

The Caribbean and African Dance Club Constitution

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Caribbean and African Dance Club (CADC).

ARTICLE II: Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this club is to offer students here at Lafayette a creative learning experience through dance in order to understand the culture of Caribbean and African countries.

The Caribbean and African Dance Club will aim to:

- Create and perform cultural dance routines.
- Be accepting and patient of students with different levels of experience.
- Respect the purpose of the club.
- Put on and perform for the Afro-Caribbean Showcase each fall.

ARTICLE III: Relationship

The Caribbean and African Dancing Club is unaffiliated with any local, state, or national organization or entity. Although this organization has members who are students at Lafayette College and may have College employees associated with or engaged in its operations, Lafayette College does not direct, supervise, or control the organization and is not responsible nor to be held liable for the organization's contracts, acts, or omissions. The Caribbean and African Dancing Club is overseen by the Student Organizations Committee of Student Government at Lafayette.

ARTICLE IV: Membership

- Active membership in the Caribbean and African Dancing Club shall be limited to students who are currently enrolled at Lafayette College. Active members are eligible to vote and hold office in the Caribbean and African Dance Club.
- Associate membership in the Caribbean and African Dancing Club is open to all Lafayette College faculty and staff. Associate members are not eligible to vote or hold office in this club.
- The number of active members in the club must be one more than 51% of the total number of members in the Caribbean and African Dance Club.
- To obtain active member status, prospective members can join after attending two consecutive club meetings and paying any necessary dues. There is no formal application or interview required.
- Annual dues of \$10 shall be paid by Caribbean and African Dancing Club members of each academic year, after which a member will have their active status revoked by failing to pay dues. Individuals seeking active membership in the club past a semester shall pay the annual dues at the next business meeting.
- Members must register on DSE prior to participating

- Membership in registered student organizations are open to all students of Lafayette College, regardless of race, religion, sex, ability status, national origin, color, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual identity, or veteran status.

ARTICLE V: Organizational Leadership

The Officers of the Caribbean and African Dance Club shall be the President, Vice President, Choreographer(s), Secretary, Public Relations and Treasurer. These officers make up the executive officers must be the current Lafayette College students.

The President shall:

- Inform members about meeting schedules.
- Organize the performance schedules
- Assist in creating the dance routines
- Reach out to other schools pertaining to the Showcase and other events

The Vice President shall:

- Assist President in creating dance routines
- Assume the role of President if the current President is not able to so for unique reasons.
- Attend budget meetings

The Choreographer(s) shall:

- Create majority of the dance routines for performances
- Work closely with the President to create a detailed schedule to follow during practices for the semester

The Public Relations Officer shall:

- Control all social media pages
- Actively advertise the club to recruit members

The Secretary shall:

- Take attendance
- Record the name of members that did not give their dues.
- Keep record of upcoming events

The Treasurer shall;

- Collect dues
- Inform to President/Vice President members who did not give their dues.
- Update the budget requests
- Attend budget meetings
- Work closely with the secretary to keep a record of other important things that may arise.

ARTICLE VI: Elections

The terms of all officers of the Caribbean and African Dance Club shall be one year, with the exception of students abroad who will step down from their position. Officers may serve multiple consecutive terms. Voting will occur every time there is a vacancy on the board that needs to be filled.

The President of the Caribbean and African Dance Club will open the election meeting(s) by seeking nominations for each office in the following order:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Choreographer(s)
4. Secretary
5. Public Relations
6. Treasurer

Any active member of the Caribbean and African Dance Club may nominate any active member for a position, including themselves. All nominations must be accepted by the nominee in order to be considered.

- Nominations will be closed by the President after all nominations are accepted for each office.
- In the event that only one individual accepts nomination for a position, they will assume the position for the coming semester. If two or more individuals accept nomination, it will be put to vote.
- Voting shall occur by a secret ballot distributed to each active member of the Caribbean and African Dance Club in attendance at the meeting. A majority is required to elect Executive Officers.

Once a newly elected board official accepts his/her role, they must follow the guidelines for their position. Any violation of their role will result in a call for impeachment. Process for impeachment will go as follows:

- 1) The defendant will be notified if their position on the board is being questioned
- 2) A board meeting will be held to discuss plans for impeachment.
- 3) From then an impeachment trial will be organized and a date will be set.
- 4) When the day of trial arrives, the defendant will have the opportunity to defend his/herself.
- 5) The board will then vote after the impeachment hearing and a majority vote will decide whether or not the defendant gets removed from his or her position.

ARTICLE VII: Meetings

At least one "business meeting" shall be held of the Caribbean and African Dance Club per semester during the fall and spring semesters at Lafayette College. Proper notice must be given before all business meetings. At least one "social meeting" shall be held twice a month and it shall be marketed in such a way that the general members are all made aware of the organization of such a meeting. At least 25% of all active members must be present at any meeting in order for business to be conducted, and at least 50% must be present at Election meetings.

Procedure for CADC meetings/practices will go as follows:

- Members will arrive and the secretary will take roll calls.
- After attendance any announcements that are needed to be made will be announced to the general body.
- Choreographers will initiate practice with stretching.

- From there we will begin to teach routines, with the majority of responsibility falling on the choreographers.
- At the end we will debrief about the day's practice and then practice will come to an end.

ARTICLE VIII: Constitutional Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Caribbean and African Club by a two-thirds majority vote of the active members present at the meeting, as long as the amendment was submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

Article IX: Risk Management

All members are required to stretch before practice, in order to prevent muscles being pulled or any other form of injury caused by lack of stretching.

When practicing stunts, mats will be utilized in order to cushion falls.

To mitigate financial risk, the treasurer will keep close track of any financial transactions that happen and keep a record of it.

A. The Treasurer maintains close contact with representatives in the Student Leadership and Involvement Office.

B. Maintains a detailed budget and careful records of invoices, profits, etc.

C. Collect dues and expenses from team members in a timely manner.

Hazing policy: Lafayette College and Pennsylvania State Law requires that no student participates in and that no student organization allows any of its new members, members, or others to participate in any pre-membership ceremony or practice that involves mental or physical exhaustion or abuse, or in any way interferes with the students' mental or physical ability to perform their work at Lafayette College. These rites must not reflect unfavorably upon either the group or the College or be of a dangerous, rude, or demeaning nature. The President is responsible for ensuring that members understand this policy and that (1) members will be held responsible for violations of this policy and (2) the student organization itself may face charges for violating this policy. For a more comprehensive list of examples of hazing, refer to the Student Handbook.*

Created: December 11, 2018

Last Updated: September 18, 2021

AUTHORIZED:

Signed by: _____ Briana Derivois _____ (Co-President)

Signed by: _____ Reanna West _____ (Co-President)