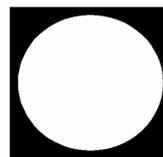


abundance



Organisation formed on:  
21<sup>st</sup> October 2013

Constitution adopted on:  
21<sup>st</sup> October 2013

Community Life Engaged

## **Abundance Centres (Lewisham) Development Trust**

### ***Our Constitution***

#### **1. Name**

The name of the organisation shall be: **Abundance Centres (Lewisham) Development Trust**

#### **2. Objectives**

2. The objectives of Abundance Centres (Lewisham) Development Trust is to carry out activities which benefit the communities of Lewisham and members of the Trust in regard to community engagement, family directed learning, personal development and in particular (without limitation):

2.1. To develop, establish and maintain an ethos of abundance in the life of the local Lewisham communities. Our services revolve around the development of education, health and social networking; services, centres and experiences.

2.2. To acquire, prepare, establish, incubate, protect, administer, refurbish and maintain as required land and centres of service (Abundance Centres) in basic agreement with the principles and general intention of bringing about community engagement, creativity, cross-curricula learning and/or unified ways of coming to know (unifiedknowledge) that specifically enable and enrich the learning of the sciences and maths through the arts, intelligent play and the dissemination of wholistic pedagogical (learning) practices.

Within this broader objective (2.2.) we are agreed;

(a) To advance public (community) education, especially that of children, in culture, arts, mathematics, creativity, the sciences and/or the natural relationships between them. A special focus is to be given to their interconnectivity with life and nature.

(b) To advance public (community) health, with the clear sense that health is a state of physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social well-being (vibrant, creative, perceptive, determined and growing) accompanied by a freedom from illness, disease or pain. The trust views health as a type of harmony and universally agreed human value.

(c) To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation, leisure time activities, educational development or cultural development with the object of developing communities' physical, mental and spiritual capacities, respectful to the diverse

expressions of all. Thus improving conditions of life and/or learning capacities as young people grow to full maturity within themselves, their families, communities and society as a whole.

(d) To study and teach the cultural heritage, arts, sciences and history of peoples globally so that it can be publicly and/or privately performed, told, expressed, publicised or exhibited through the Trust, its partners and the outreach activities of the Trust locally, nationally and internationally.

(e) To create experiences and centres of learning where young people can easily access artistic, scientific and multi media resources, carry out research/studies and relax.

(f) To broaden the learning and experiences of people through local, national and international networking, travel and cultural exchanges. Including the bringing in and exporting of local, national and international experts and expertise.

(g) To document and archive the cultural arts, sciences, agricultural knowledge, heritage and history of peoples globally through all types of media (written, audio, video etc.), to publish, patent and copyright any invention or findings of the organisation.

(h) To develop parents, teachers, instructors and those with the interest, in the disciplines of creative art, science, mathematics, culture and/or the yeht'mr urwuk'eht<sup>1</sup> (unifiedknowledge) approach to education. Researching, developing and acquiring educational resources that will support the learning of educators and also their ability to guide, induce, and nurture high quality learning within their learners.

(i) To support the knowledge exchange of teachers with other teachers, students with other students and teachers with students on a global basis. Teachers may be younger or older persons, students may be younger or older persons; these realities are subject to individual's competence and consciousness, also known within the Trust as their "Practice Levels".

(j) To generally give priority support to children, young people and families who are experiencing educational or social exclusion, poverty and/or any kind of racial (cultural heritage/kinship) inequality.

2.3. To network and co-operate progressively with local government administrations (members, officers, committees, policies & best practice), schools, community centres, libraries, faith organisations, housing associations and other key institutional community stakeholders to further the interests of the local community in regard to objective 2.2.(a) to (h).

