitations**. If at any time the Corporation is deemed to be a private foundation within the meaning of Section 509 of the Code, then, during such time, no payment shall be made under this Article VIII if such payment would constitute an act of self-dealing or a taxable expenditure, as defined in Section 4941(d) or 4945(d), respectively, of the Code. Moreover, the Corporation shall not indemnify, reimburse, or insure any person in any instance where such indemnification, reimbursement, or insurance is inconsistent with Code Section 4958 or any other provision of the Code applicable to corporations described in Code Section 501(c)(3).

## **Severability**. If any provision or provisions of this Article VIII shall be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable for any reason whatsoever: (a) the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Article VIII shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby; and (b) to the fullest extent possible, the provisions of this Article VIII (including, without limitation, each such portion of this Article VIII containing any such provision held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable) shall be construed so as to give effect to the intent manifested by the provision held invalid, illegal or unenforceable.

# Operations

## **Execution of Documents**. Unless specifically authorized by the Board or as otherwise required by law, all contracts, deeds, conveyances, leases, promissory notes or legal written instruments executed in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation shall be signed and executed by the President (or such other person designated by the Board), pursuant to the general authorization of the Board. All conveyances of land by deed shall be signed by the President and must be approved by a resolution of the Board.

## **Disbursement of Funds**. Financial transactions that have a value of [*$10,000*] or more shall require approval of the Board. In all other transactions, the President may dispense the funds of the Corporation in accordance with the annual budget approved by the Board and in furtherance of the purposes of the Corporation as set forth in the Certificate and these Bylaws.

## **Records and Reports**.

### The Corporation shall maintain current and accurate financial records in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Based on these records, the Board shall annually prepare or approve a financial report for the Corporation for the preceding year. The annual report shall comply with Section 22.352 of the TBOC.[[35]](#footnote-35)

### The Corporation shall keep at its principal place of business correct and complete records, books and annual reports of the Corporation’s financial activity, and also keep minutes of the proceedings of the Board and committee meetings. The Corporation shall keep at its principal place of business the original or a copy of its Bylaws, including amendments to date certified by the Secretary of the Corporation.

## **Inspection of Books and Records**. Subject to the provisions of Section 22.353 of the TBOC, all books and records of the Corporation shall be made available to the public for inspection and copying at the Corporation’s principal place of business during regular business hours.[[36]](#footnote-36)

## **Loans to Management**. The Corporation will not make any loans to any of its directors or officers.[[37]](#footnote-37)

## **Amendments**. The Certificate may be amended at any time by a vote of a majority of the directors then in office.[[38]](#footnote-38) These Bylaws may be amended at any time by a vote of a majority of the directors then in office.[[39]](#footnote-39)

## **Fiscal Year**. The fiscal year for the Corporation shall be January 1 to December 31 in each year.

[**Signature Page Follows**]

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that these Bylaws were adopted by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on **[●]**, 20**[●]**.

By:
**[●]**, Secretary

**End Note**

Sample language regarding officer responsibilities (to be used in lieu of Sections 6.4 – 6.7 if the nonprofit corporation wishes to specify officer responsibilities in more detail).

**Section 6.4 President**

* The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Corporation and shall supervise and control the business and affairs of the Corporation and shall exercise such supervisory powers as may be given him or her by the Board.
* The President shall, when present, preside at all Board meetings.
* The President shall serve as an ex officio member of all standing committees, unless otherwise provided by the Board or these Bylaws.
* The President shall, with the advice of the Board and in accordance with the requirements of these Bylaws, set the agenda for each meeting of the Board.
* The President will perform all other duties incident to such office and such other duties as may be provided in these Bylaws or as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board.

**Section 6.5 Treasurer**

* The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of all funds of the Corporation, shall oversee and supervise the financial business of the Corporation, including reviewing revenue and expenditure transactions, shall render reports and accountings to the Board as required by the Board and shall perform in general all duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as may be required by law, the Certificate or these Bylaws, or which may be assigned from time to time by the Board.
* The Treasurer shall devise a plan providing for the acceptance and disbursement of all funds of the Corporation which shall be approved by the Board.
* The Treasurer, with the approval of the Board, shall set up all checking, savings and investment accounts of the Corporation and deposit all such funds in the name of the Corporation in such accounts.
* The Treasurer shall keep all financing records, books and annual reports of the financial activities of the Corporation at the principal office of the Corporation and make them available to the public during regular business hours for inspection and copying, as provided by and subject to Section 22.353 of the TBOC.

