

**Bylaws**  
of the  
**Manhattan Association of Cabarets, Inc.**  
*as of January 2024*

Organized Pursuant to Section 402 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Members**

#### **Section 1. Membership Classifications & Qualifications**

##### **A. Individual Members**

Individual Membership in the Association shall be open to all persons actively engaged in the live entertainment industry as cabaret and jazz performers, comedians, cabaret proprietors, booking agents, press agents, journalists, performers' agents/personal managers, etc., as well as members of the general public who wish to support cabaret through participation in MAC, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors or its designated Membership Committee and the payment of dues as hereinafter set forth.

##### **B. Club Members**

Club Membership in the Association shall be open to organizations or entities that are incorporated under the laws of any State within the United States, provided such organization or entity regularly presents cabaret type entertainment within its venue. Attendance at such entertainment must be open to the general public. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, implement additional criteria as prerequisites to Club Membership. The determination of whether an applicant satisfies the criteria necessary to make it eligible for Club Membership shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors or its designated Membership Committee, and membership is subject to the payment of membership dues as hereinafter set forth.

#### **Section 2. Annual Dues**

The dues for members of the Association shall be as set by the Board of Directors. At its sole discretion, the Board may, from time to time, increase, decrease, or otherwise adjust the dues, and may offer various dues options.

No member shall be entitled to vote on any matter that comes before the membership unless his or her annual dues have been paid. Dues shall be payable upon application for membership in the Association and annually thereafter, or on such other schedule as the Board may, from time to time, establish.

The term of membership is twelve months, within which term a member may vote at all meetings of the membership of the Association. The Board may, at its discretion, waive dues for honorary members, members of the Advisory Board of Directors, members of the press or others it deems appropriate. The Board may, at its discretion, implement membership options for lesser or greater than one-year terms.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Association Management**

#### **Section 1. Officers and Directors**

##### **A. Officers**

The Officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. In the event of a vacancy in one of the above positions, one of the other Officers may temporarily assume the additional duties of the vacant office until a new Officer is elected by the Board of Directors.

Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors, or shall designate another member of the Board to preside on his or her behalf. The President shall be responsible for general supervision of the affairs of the Association and shall keep the Board of Directors fully informed and shall freely consult with them and with other relevant members of the Association or cabaret community,

concerning the activities of the Association. The President shall have the power to appoint such committees and committee chairpersons as may be required to conduct the business of the Association as outlined in Article V herein.

President and Vice President shall have the power to sign in the name of the Association all contracts that have been approved by two other Directors, at least one of whom must be an Officer. The President shall perform such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned him by the Board of Directors.

The Vice-President, in the absence of the President, shall in general perform the duties of the President and such duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors.

The Secretary will act as Secretary of all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors, and shall keep the minutes of all such meetings. In addition, the Secretary shall perform all the duties customarily incident to the office of the Secretary, including correspondence, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, and shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices of the Association and such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the Board. The Secretary shall also be responsible for maintaining the records of the Association with respect to rules, regulations and amendments to these Bylaws, and shall keep an up-to-date list of such matters separate from the minutes of the meetings in which such rules, regulations or amendments were adopted. Individual duties of the Secretary may be delegated to another person with the consent of the Board.

The Treasurer shall have the custody of all funds and securities of the Association which may come into his or her hands. The Treasurer shall keep or cause to be kept full and accurate accounts and shall, in conjunction with the Membership Committee, maintain an accurate membership roll for the purposes of voting and payment of dues. He or she shall deposit all monies and other valuable effects of the Association in the name and to the credit of the Association in such banks or depositories as authorized by the Board of Directors. Whenever required by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall at all reasonable times exhibit the books and accounts to any officer or director of the Association. He or she shall perform all duties incident to the position of Treasurer subject to the control of the Board of Directors, and shall, when required, give such security for the faithful performance of his or her duties as the Board of Directors may determine.

The Board of Directors may from time to time designate honorary officers, such as an officer Emeritus, who shall not be members of the Board of Directors unless the Board in its sole discretion deems otherwise.

## **B. Directors**

The Board of Directors of the Manhattan Association of Cabarets, Inc. shall consist of a minimum of ten (10) persons. The terms "Director," "Board member," "member of the Board," may be used interchangeably throughout these Bylaws and the powers and duties enumerated in Article IV Section 2 shall apply to all Directors.

## **Section 2. Nominations**

Any member may be a nominee for Board membership upon submission in writing to the Board, on or before the deadline set by the Board, of the following:

- an expression of the desire to run for Board membership;
- such material as the Board may specify, such as biographical information and a statement of what the member can offer by serving on the Board.