2.4. To strategically prepare the environment (communities, markets, networks, province/gzat); and thus all types of local resources and stake-holders) for the establishment of Abundance Centres throughout Lewisham (in particular, though not exclusively) and its various proposed abundance development pathways i.e. communal wealth capacity development & management, local human capacity building and diversified mediums of "trade" and exchange promotion. This will be done in line with the Trust's constitutional terms

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<sup>1</sup> The yeht'mr urwuk'eht (unifiedknowledge) approach to education is the learning pedagogy of **Schools Of Unified Learning**. It advances and values nature-centred, human-centred, learner-centred and family directed learning. Also its way promotes the unity of the arts, maths and the sciences rather than reductionist approaches. The term "yeht'mr urwuk'eht" (የጥንታዊ ስውቀት) is Amahric (a term of the Ethiopian language) and means "unified knowledge".

and the ethos of a charitable social enterprise.

2.5. To provide the members with premium benefits, intelligence and services in addition to those provided to the general public. The Trust will strive to find ways to target these premiums to member's needs and aspirations.

2.6. To develop and provide support for persons and newly forming organisations of Lewisham in the development of community projects aimed towards the benefit of residents, people who work in the area and visitors.

2.7. To develop and maintain the Trust as a self-refining and self-sustaining organisation through; (a) the nature of our internal working principles, processes and protocols of operation (practice). (b) a broad and diversified portfolio of highly active fund-raising and wealth management strategies.

### 3. Membership

The Abundance Centres (Lewisham) Development Trust is open to everyone who agrees with the objectives of the organisation. The Trust highly values cooperative ways of working with both the public and the membership. Through this the abundance ethos comes into being. The section below on member rights and responsibilities exists to ensure that members can benefit fully from all provisions of the Trust and also from premium provisions it develops especially for the membership. Members of the Trust will always be encouraged and supported in their embrace of wholistic pedagogical (learning) practices.

A full equal opportunities policy will be implemented.

3.1. Irrespective of kinship, citizenship, geographic location, gender, sexual orientation, disability, faith/spiritual way, political or other opinion - membership shall be open to all:

(a) individuals aged eighteen years or more, who shall be known as **General Members**;

(b) individuals aged under eighteen years, who shall be known as **Junior Members** and who may be admitted to membership subject to such conditions as the Committee may decide. They shall have the power to elect two of their number to represent them, without the right to vote, at meetings of the Committee. Any Junior members may also attend General Meetings as observers and/or contributors but shall not have the right to vote.

(c) associations and organisations, whether corporate or unincorporated, (and including branches of national or international organisations), are voluntary, social enterprises or non-profit-distributing and which wish to support the objects of the Trust, which shall be known as **Corporate Members**. Discretion may be exercised by the Executive Committee to accept a Corporate Member who is outside of this clause's guidance but fits within the key organisation types detailed in Clause 2.3.;

(d) the Statutory Authorities in whose administrative area the area of benefit lies, they will be known as **Statutory Members**.

3.2. Each member organisation as set out in Clause 3.1. (c) and (d) above and each Focus Team established in accordance with Clause 5 below shall appoint one individual person being a member thereof to represent it and vote on its behalf at General Meetings of the

Trust; and may appoint an alternate being a member thereof to replace its appointed representative as an observer at such meetings if the appointed representative is unable to attend. In the event of such individual person resigning, or leaving a member organisation or Section he or she shall forthwith cease to be a representative thereof. The member organisation concerned shall have the right to appoint a new representative, informing the Secretary in writing.

3.3. Individual members admitted under Clause 3.1.(a) and representatives appointed under Clause 3.1.(c) above shall hereafter be referred to as **members with power to vote**.

#### 3.4. **Members' Rights**

[a] Members have the right to be creative and cooperative in shaping their living and learning environments, whatever their aspiration or culture, in a way that makes their lives or aspirations easier to achieve or more effective and does no harm to other members or the environment as a whole;

[b] Members have the right to a claim on the basic share of benefits, intelligence and services which the Trust provides, provided they are a member in good standing and making headway to meet their responsibilities. This claim cannot under any circumstances be taken away while a person is still a member of the Trust.