**Section 6.6 Secretary**

* The Secretary will perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as may be required by law, the Certificate or these Bylaws.
* The Secretary shall attest to and keep the Bylaws and other legal records of the Corporation at the principal office of the Corporation.
* The Secretary shall take or ensure that someone takes minutes of all meetings of the Board and committees, and shall keep copies of all minutes at the principal office of the Corporation.
* The Secretary shall keep a record of the names and addresses of the Directors and committee members at the principal office of the Corporation.
* The Secretary shall, with the approval of the Board, set up procedures for any elections held by the Corporation. The Secretary shall keep a record of all votes cast in such elections.
* The Secretary shall ensure that all the corporate records and books of the Corporation are made available to the public during regular business hours for inspection and copying as provided by and subject to Section 22.353 of the TBOC.
* The Secretary shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with these Bylaws or as required by law.
1. It is not necessary to include a “Purpose” section in the Bylaws. However, many nonprofit corporations include such a section in their bylaws as the bylaws are often the operative document to which directors and officers refer regarding the management of the corporation’s affairs. If a “Purpose” section is included, it should be the same as the Purpose section in the Certificate of Formation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. It is not necessary to describe the Corporation’s mission in greater detail, but most nonprofit corporations prefer a statement of their specific mission. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A director of a Texas nonprofit corporation is not required to be a resident of Texas or a member of the corporation unless the certificate of formation or bylaws impose such a requirement. The certificate of formation or bylaws may prescribe other qualifications for directors. TBOC § 22.203. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. A Texas nonprofit corporation must have at least three directors. TBOC § 22.204(a). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The number of directors must be set by, or by the manner provided by, the certificate of formation or the bylaws, except that the number of directors on the initial board of directors must be set by the certificate of formation and in any event a nonprofit corporation must have at least three directors. The number of directors may be increased or decreased by amendment to, or in the manner provided by, the certificate of formation or bylaws, but a decrease in the number of directors cannot shorten the term of an incumbent director. TBOC § 22.204. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Directors other than the initial directors are elected or appointed for the terms specified in the certificate of formation or bylaws. A director on the initial board holds office until the first annual election of directors or for the period specified in the certificate of formation or bylaws. TBOC § 22.208. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Directors may be divided into classes and the terms of office of the several classes are not required to be uniform. TBOC § 22.209. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Unless otherwise provided by the certificate of formation or bylaws, a vacancy in the board of directors of a nonprofit corporation shall be filled by the affirmative vote of the majority of the remaining directors, regardless of whether that majority is less than a quorum. TBOC § 22.212(a). A director elected to fill a vacancy is elected for the unexpired term of the director’s predecessor in office. TBOC § 22.212(a). A vacancy in the board of a nonprofit corporation that has no members that occurs because of an increase in the number of directors shall be filled as provided by the certificate of formation or bylaws. TBOC § 22.212(b). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Include this clause if the option of no terms for directors is used in Section 3.4. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Include this clause if the option of one-year terms for directors is used in Section 3.4. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Include this clause if the option of staggered three-year terms for directors is used in Section 3.4. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Except as provided by the certificate of formation or bylaws, a director of a nonprofit corporation may resign at any time by providing written notice to the corporation. TBOC § 22.2111. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. A director of a nonprofit corporation may be removed from office under any procedure provided by the certificate of formation or bylaws of the corporation. TBOC § 22.211(a). [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. A nonprofit corporation is prohibited from making loans to directors. TBOC § 22.225(a). [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. The certificate of formation or bylaws of a nonprofit corporation may provide that a person may be an ex officio member of the board of directors of the corporation. A person designated as an ex officio member of the board is entitled to receive notice of and to attend board meetings. An ex officio member is not entitled to vote unless the certificate of formation or bylaws authorize the member to vote. An ex officio member of the board who is not entitled to vote does not have the duties or liabilities of a director provided by the TBOC. TBOC § 22.210. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. TBOC § 6.001 provides that the governing persons of a domestic corporation, or a committee of the governing persons, may hold meetings in or outside the State of Texas as provided by or fixed in accordance with (i) the governing documents or (ii) the person calling the meeting, or as otherwise agreed to by all persons entitled to notice of the meeting. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Regular meetings of the board of directors of a nonprofit corporation may be held with or without notice as prescribed by the corporation’s bylaws. TBOC § 22.217(a). [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Special meetings of the board of directors shall be held with notice as prescribed by the bylaws. TBOC § 22.217(b). Notice may be delivered personally or in accordance with TBOC § 6.051(b). TBOC § 22.217(d). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. TBOC § 22.217(c). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Attendance of a director at a meeting constitutes a waiver of notice, unless the director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. TBOC § 22.217(b). [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. A quorum for the transaction of business by the board of directors of a nonprofit corporation is the lesser of: (1) the majority of the number of directors set by the corporation’s bylaws or, in the absence of a bylaw setting the number of directors, a majority of the number of directors stated in the corporation’s certificate of formation; or (2) any number, not less than three, set as a quorum by the certificate of formation or bylaws. TBOC § 22.213(a). [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Include this clause if directors will be permitted to vote by proxy. See Section 4.7 of these bylaws. TBOC § 22.213(b) provides that directors present by proxy may not be counted toward a quorum. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Include this clause if directors will be permitted to vote by proxy. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. The act of a majority of the directors present in person or by proxy at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be an act of the board of directors unless a greater number is required by the certificate of formation or bylaws. TBOC § 22.214. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. TBOC § 22.220 permits action by written consent on the terms set forth in this Section 4.7. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. The TBOC permits directors of nonprofit corporations to vote by proxy if so authorized by the certificate of formation or bylaws. TBOC § 22.215-22.216. A proxy expires three months after the date it is executed. TBOC § 22.216(a). [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. TBOC § 6.002. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. If authorized by the certificate of formation or bylaws, the board of directors of a nonprofit corporation, by resolution adopted by a majority of the directors in office, may designate one or more committees to have and exercise the authority of the board in the management of the corporation to the extent provided by the resolution, the certificate of formation, or the bylaws. A committee so designated must consist of at least two persons. Unless the corporation is a religious institution, a majority of the persons on the committee must be directors. If provided by the certificate of formation or the bylaws, the remaining persons on the committee are not required to be directors. If the corporation is a religious institution and if the corporation’s certificate of formation or bylaws so provide, the committee may be composed entirely of persons who are not directors. The designation of a committee and the delegation of authority to the committee does not operate to relieve the board of directors, or an individual director, of any responsibility imposed on the board or director by law. A committee member who is not a director has the same responsibility with respect to the committee as a committee member who is a director. TBOC § 22.218. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. The board of directors, by resolution adopted by a majority of the directors at a meeting at which a quorum is present, or the president, if authorized by a similar resolution of the board of directors or by the certificate of formation or bylaws, may designate and appoint one or more committees that do not have the authority of the board of directors in the management of the corporation. The membership on such committees may be limited to directors. TBOC § 22.219. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. While it is common in the bylaws for a for-profit corporation to describe the responsibilities of each officer in rather general terms, some nonprofit corporations prefer to be very specific as to the responsibilities that each officer will have. We have included in the end note to these bylaws sample language for this approach. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. The officers of a nonprofit corporation must include a president and a secretary and may include one or more vice presidents, a treasurer, and other officers and assistant officers as considered necessary. Any two or more offices, other than the offices of president and secretary, may be held by the same person. TBOC § 22.231(a). The officers may be designated by other or additional titles as provided by the certificate of formation or the bylaws. TBOC § 22.231(c). In a typical startup nonprofit, the officers often are also the founders of the nonprofit, serve on the nonprofit’s board of directors, and are not compensated by the nonprofit for their services. Some nonprofits (particularly very large, well-established organizations) have a position titled “executive director,” which historically has connoted a paid officer position charged with running the day-to-day operations of the organization (somewhat analogous to a chief operating officer of a for-profit corporation). However, the titles and responsibilities of top officers of nonprofits are often not well-delineated. If the Corporation is to have an executive director, the responsibilities of the executive director should be clearly defined. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. The term of an officer cannot exceed three years. TBOC § 22.232. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. These Bylaws provide broad indemnification rights to directors and officers consistent with Chapter 8 of the TBOC. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. The Corporation may wish to extend this indemnification to committee members who are not directors if, pursuant to Section 5.2, committees may be established that are not composed entirely of directors. Alternatively, the Corporation may wish to indemnify such persons pursuant to Section 8.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. TBOC § 22.352 requires a nonprofit corporation to maintain current and accurate financial records with complete entries as to each financial transaction of the corporation, including income and expenditures, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Based on such records, the board of directors shall annually prepare or approve a financial report for the corporation for the preceding year. The report must conform to accounting standards as adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and must include: (i) a statement of support, revenue and expenses; (ii) a statement of changes in fund balances; (iii) a statement of functional expenses; and (iv) a balance sheet for each fund. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. A nonprofit corporation must keep records, books and annual reports of the corporation’s financial activity at the corporation’s registered or principal office in Texas for at least three years after the close of the fiscal year. The corporation must make the records, books and reports available to the public for inspection and copying at the corporation’s registered or principal office during regular business hours. The corporation may charge a reasonable fee for preparing a copy of a record or report. TBOC § 22.353. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. A nonprofit corporation is not allowed to make loans to directors, and loans can be made to officers only under certain conditions. TBOC § 22.055. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. TBOC § 22.164 provides that the vote required to approve an amendment to the certificate of formation of a nonprofit corporation that has no members is the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors in office. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. The TBOC does not specify the vote required to approve amendments to the bylaws. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)