## **Section 3. Election**

### **A. Directors**

Except as provided in II.3.B, below, or as otherwise expressly provided herein, the Directors of the Association shall be elected by the general membership. Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, elections shall occur no earlier than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting of the membership. Any member in good standing at the time of election shall be eligible for election to the Board of Directors.

The vote by the general membership to elect Directors shall be by secret ballot. The Secretary or the Membership Director shall prepare or cause to be prepared a numbered list of persons entitled to vote, certified as corrected to the date as of which the ballots are issued. Ballot materials shall be prepared and a procedure for secret ballot shall be observed. An independent agent shall be contracted for the purpose of receiving and tallying ballots.

Each voting member shall be entitled to one vote for each vacant board seat. A candidate must receive votes totaling at least 5% of the number of members in order to be elected. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes up to the number of Directors to be elected shall be elected to serve on the Board, provided that the votes cast total at least 25% of the number of members. If the number of votes cast total less than 25% of the number of members, the Board shall elect Directors to fill the vacant seats. If any candidate receiving the highest number of votes up to the number of directors to be elected shall not have received votes totaling 5% of the number of members, the Board shall elect a Director to fill that seat.

Notwithstanding the above, the Board may employ such additional or alternative procedure for balloting as it may from time to time

determine, including the implementation of an electronic voting procedure as an exclusive method of casting membership votes.

#### **B. Additional Directors**

Additional Directors may be elected from among the membership or the public-at-large by majority vote of the entire Board of Directors at any time.

#### **C. Officers**

The Officers of the Association shall be elected by the Board of Directors as soon as possible following the annual election of Directors.

### **Section 4. Terms**

Each Director shall hold office for a period of three years and until his or her successor is elected. Each year, approximately one-third of the authorized number of Directors shall be elected to serve on the Board of Directors. Under special circumstances (for example, to provide continuity in leadership in uncertain times or to fill the need for a specialized skill) the Board may elect to extend a Director's term.

### **Section 5. Exclusions, Removals and Vacancies**

#### **A. Exclusions**

No person may hold more than one Office or Board seat at the same time.

#### **B. Removals**

Any Director may be removed for cause by a majority vote of all Directors then in office at a regular Board meeting or a special meeting of the Board of Directors called for that purpose. The Director being challenged shall not be permitted to vote on such action. Any Director so removed shall also be removed from any office and/or committee on which he or she may serve.

Any Director or Officer may be removed, with or without cause, at the annual meeting or at a special meeting of the members called for that purpose, by a vote of the majority of all members present and voting, in person or by proxy, provided that a quorum of the membership exists.

#### **C. Vacancies**

Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, in the case of any vacancy on the Board of Directors, a successor to fill the unexpired portion of the term may be elected by a majority of the remaining Directors then in office.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Meetings**

#### **Section 1. Meetings of the Board of Directors**

##### **A. Place of meeting**

The Board of Directors may hold their meetings at such place or places within or without the State of New York as the Board may from time to time determine. Meetings may be held by telephone conference, provided all Directors have been given notice and a quorum is present in person or by proxy. The Board may vote via electronic mail in the event that between regular meetings action on a matter is desired.

##### **B. Regular meetings**

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the Board and no written notice of such regular meeting need be given provided that such meeting time and place are decided upon and announced at a prior meeting. Meetings will be conducted in person, unless extraordinary circumstances—e.g., a blizzard—require that a meeting be conducted remotely, via Zoom. The option of Zoom access will typically be made available for in-person meetings. To retain a seat on the Board, a Director may not either (i) miss two regular meetings in a calendar quarter unless extraordinary circumstances prevent his or her attendance, or (ii) attend more than one in-person meeting via Zoom in a calendar quarter.

##### **C. Special meetings**

Special meetings of the Board may be held at any time and place upon call of the President or any two Directors. Notice of the time, place and purpose of every special meeting shall be given to each Director at least two days before the meeting by electronic mail, surface mail or telephone call. The Secretary of the Association shall have the responsibility of notifying Directors and Officers of special meetings, unless such responsibility is delegated to another Board member or assumed by the President in specific instances.

##### **D. Quorum**

A majority of the Directors in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If at any meeting of the Board there

shall be less than a quorum present in person or by proxy, the Directors may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is present, and at such adjourned meeting any business may be transacted that might have been transacted at the meeting as originally called.

## **Section 2. General Membership Meetings.**

### **A. Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the members of the Association shall be held during the fall of each year at such date, time and place as the Board of Directors shall designate.

### **B. Notice of Annual Meeting**

Notice of the time, date and place of the annual meeting shall be given to every member by surface mail or electronic mail, and posting on the Association's web site, or by other means deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors, not fewer than ten (10) nor more than fifty (50) days before such meeting.

