

# Articles of Association

## Preamble

By linking art and innovation, societal change can be advanced. Together, they address, confront, make visible, promote discussion and reflection, reveal possibilities for action, and develop and unfold sustainable and alternative approaches and potentials.

Possible, but not exclusive, thematic fields of art and innovation may include, for example:

- coexistence within communities and society
- respectful interaction with flora, fauna and the Earth and its resources
- engagement with a fair monetary and economic system
- societal change through the internet and other digital technologies
- challenges of demographic change
- promotion of gender equality
- strengthening civic engagement

The “Institute for Art and Innovation e.V.” supports and promotes the interaction between art and innovation and their contribution to society.

## § 1 Name, registered office, financial year

The association bears the name “**Institute for Art and Innovation e.V.**”

The registered office of the association is in Berlin. The financial year of the association is the calendar year.

## § 2 Purpose of the association

The association exclusively and directly pursues charitable purposes within the meaning of the section “tax-privileged purposes” of the German Fiscal Code (AO). It operates on a non-profit basis and does not primarily pursue its own economic interests. It works in a multidisciplinary, cross-thematic and holistic way and is politically neutral.

The purpose of the association is to promote the interaction of art and innovation:

a) The promotion of art and culture (cultural purposes):

- a. to bring the general public closer to art and cultural heritage;
- b. to enable people to become artistically, creatively and innovatively active themselves;
- c. to positively influence the environment for the interaction of art and innovation by developing and making visible new perspectives and sensitivity to societal change;
- d. to make actors in these fields visible and to encourage, educate and support new actors;
- e. to highlight the close connection between art and innovation and to create new opportunities for initiative and participation for as many population groups as possible.

b) The promotion of **education** for the general public:

- a. to increase the knowledge and skills of individuals in general education, vocational training and continuing education, including university studies;
- b. to ensure that education does not only include theoretical instruction but is complemented by opportunities for practical engagement, such as workshops, keynote talks, online seminars, mentoring of young talents, and activities related to digital and socio-ecological transformation, in particular sustainability and the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

c) The promotion of **science and research**:

- a. to orient activities toward objectively verifiable methods that serve the aggregation and synthesis of knowledge and are aimed at generating scientific findings of a general nature;
- b. to develop and implement the association’s own research projects, especially those that foster understanding of the interaction between art and innovation, highlight its potential, and make it widely known;

- c. to organize scientific events, such as lectures and workshops, and to provide the general public with access to this transfer of knowledge;
- d. to aim to establish the interaction between art and innovation as an important and recognized field of artistic research, innovation research and futures research;
- e. to promote greater openness toward the interaction of artistic and innovative initiatives as well as civil society participation among as many population groups as possible;
- f. to publish research results in a timely manner and to ensure the compilation, maintenance, curation and evaluation of scientific collections and libraries.

d) The promotion of **civic engagement** in support of the purposes specified in the Articles of Association:

- a. to use the interaction of art and innovation, as well as the ideas, approaches and methods derived from it, to open up new opportunities for initiative and participation for as many population groups as possible.

e) The promotion of **environmental protection**:

- a. to prevent damage to the natural human habitat within planetary boundaries;
- b. to develop and implement measures to preserve long-established natural habitats for humans, animals and plants, to protect them from harmful interventions, and to restore disrupted ecological balance;
- c. to support the central concerns of modern society by reconciling social and ecological demands;
- d. to make visible, address and develop ideas and approaches that use the interaction of art and innovation to achieve compatibility between nature conservation and societal development, particularly with regard to emission protection and waste management.

f) The promotion of an international outlook, tolerance in all areas, culture, and the idea of international understanding:

- a. to develop and strengthen friendly relations between all cultures. Example activities include cultural knowledge transfer, cultural encounters, and agreement on the peaceful coexistence of cultures;
- b. to make visible, address and develop ideas and approaches that use the means of interaction between art and innovation to sustainably and permanently reduce global differences in socio-economic development and general living conditions;
- c. to develop new approaches to educational work in this context, based on the interaction of art and innovation or derived methods and strategies;
- d. in particular, development cooperation includes environmental protection, the promotion of education and training systems, and education policy measures.

The association's purpose shall be achieved through:

- The organization, implementation, and support of artistic and scientific projects in accordance with its non-profit objectives (see §52(1) AO), which are made known and accessible to the general public, e.g. through the awarding of prizes and competitions, the granting of residency programs and commissions to artists, the organization of events and conferences, the realization of studies and research projects, and the organization of working and study groups.
- The organization, implementation, and support of educational events (lectures aimed at general and opinion-forming audiences, seminars, workshops, conferences, panel discussions and discussion rounds, as well as exhibitions and cultural projects).
- Publication of information on the association's fields of activity, work results, and process documentation to promote public discussion.
- Public relations in the form of online publications (own website, blogs, social media, information campaigns) and traditional media, as well as PR activities and the association's own publications.
- Cooperation with international partners and organizations, implementation of international projects, and the establishment of an international network with the aim of realizing the association's objectives on an international scale.