[c] Members have the right to participate in as many roles as they choose to take on, in any part of the Trust and at any level provided they are willing to gain the necessary education and skills required for conscious and competent participation;

[d] Members have the right, while working in any team (e.g. Focus Teams) within the Trust, to democratically remove and replace their team leader at any time, providing that doing so does not impinge on the team's ability to function; failing that – members have the right to form separate teams with one another in order to fulfil the same task as, and to compete with and improve upon, any existing teams; should they feel that they cannot work with the team leader or with the members of the existing team and do not constitute a democratic majority within that team. Such actions shall be regulated by the Executive Committee;

3.5. Members are asked to remember that these rights are provided, as with all rights, not to be a license for any kind of complicity against the constitution, instead these rights are to be a mandate for progressive action towards objective achievement.

#### 3.6. **Members' Responsibilities**

[a] Members are required to be creative and cooperative in shaping their living and learning environments, whatever their aspirations or culture, in a way that makes their lives or aspirations easier to achieve or more effective and does no harm to other members or the environment as a whole;

[b] Members are required to conduct themselves in an honest, honourable, respectful and goodly manner towards members and non-members of the Trust;

[c] Members are required to contribute to the Trust by taking up a role or roles that they can be productive in. Roles are to be undertaken in a spirit of wholesome responsibility for the role itself, the need that created the role, the intended end results and the actual end results the role produces;

[d] Members are required to start, and then over time, make a study of, comment on and seek to know through professional development pathways as organised by members and the Executive Committee: the Trust's constitution, principles, processes of operations, guidance manuals, protocols, goals, projects, methodologies, nominated pedagogies, membership culture & well-being, etc. This determination will help the member flourish in the supportive, creative and experimental environment that the Trust seeks to provide towards its objectives, particularly Clause 2.7 (To develop and maintain the Trust as a self-refining and self-sustaining organisation);

[e] Members are required to continually work towards uplifting and developing their consciousness and their physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, moral and ethical selves by either conventional or unconventional means, at a steady and considered pace. "Considered" meaning that not everything needs to be tackled at once, but that everything should be tackled evenly and valuing the essence of wholesome personal/professional development;

[f] Members are required to provide feedback to other members about how they think and feel they and other members are progressing in meeting their responsibilities, as is done in other responsible peer review processes;

[g] Members are required to produce and maintain their own Engagement and Skills Statement (ESS) which is to list a member's skills and talents; whether professional or day to day, their aspirations and current learning objectives, past and present roles, etc. The process of keeping an up to date ESS is important in personal learning development and helps facilitate the peer-review mechanism between members regarding performance in roles and Trust objective achievements;

[h] Members are required to value and use their vote on every issue that can be voted on should they be in physical or electronic attendance at any meeting;

3.7. Attempting to deny any of these rights and/or responsibilities to others or serious or repeated minor infractions of these responsibilities may result in targeted interventions to restore agreement and harmony, the suspension or expulsion of the member under Clause 6.2 of this constitution or the application of disciplinary guidance/measures under Clause 6.2 of this constitution.

#### **4. Subscriptions**

All individual members and Corporate Members shall be invited to pay such subscriptions as approved by members at an AGM meeting, this may not be compulsory.

#### **5. Focus Teams**

Focus Teams shall be such groups of individual members (and others with expertise) as may, with the permission of the Executive Committee, be formed within the Trust for the furtherance of harmonious organisational working and objective achievement. The Executive Committee shall determine the terms of reference and functions of each such Focus Team and the duration of its activities.

## **6. Resignation and Termination of Membership**

6.1. Any member of the Trust may resign his/her membership and any representative of a member organisation or Focus Team may resign such position, by giving to the Secretary of the Trust written notice to that effect.

6.2. The Executive Committee may, by resolution passed at a meeting thereof, enact targeted interventions to restore agreement and harmony upon, terminate or suspend the membership of any member, if in its opinion, his/her conduct is prejudicial to the interests and objects of the Trust, provided that the individual member or representative of the member organisation (as the case may be) shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee before the final decision is made. There shall be a right of appeal to an independent arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement.