### **C. Special Meeting**

In addition to the annual meeting, special meetings of the members of the Association may be held upon call of the Board of Directors. Directors also will call a special meeting if requested to do so by a petition of 25% of the membership.

### **D. Notice of Special Meeting**

Notice of the time, date and place of the special meeting shall be given to every member by surface mail or electronic mail, and posting on the Association's web site, or by other means deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors, not fewer than ten (10) nor more than forty (40) days before such meeting.

### **E. Organization**

The President of the Association, or any member of the Board of Directors designated by the President or Board to do so, shall preside at all meetings of the members. In the absence of the President or his designee, the Vice President shall preside. In the absence of the Secretary, the presiding officer may appoint any person to act as Secretary of the meeting.

### **F. General Membership Voting**

At any meeting of the members, each individual member or club or cabaret in good standing in person or by proxy shall be entitled to one vote. With the exception of voting to remove an Officer or Board member or amend these Bylaws as specified herein, all votes by the membership on any issue brought before them by the Board or brought up during a scheduled meeting shall be advisory and not binding upon the Board of Directors or the Association.

A member who is unable to attend a general, annual or special meeting may appoint a proxy from within the current membership to cast the member's vote by providing the Board of Directors with written or electronic notice of such appointed proxy no later than three business days prior to the scheduled meeting date. The appointed proxy must be in attendance at the meeting to cast a proxy vote. The Board may employ such additional or alternative procedure for handling proxies as it may from time to time choose to implement.

### **G. Order of Business**

At all meetings of the members, the following order of business shall be observed so far as consistent with the purposes of the meeting:

1. Reading of the Minutes of the Last Meeting (may be waived in advance by the Board);
2. Report of the Treasurer;
3. Report of the President;
4. Committee Reports, if any;
5. Old Business;
6. Transaction of such other new business as may properly come before the meeting.

### **H. Quorum, Adjournment of Meetings**

At all general membership meetings and special meetings, 25% of the entire membership at the time, whether present in person or by valid proxy, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the absence of the quorum, the presiding officer may adjourn the meeting for the purpose of securing the quorum. At any adjourned meeting at which a quorum is present, any business may be transacted that might have been transacted at the meeting as originally called.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Section 1. Composition**

The Board of Directors shall be constituted per II.1.B above.

#### **Section 2. Powers and Duties**

##### **A. General**

The Board of Directors shall have general power to manage and control the affairs and property of the Association, and shall have full power, by majority vote, provided a quorum is present at any given meeting, to adopt rules and regulations governing the actions of the Board and the Association and shall have full and complete authority with respect to the distribution and payment of the monies received by the Association from time to time; except that the fundamental and basic purposes of the Association, as expressed in the Certificate of Incorporation, shall not thereby be amended or changed, and except further that the Board of Directors shall not permit any part of the net earnings or capital to inure to the benefit of any member or other private individual.

##### **B. Finances**

###### **1. Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year is September 1 to August 31. The fiscal year of the Association may be changed at any time by the Board of Directors.

###### **2. Contracts, Checks, Bank Accounts and Investment**

The Board of Directors is authorized to select such depositories as it shall deem proper for the funds of the Corporation and shall determine who shall be authorized in the Corporation's behalf to sign bills, checks, notes, receipts, acceptances, endorsements, releases, contracts and documents. Anything in these Bylaws to the contrary notwithstanding, expenditures exceeding \$500, or commitments for such expenditures, shall require the approval of three Directors, at least two of whom must be Officers.

The funds of this Association may be retained in whole or in part in cash or be invested and reinvested from time to time in such property, real, personal or otherwise, or stocks, bonds or other securities, as the Board of Directors in its discretion may deem desirable, subject to the applicable guidelines and requirements of the Internal Revenue Service governing a tax exempt, not-for-profit Association.

##### **C. Offices and Books**

###### **1. Office**

The office of the Association shall be located at such place as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine. In the absence of a physical office, the Association shall maintain an official mailing address for the receipt of correspondence and notices, and the Board shall designate one or more Board members to regularly pick up and distribute such mail to the appropriate Board Officer or Board member.

###### **2. Books**

There shall be kept at the office of the Association, or other locations(s) as determined by the Board of Directors, correct books of account of the activities and transactions of the Association including a minute book, which shall contain a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation, a copy of these Bylaws, and all minutes of meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining these records.

###### **3. Corporate Seal**

The seal of the Association shall be circular in form and shall bear the name of the Association and words and figures showing that it was incorporated in the State of New York and the year of its incorporation.