- Establishment and operation of one or more association premises to ensure the long-term local anchoring of the association's mission and offerings, such as events or residency programs for artists, researchers, and innovators, as well as serving as a place for encounter and exchange with civil society.

The association operates in a multidisciplinary and cross-thematic manner. It takes a holistic approach and remains politically neutral.

### **§ 3 Funds of the association**

The association's funds may be used only for purposes specified in the Articles of Association. Members shall not receive any benefits from the association's funds. This shall not preclude the reimbursement of expenses or appropriate remuneration for services rendered on the basis of contractual agreements, provided that such payments are in accordance with the association's non-profit status.

### **§ 4 Membership**

No person may be favored through expenditures that are unrelated to the purpose of the association, or through disproportionately high remuneration.

Members of the association may be natural persons and legal entities under public law, legally capable corporations, as well as public-law institutions and foundations that support the goals and purposes of the association.

There are regular members, supporting members, and honorary members. Only those who are actively involved in the association's field of activity may become regular members. Regular membership is always concluded for an unlimited period.

Supporting members support the association's objectives through material and financial contributions. Supporting membership may be concluded for a limited or unlimited period and in any case requires a written supporting membership agreement.

The Executive Board decides on written applications for membership; an application may be rejected without providing reasons.

Membership begins upon confirmation of admission and receipt of the membership fee for the first year.

### **§ 5 Termination of membership**

Members may withdraw from the association at any time. Notice of withdrawal must be communicated to the Executive Board in writing. If a member has not paid membership fees for more than 6 months, membership may be terminated in writing. No refunds of membership fees will be made.

Membership is automatically terminated upon the death of the member in the case of natural persons or upon the dissolution of the legal entity.

### **§ 6 Members**

Members undertake to comply with the Articles of Association and the resolutions of the General Meeting. They are required to actively support the association's purpose and objectives. All members are entitled to attend General Meetings, submit motions, and exercise their voting rights. Each member has one vote. The association may reimburse its members for expenses, provided these are approved in advance and supported by appropriate documentation.

### **§ 7 Membership fees and funding**

The association's purpose is funded through membership dues, grants, donations, and self-financing generated through the association's activities.

The amount of the membership dues is determined by the General Meeting by a simple majority. Honorary members may be exempted from paying dues.

### **§ 8 Bodies of the association**

The governing bodies of the association are the Executive Board and the General Meeting.

## **§ 9 Board**

The Executive Board consists of at least two and no more than five members, two of whom (primarily the Chair and the Vice Chair) have joint authority to represent the association. The General Meeting determines the number of Executive Board members when appointing the Executive Board.

The members of the Executive Board are elected by a simple majority of the General Meeting for a term of three years. Re-election is permitted. If an elected member of the Executive Board resigns during their term of office, the remaining members of the Executive Board shall elect a replacement member for the remainder of the term, who must be confirmed by a simple majority at the next General Meeting.

The members of the Executive Board have no claim to the income from the association's assets.

To the extent that they serve the association on a voluntary basis, they are entitled to reimbursement of their actual expenses, provided these do not exceed what is customary. Members of the Executive Board may be paid reasonable compensation based on an employment contract or a special agreement. The corresponding compensation is set forth in the Articles of Association.

## **§ 10 Responsibilities and duties of the Executive Board**

The Executive Board manages the affairs of the association and represents it in and out of court. Two members of the Executive Board are authorized to represent the association at any given time.

Resolutions are passed by a majority vote. The Executive Board submits an annual activity report and financial report to the General Meeting.

## **§ 11 General Meeting**

The General Meeting is held once a year. In addition, an extraordinary General Meeting may be held if the interests of the association so require, or if one third of the members submit a written request to the Executive Board stating the reasons.

The invitation shall be issued by the Executive Board in text form, observing a notice period of at least two weeks and including the agenda. Each member has one vote at the General Meeting. Voting rights must be exercised in person at the General Meeting.

The ordinary General Meeting shall deliberate and decide on the following matters:

- Election of the recording secretary
- Annual report
- Financial statements / approval of the financial report
- Discharge of the Executive Board
- Election of the Executive Board
- Determination of membership fees
- Amendment of the Articles of Association
- Dissolution of the association

The General Meeting shall be deemed valid regardless of the number of members present, provided it has been properly convened. Resolutions of the General Meeting are passed by a simple majority of the votes cast. This also applies to the election of the Executive Board. The chairperson of the meeting determines the method of voting. Minutes shall be taken of the resolutions of the General Meeting and must be signed by the chairperson and the minutes secretary.

## **§ 12 Non-profit status, directness, and dissolution of the association**

The association may be dissolved by resolution of the General Meeting. In the event of the dissolution of the association or the loss of its tax-privileged status, the assets of the association shall be transferred to a legal entity under public law or another tax-privileged organisation for the purpose of being used to promote education or art and culture.

Resolutions regarding the future use of the assets may only be implemented after approval by the tax authorities.