

Baltimore City Association of the Deaf Bylaws

Adopted on October 24, 2020

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of the association shall be the Baltimore City Association of the Deaf, hereinafter referred to as “BCAD”.

ARTICLE II – Purpose

Section 1 – BCAD seeks to be an exemplary organization-providing advocacy and services to the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing individuals in Baltimore City, Maryland.

Section 2 – The objectives of BCAD are:

- (a) to preserve, protect, and promote the civil, human, and linguistic rights of Deaf people in Baltimore City, Maryland;
- (b) to represent the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in Baltimore City, Maryland;
- (c) to establish a progressive partnership with the Government of Baltimore City and the State of Maryland;
- (d) to promote awareness about Deaf and Hard of Hearing people’s civil rights, unique issues, culture and language;
- (e) to advocate for Deaf¹ people’s rights to equal access to communication, education, technologies and services;
- (f) to provide educational and social events to the Deaf and hearing communities (i.e., educational workshops and social gatherings for exchanging ideas and to elevate better understanding).

ARTICLE III -- Membership

BCAD is not a membership fee based organization. BCAD welcomes all members to contribute to the organization.

Individual Membership. Any individual who is either a resident or employee of Baltimore City constitutes as a qualifying member of BCAD. They have a full rights during the business meeting.

¹ The term, “Deaf,” encompasses Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing.

Associate Membership. Any individual who is either NOT a resident or employee of Baltimore City. They do not have voting rights during the business meeting but they can voice during the business meeting and serve on the committee.

ARTICLE IV — Board of Directors

Section 1 — Board Composition: The Board of Directors shall consist of the following officers: (1) the President; (2) the Vice President; (3) the Secretary; (4) the Treasurer; and (5) two Board Member-at-Large.

Section 2 — Conflict of Interest: No member with a personal or financial interest of a material nature in the affairs of the Association shall be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors of the Association.

Section 3 — Compensation: Members of the Board of Directors shall serve without receiving compensation except for standard expense reimbursement for costs incurred in the discharge of duties.

ARTICLE V – Board Officers

Section 1 – The duties of the following elected officers are:

(a) President:

Shall preside at all board meetings,

Shall authenticate all documents prior to the meetings,

Shall develop and present an agenda for each board meeting, and

Shall approve all final copies of any social or advocacy promotion in name of BCAD;

(b) Vice-President:

Shall assume the responsibilities of the President in his or her absence;

(c) Secretary:

Shall keep correct minutes of all board meetings,

Shall have the custody of the seal and authenticate all documents when so ordered by the Board,
and

Shall conduct general correspondence on behalf of BCAD.

(d) Treasurer:

Shall supervise the collection of all monies due to BCAD, which shall be deposited in the name of BCAD at banks or investment firms designated by the Board,
Shall maintain all records of any transactions involving payment to and by BCAD, and
Shall be responsible to appoint an Auditor, when deemed necessary, with the approval of at least two-thirds of the entire Board of Directors.

(e) Members-at-Large:

There shall be at least two Members-at-Large.

Section 2 – General Duties of Board of Directors

- (a)** To solicit the views and opinions of the constituents BCAD serves;
- (b)** to communicate such views to the appropriate sources;
- (c)** to manage the affairs of BCAD between board meetings;
- (d)** to appoint committees as may be deemed for carrying out the purposes of BCAD;
- (e)** to give full and complete reports of BCAD activities in public via website or social media;
- (f)** to consult with any individuals or groups whose positions or knowledge can further the purposes of BCAD.

ARTICLE VI – Elections

Section 1 — Board Elections: The election shall take place during a general membership meeting, called in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws.

Section 2 – Board of Directors Eligibility

- (a)** Board of Directors of BCAD shall be elected in a general meeting;
- (b)** Each qualified candidate for President and Vice President shall be:
 - (1)** a resident in Baltimore City,
 - (2)** must be a qualifying member of the organization for at least two (2) years;
- (c)** Each qualified candidate for the remaining officer positions shall be:
 - (1)** a resident or employed in Baltimore City, and
 - (2)** must be a qualifying member of the organization for at least two (2) years.

Section 3 – Term of Officers

(a) All terms of officers shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the meeting at which the election was held;

- (b) In order to have continuity, each officer shall be elected for a two-years term;
- (c) Officers may serve in any office for three consecutive terms, but if there is no contest, may run for additional terms.

Section 4 – Removal, Severance, and Vacancies

- (a) Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire Board of Directors or a majority of members presented at the meeting;
- (b) The officer in question shall be given fourteen (14) days of notice to appeal in writing prior to such pending action and further, the affected individual has the right to defend his/ her actions before the Board at an appropriate private meeting;
- (c) In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President either by death, resignation, or removal, or for any other cause, the Vice-President shall assume the position of the President;
- (d) In the event of a vacancy in the office of any Board Officer other than the President, the President shall convene the Board which shall, by majority vote of the entire Board; elect a successor to carry out the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE VII – Meetings

Section 1 - Business Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet at least four times a year. The quorum shall be the majority of the Board. The General Meeting shall be held once a year.

Section 2 – Electronic Meetings

The Board of Directors may conduct meetings through video-conferencing, or by other similar electronically-mediated methods. Any vote for approval via electronic voting online shall be ratified at the next face-to-face Board Meeting.

Section 3 - Special Meetings

Fifteen (15) or more members may petition the Board of Directors to call a special meeting. The notice for a special meeting shall be given no less than fourteen (14) days in advance. The quorum of the special meeting shall be fifteen (15) members.

ARTICLE VII – Parliamentary Authority

Unless it is inconsistent with these bylaws, Robert’s Rules of Order shall prevail at all meetings hosted by the officers and committee members of the BCAD.

ARTICLE IX – Amendments

Any article or section of these bylaws may be amended at a scheduled general meeting with a two-thirds (2/3) approval of those who are presented.

ARTICLE X – Dissolution

Upon dissolution of this organization, remaining assets after payment of all liabilities shall be distributed consistent with its purpose and within the meaning of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.