## **7. Executive Members**

The Executive Members may be officers of the Trust, the key posts shall be: Chair, Vice Chair (optional), Treasurer, Secretary, and Organisational Intelligence Officer (optional)

## **8. General Operations**

The affairs of the Trust shall be controlled by an Executive Committee comprising the Officers above, up to four other voting members elected from, and by, the Members of the Trust. The Trust's Junior members shall have two non-voting representatives, careful consideration must be given to how the voices and values of the Junior membership are integrated into the Trust's operations. The Executive Committee shall meet at agreed intervals and not less than four times per year with due consideration to natural cycles.

## **9. Executive Committee**

All officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Trust from and by, the Members of the Trust on a democratic basis, for a period of one year, and may be re-elected to the same office or another office the following years. Casual vacancies shall be filled by the Executive Committee, and the member so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting following. Executive Committee meetings must have three elected Committee members attending to be considered quorate.

## **10. General Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting, of which 7 days notice shall be given and at which the audited accounts and Chair's report shall be submitted and the officers for the ensuing year elected, and other General Meetings, shall be held at such times as the Executive Committee or a General Meeting may determine. Five members shall form a quorum for General Meetings, and in the case of equal voting the chairman shall have a casting vote. Extraordinary General Meetings can be called on the requisition of at least seven members or two thirds majority of the members. Voting shall be on the basis of one member one vote. Where an Extraordinary Meeting is called every effort will be made by the Executive Committee to contact every member of the Trust. Both physical or electronic attendance at any meeting are equally valid.

## **11. Financial Arrangements**

The Executive Committee shall open a bank account in the name of Abundance Centres (UK) Development Trust with such bank as the Executive Committee may select, and all monies, be they grants, donations or other incomes received from any source by the secretary, treasurer or chairman on behalf of the Trust shall be paid into such account. The Trust's bank account will be controlled by the Treasurer, and the Treasurer, Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary and one other nominated Executive Committee member may have the authorisation to sign cheques, two signatures being needed for any one transaction. All income and expenditure will be recorded and available for inspection for any member at any time. The Treasurer will prepare annual accounts and a suitably qualified external person will audit the accounts once a year.

## **12. Umbrella organisation membership**

The Trust is a member of the umbrella organisation Abundance Centres (UK) Development Trust. Membership is a constitutional integrity through which the founding corporate identity of Abundance Centres is maintained (this includes logos, trademarks, constitution, officially endorsed pedagogies; principles, processes and protocols of practice, overall strategies etc). Changes to the Trust's founding corporate identity must be approved by the Umbrella organisation before final ratification by the Trust's Executive Committee.

The Umbrella organisation provides general guidance on matters of best practice, policy and intelligence regarding relevant national, European and global issues and developments. All guidance and directives will be considered by the Trust's Executive Committee.

## **13. Dissolution of the Trust**

The Trust may be dissolved, or these rules may be amended by a three quarters majority at a general meeting (subject to Clause 12). The objects for which the meeting are called shall be stated in the notice convening the meeting. All surplus funds must go to a charitable trust working with a similar constitution & objectives with variance only in regard to geographic focus. Preference must be given to other Abundance Centres Trusts so long as they be properly constituted and operational. In such a situation as dissolution of the trust guidance must be sought from the Umbrella organisation, in compliance with conflict of interest due diligence, objective integrity, maintenance of the founding corporate identity and public transparency.

## 14. Review of the Constitution

Subject to Clause 12 the constitution will be reviewed on an annual basis at the AGM or at a special General Meeting to formally adopt registered company and/or registered charity status when an appropriately modified and acceptable constitution will be fully adopted. It must be ensured that the general objectives, agreements and operational integrity of this constitution are properly embodied in any new governance documentation.

This constitution's aims are to formerly constitute the organisation prior to charitable company status being achieved.

Organisation formed on:  
21<sup>st</sup> October 2013

Constitution adopted on:  
21<sup>st</sup> October 2013

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