

# Constitution of “EmpowART UofT”

## 1. Name

The official name of this recognized student group is “**EmpowART UofT**”

## 2. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of organization is outlined here: We aim to increase the use of painting and other visual art media as a healing tool in hospitals, senior homes, and rehabilitation centres while empowering students to be leaders and take control of their volunteering experience. Students will lead fun and interactive painting workshops through step-by-step instruction. We hope to cater towards patients that are recovering from traumatic injuries and to help alleviate loneliness in hospitals and long term care facilities. Our goal is to also serve as a reflective space where students can share their experiences.

## 3. Membership

Executive members with voting privileges shall be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.

Staff, faculty, or alumni members may hold non-voting executive positions. These nonvoting executive positions shall be limited to a maximum of one (1) or ten per cent (10%) of the full executive body, whichever is greatest. Persons holding these nonvoting executive positions cannot serve as an officer (including financial signing officer) or contact person of the Student Group.

Non-voting membership may be extended to interested staff, faculty, and alumni, or persons from outside the University, without restriction on those grounds outlined by the Ontario Human Rights Code’s Prohibited Grounds of Discrimination. However, these members do not hold the aforementioned rights. Members must register with a designated executive by submitting their full name and a valid email address.

The membership fee will be **\$15 per semester** for new members and **\$10 per semester** for returning members.

For recognition by the University of Toronto Students’ Union (UTSU), the group must maintain a minimum of 30 members, a total of 51% of membership are UTSU members. The group must

also maintain recognition from the Office of Student Life. These requirements are subject to change and should be checked with UTSU annually to ensure qualifications are met.

#### **4. Executive List and Duties**

The executive committee shall be comprised of 12 elected officers. These include President, Vice-President, Secretaries, Outreach & Events Coordinators, Social Media Managers, Artistic Director, Treasurer, and Literary Representatives.

##### Co-Presidents (3) shall:

Shall oversee the operations, management and success of the group

Manage the executive team through regular and effective communication to ensure that all executives are on the same page and well-informed about current club priorities

Be the spokesperson for the group

Hold signing officer authority along with the Treasurer for financial purposes

Preside over board meetings as well as general club meetings

Ensure transition of office to the future executives

Ensure that all the activities of the club meet regulations and policies of the University of Toronto

Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts

Manage overarching club administrations including but not limited to updating the website, creating Google forms, designing volunteer training materials and executing specific logistical tasks that contribute to the overall operations of the club.

Additional responsibilities may include: serving as the primary and secondary contact person for the club by responding to phone or email inquiries in a timely fashion.

##### The Secretaries (2) shall:

Monitor the club email account daily and answer any general inquiries or forward them to the appropriate executive as necessary.

Organize teams for workshops based on scheduled workshop times agreed upon with the partners.

Write meeting minutes for all executive and general member meetings

Update club calendar to ensure accurate records of meetings and workshops

Provide updates at executive meetings regarding the club schedule and any organizational matters.

Maintain updated member contact lists for tracking purposes

##### The Outreach & Events Coordinators (2) shall:

Liaise with local hospitals and long-term care homes

Seek to recruit more partners for workshop locations  
Plan general member social events  
Come up with ideas to promote the club  
Keep an accurate record of current partners

Social Media Managers (2) shall:

Maintain and update the website and social media platforms  
Take photos during workshops for post content  
Reply to any inquiries or messages in a timely manner  
Make weekly posts with workshop photos/videos featuring workshops at our different partner locations  
Make posts regarding important club updates and events

Artistic Director shall:

Finalize art/craft activities for workshops  
Make a list of materials needed and restock materials regularly at Kintore College  
Provide artistic expertise for any artistic activities or club socials as needed  
Regularly read workshop feedback form  
Work in partnership with the president and vice president to improve workshop experiences by identifying points of improvement or potential new ideas for further development of the club.  
Support the secretaries in any workshop organizational matters as needed  
Make forms for any events or scheduling purposes

The Treasurer shall:

Record all financial transactions of the group  
Hold signing officer authority along with the President for financial purposes  
Maintain a budget of income and expenses along with receipts  
Advise members on financial position of the group  
Prepare an annual budget for the group as well as budgets for specific events  
Present financial records to the group members annually  
Additional responsibilities may include: coordinate fundraising events  
Actively seek out and complete applications for grants and funds for the club

The Literary Representatives (2) shall:

Write monthly articles promoting/ spreading awareness about the club and the club mission statement  
Seek outlets to publish articles  
Interview participants and club members (with permission) for article content  
Managing behind the scenes operations of the club including but not limited to updating the website, creating google forms, and administrative tasks that contribute to the overall upkeep of the club.

### **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 his/her actions. A vote will be held at an executive meeting, and a two-thirds majority vote of the current executives 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.

### **5. Elections**

The executive committee shall strike the Elections Committee and appoint one (1) Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and two (2) Scrutinizers from the general members on the committee to conduct and hold elections in March. All members of the Elections Committee shall be non-biased in the results of the election and shall be required to disclose any and all conflicts of interest in the election.

The CRO Returning Officer shall accept nominations only from group members that are registered U of T students for voting positions, and staff, faculty, or alumni members for non-voting executive positions from the general membership before the beginning of March. Candidates have to be members in good standing and be part of the group for at least one month prior to the nomination period.

The CRO shall select three (3) election dates before March 30<sup>th</sup> for the voting period. These dates will be announced in a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to elections dates and must fall on weekdays.

The CRO and Scrutinizers shall provide each voting U of T registered student with a paper ballot or digital equivalent on the voting dates and ask the student to place their ballot in an enclosed box.

In preparation for a tie, the CRO shall select a U of T registered student executive from amongst the executive committee, to cast their ballot and seal it in an envelope. In the event of a tie for an executive position, one of the two Scrutinizers shall break the seal and count the ballot in order to break the tie.

After the election is over, the CRO and Scrutinizers shall count the ballots. The candidate with the most votes shall be elected to the position. The CRO and Scrutinizers shall submit a report of the results of the elections to the Executive Committee and general members.

Registered U of T students may not vote by proxy. Non-registered students may not nominate or vote in elections.

Only registered U of T students who have paid any applicable membership fees and have been a member in good standing for 30 days prior to election dates are eligible for voting.

Term of executive positions shall be from May 1st to April 30th.

## **6. Finances**

The Treasurer shall keep records of all income and expenses. The Treasurer shall present the group's financial health at the annual general meetings. The Executive Committee will vote on expenditures of over \$200.00 by majority vote at an executive meeting.

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.

## **7. Meetings**

### a) Annual General Meetings (AGMs):

The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year, i.e. once per academic term.

The Executive Committee will announce these dates two (2) weeks prior to holding the meetings. These meetings are intended to go over the group's annual activity plan, financial health and propose or vote on constitutional amendments, if any. Motions will require 2/3 majority of registered members in attendance for a vote to be cast. The motion with the most votes will be passed.

b) Executive Meetings:

The executive committee shall meet on a monthly basis where date and times are to be set by an executive. The quorum of executive meetings shall be 50%+1 of executives.

## **8. Amendments**

Any registered U of T students may propose and vote on amendments to this constitution. The Executive Committee will administer the process of having amendments discussed at general meetings.

Constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority to be passed at Annual General Meetings by registered U of T members in attendance.

The Executive Committee shall formally adopt the new constitution and submit the revised constitution to the respective University offices (i.e. The Office of Student Life, The University of Toronto Students' Union, etc) within two (2) weeks of its approval by general members.