##### **D. Indemnification and Insurance**

The Association may, to the fullest extent now or hereafter permitted by law, indemnify any person made, or threatened to be made, a party to any action or proceeding by reason of the fact that he, his testator or intestate was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Association, against judgments, fines, amounts paid in settlement and reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees. The Association may, in its discretion and by majority vote of the Board of Directors, obtain Officers and Directors Liability insurance policies or other such insurance policies as the Board deems appropriate.

#### **Section 3. Executive Committee**

The Officers of the Association shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may act on behalf of the Board between meetings. The Executive Committee may not modify any action of the Board.

## **Section 4. Advisory and Honorary Board**

### **A. Advisory Board**

The Board of Directors of the Association may appoint from time to time such persons as it deems appropriate to serve as advisory members of the Board of Directors. The Advisory Board shall consist of persons whose skills or backgrounds make their membership on the Advisory Board beneficial to the organization and/or the cabaret community. Such persons as may be appointed and accept appointment, however, shall not be granted full membership or voting privileges on the Board of Directors, and may not by virtue of being on the Advisory Board be counted towards a quorum at any meeting, nor be required to attend or participate in any Association activity. The Board of Directors may remove any member from the Advisory Board if such removal is determined to be in the best interest of the Association.

### **B. Honorary Board**

The Board of Directors of the Association may appoint from time to time such persons as it deems appropriate to serve as honorary members of the Board of Directors. The Honorary Board shall consist of persons whose stature within the cabaret and entertainment community is recognized by the general public, making their membership on the Honorary Board beneficial to the organization and/or the cabaret community through the use of their name and counsel. Such persons as may be appointed and accept appointment, however, shall not be granted full membership or voting privileges on the Board of Directors, and may not by virtue of being on the Advisory Board be counted towards a quorum at any meeting, nor be required to attend or participate in any Association activity. The Board of Directors may remove any member from the Honorary Board if such removal is determined to be in the best interest of the Association.

## **Section 5. Other Agents, etc.**

The Board of Directors may appoint from time to time such agents as it shall deem necessary, each of whom shall hold office at the Board's discretion, and shall have such authority and perform such duties and shall receive such reasonable compensation as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

# **ARTICLE V**

## **Committees**

### **Section 1. Types of Committees**

The President and the Board of Directors of the Association shall create, appoint and supervise such committees as they may deem necessary to the proper execution of the business and purposes of the Association. The roster of committees might include the following:

#### **A. Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee would consist at all times of a Membership Director, appointed by the Board, and such additional members as the Membership Director may determine. The Membership Director shall act as Membership Committee Chairperson and shall be empowered to accept payment for dues and membership applications. The Committee, with the guidance of the Chairperson, shall be charged with responsibility for actively recruiting new members and retaining existing members of the Association, and such other duties as prescribed by these Bylaws. Any member of the Association may serve on the Membership Committee.

#### **B. Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee would be responsible for materials representing the organization in all media, including but not limited to newsletters, bulletins, Internet communications and press releases.

#### **C. Special Events Committee**

The Special Events Committee would be responsible for organizing such special events, seminars or programs as may be authorized by the Board of Directors and shall have such powers and duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

#### **D. Eligibility Committee**

The Eligibility Committee would be appointed by the President with the advice of the Board of Directors annually prior to the balloting for the annual Awards presented on **behalf of the Manhattan Association of Cabarets, Inc., and would be responsible for** verifying the eligibility of candidates for the Awards and for such other tasks as may be specified in the annual Award rules approved by the Board of Directors. This committee may also recommend or solicit eligible performers, directors, songwriters, etc., to compete for Awards.

#### **E. Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, would be responsible for scheduling, locating a venue,

program preparation, advertising sales, and other preparation for and presentation of the MAC Awards program.

## **Section 2. Committee Membership**

Membership on any committee of the Association shall be open to all members upon appointment by the President of the Association or the Board of Directors. In addition, the Board or President may appoint to such committees any non-member whose expertise or experience may assist the fulfillment of the committee's function.

## **Section 3. Committee Chairpersons**

For each committee appointed by the President or the Board of Directors, a Committee Chairperson shall be designated. It shall be the responsibility of the Chairperson to call such meetings as may be necessary to carry out the committee's work, to prepare and submit the results of such work, to represent the results before the Board and to advise the President and the Board of the progress of his or her committee's activities.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Parliamentary Authority**

At all meetings of the membership and of the Board of Directors, parliamentary procedure shall be observed as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. The Board of Directors shall designate a member of the Association to act as parliamentarian at any and all meetings of the Board and membership. Rules may be suspended by a majority vote of those present at a meeting, providing that a quorum is present.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended either by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors in office or by a majority of the members of the Association present at the annual meeting or at a special meeting duly called for the purpose of amending these Bylaws, provided notice of such purpose of amendment has been included in the notice for such special meeting.