

CONSTITUTION

DIDAR CULTURAL FORUM

ARTICLE I: NAME

This constitution establishes Didar Cultural Forum (hereafter referred to as "Didar") at the University of Toronto, in Canada.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1 - Objectives

The main objectives of Didar are:

1. To facilitate a better understanding of how cinema gets its influence from society, culture, politics, and history, and how these are reflected and represented in movies.
2. To attract Iranian elites towards forming a society through which they can discover how cinema can be helpful in regards to figuring out the immigration challenges, and the ways it can get them closer to each other.
3. To form a discussion group with the objective of improving the members' knowledge of film analysis, methods of understanding cinema under the supervision of Hossein Moazezinia, a renown Iranian movie critic and cinema professor.
4. To have weekly screenings of Iranian Classic movies so the audience can get a chance of gaining a deeper knowledge of Iran's cinema and its history, movements, and influential figures.

Section 2 - Official Language

The official languages are Farsi and English.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Membership to the group is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto members. U of T registered students are permitted to run, nominate, and vote in elections and constitutional amendments. The group is open to non-U of T members. However, these members do not hold the aforementioned rights.

Section 2 - There is no restriction on recruitment. People with all different ethnicities, religions, and educational level are welcome to be a member of Didar.

Section 3 - All members of Didar shall provide the Executive committee with their email address.

Section 4 - Didar shall consist of the following types of members: Constitutive members and Associate members.

Section 5 - University of Toronto community members including students, faculty, staff, and alumni are called the Constitutive Members in case they are recognized by the Executive Committee as active attendees who have attended more than %50 of the weekly Didar forum. The members who are not affiliated with the University of Toronto are classified as Associate Members in case they are recognized by the Executive Committee as active attendees who have attended more than %50 of the weekly Didar forums. All of the other members including both U of T affiliates and non-affiliates who are not recognized as active attendees of the forums are classified as Participants.

Section 6 - Privileges of Members

1. Constitutive Members have full voting rights, the ability to nominate and run for the executive positions, and the ability to propose and vote on constitutional amendments.
2. Associate Members do not have voting and decision-making abilities, but they can consult, support and advise the constitutive members.
3. Participants are welcome to enjoy all the facilities provided by Didar and take part in the Didar forums. Participants may not vote on any matter pertaining to Didar.

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 - Structure

There shall be an Executive Committee from U of T community members (hereafter referred to as "the Committee") which shall be composed of Board of Directors and Subcommittees. Board of Directors (hereafter referred to as "the Board") is consisted of five officers (President,

Coordinator, Public relations, Treasurer, Secretary) according to the University of Toronto Policy on recognition of campus groups. They are known as Board Members.

Section 2 - Authority and Duties of the Committee

1. The committee represents Didar in all matters.
2. The committee presides over all Group Meetings and determines the general direction of Didar.
3. The committee carries out functions to fulfill the development and objectives of Didar and the policies laid down by the Committee Meetings for the general interest of Didar.
4. The committee recognizes Constitutive and Associate Members of Didar.
5. The committee is responsible for all the recruitments and possible exclusion of members. Any exclusion of a member of Didar must be based on voting among the Constitutive and Associate Members in an extraordinary general meeting as described in Article VI.
6. The committee is responsible for generating a friendly environment inside Didar and gathering the ideas and opinions of all the members and supervising the function of subcommittees.
7. The committee has to make sure that Didar is governed democratically and make sure that all the members' opinions are being heard and used. Of course, the final decisions are always based on votes of the Constitutive and Associate members. A simple majority of the votes shall be required to pass any resolution.
8. The committee must have general meetings which are open to all members.

Section 3: Termination of Executives or General Members

Any member of the club who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the club and its members, including non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest, may be given notice of removal. The member up for removal shall have the right to defend their actions. A two-thirds majority vote of the current members present in favor of removal is required. The member must have the right to an appeal before the general membership, and the majority vote of the general membership will have the final say on the matter.

The member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.

Executive members are subject to the same termination or impeachment process and, as determined by the vote, may lose their executive position along with their membership to the group.

Section 4 - Election of the Board of Directors

The Board members are elected at the annual general meeting. The candidates with the most votes shall be elected for the position and hold responsible immediately after the election until the next election. Due to the University of Toronto regulations, members of the Board are chosen by-elections in which only Constitutive Members may vote. All Constitutive Members have one equal vote and they are all eligible to nominate and run for the Board positions. Associate Members are not eligible to nominate for or vote on the Board positions.

Section 5 - Vacancies and Resignation

1. In case of any Board member's wish to resign, s/he must present a written request of resignation to the Executive Committee, at least one week before the resignation approval.
2. A public notice shall be posted within 7 days after the approval of any change or resignation of the Executives.
3. The Committee will appoint a new member right after.

Section 6 - Subcommittees

The number and responsibilities of the subcommittees will be chosen based on a general agreement among the Executives. The list of subcommittees is as follows:

- (1) Reading Subcommittee
- (2) Multimedia Subcommittee
- (3) Publication Subcommittee

Each of the Executives can be a member of the subcommittees based on a general agreement among the Executives.

In case there were more subcommittee members needed, the committee should call for nominations. All the Constitutive and Associate Members are eligible to nominate for the subcommittee positions. Subcommittee members are appointed by the Board. All the subcommittees are to be synchronized with the Committee and inform the Committee and all the other members about their affairs in general meetings.

ARTICLE V: FINANCE

1. The group's executive or members may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature. This is not intended to preclude the collection of membership fees to cover the expenses of the group, or of charges for specific activities, programs or events, or to prohibit groups from engaging in legitimate fundraising. However, the group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus part of a commercial organization, will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the organization, and will not pay salaries to some or all of its officers.
2. A bank account shall be opened and maintained in the name of Didar. Designated account signatories shall be the President and the Treasurer. No sum shall be drawn from the Forum Account except by cheque signed by two signatories.
3. All monies payable to the Forum shall be received by the Treasurer and deposited in the account.
4. All disbursements of club funds shall be by cheque or other auditable documents.
5. A person designated by the Board of Directors shall make a review of the financial transactions of Didar each year. The Financial Statement shall be made available to the membership of Didar.
6. The Forum shall keep accounting records for recording the fact and nature of all payments and receipts so as to disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position, including the assets and liabilities of the Forum. Didar must retain its accounting records for a minimum of six years.

ARTICLE VI: GENERAL MEETINGS

Section 1 - Authority

Any resolution passed by a majority vote in a General Meeting shall possess the highest authority in Didar. The resolution shall be abided by all members.

Section 2 - Convening

Three of the Board members are enough to convene the meetings.

Section 3 - Notice

Official notices of all General Meetings, the agenda, and motions are to be posted at least 7 days beforehand.

Section 4 - Annual General Meeting

1. An annual general meeting shall be held each August.
2. The annual general meeting shall be convened by any of the Board members.
3. The business of the annual general meeting shall include the following:
 1. To receive and adopt the outline of the previous annual general meeting together with the outlines of all extraordinary general meetings held during the current session.
 2. To receive and adopt the annual report prepared by the Committee for the current session.
 3. To receive, adopt, and pass the annual financial report for the current session.
 4. To pass the amendment of the constitution, if any.
 5. To introduce and appoint the honorary members, if any.
 6. To introduce the Committee for the coming session.
 7. To receive, adopt, and pass the annual plan as well as the annual financial budget for the coming session.

Section 5 - Extraordinary General Meeting

1. No Extraordinary general meeting shall be held unless it is requested by any of the Board members or in accordance with a written requisition signed by one-third of all Constitutive Members.
2. Official notices of extraordinary general meetings, the agenda, and motions to be put to the meeting shall be posted at least 7 days beforehand.
3. No business other than stated in the agenda shall be discussed at any extraordinary general meeting without the consent of at least two-thirds of the Constitutive and Associate members present.

Section 6 - Vote of Non-Confidence

1. A vote of non-confidence for any infringement of the constitution, any negligence of duties, or any misconduct may be against any member of the Executive Committee at an extraordinary general meeting held specifically for the purpose.
2. The vote of no-confidence shall be passed in accord with a simple majority of votes by Constitutive members attending the specific extraordinary general meeting and call for the immediate resignation of person or persons against whom the vote(s) is/are moved.

Section 7 - General Meeting Regulations

1. All Constitutive and Associate members shall have the right to speak, raise motion, second, and vote in all general meetings.
2. The chairperson of the general meetings shall only have the right to make the casting vote.
3. A simple majority of the vote cast shall be required to pass any motion.
4. Any of the Constitutive or Associate members who cannot be present at such meetings must let the Board know about their absence at least 3 days before the meeting; otherwise, their vote will simply be neglected.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTIONS

Section 1 - General Polling Regulations

1. A notice of the General Polling shall be posted at least 7 days beforehand.
2. A general polling shall only be convened by any of the members of the Board.

3. All general polling shall be voted in the form of secret ballots.
4. Counting ballots shall be finished within twenty-four hours after the closure of voting.
5. A simple majority of the vote cast shall be required to pass any resolution.

Section 2 - Supervision

At least three of the Board members are required to supervise the general polling.

ARTICLE VIII: CONSTITUTION

Section 1 - Interpretation

The interpretation of this constitution shall rest with the Board of Didar unless revoked by voting in a general meeting.

Section 2 - Amendment

Any amendment of this constitution may be put forth by any of the Constitutive members and it shall be considered in an annual general meeting or an extraordinary general meeting. A prior notice of the proposed amendment must be posted 7 days beforehand. Voting on amendments is open only to the Constitutive members and it will be passed or rejected by a simple majority of votes. All the Constitutive members will have one equal vote.