

Constitution The Pearl Project

Preamble: We, the members of The Pearl Project, in order to assist in voluntary efforts in the Chicago, Illinois, and Washtenaw County, Michigan, areas, do hereby establish this constitution.

Article I: Name

The name of the organization will be The Pearl Project.

Article II: Affiliation with other groups

The Pearl Project is affiliated with the Roseland “Good News” Daycare.

Article III: Purpose, vision, mission, aims, functions of the organization.

Section 1. Purpose: The Pearl Project’s purpose is to assist young mothers in financially unstable circumstances by providing free childcare services and emotional strength to allow them to finish their education and acquire a stable career. To that end, The Pearl Project will support a well-established free daycare, Roseland Community “Good News” Daycare, in the South Side of Chicago with fundraising events and volunteering at the daycare on an alternative spring break. Additionally, The Pearl Project will branch its efforts out to the surrounding South Side area as well as provide similar volunteer services to the Washtenaw County in Michigan.

Section 2. Mission: The Pearl Project is committed to creating a community of socially invested students dedicated to supporting the Roseland Community “Good News” Daycare in the South Side of Chicago as well as individuals in need in the Washtenaw Area.

Section 3: The Pearl Project’s values are the following: Humility, Passion, Integration, Education, Selflessness and Cooperation

Section 4: The Pearl Project understands and is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities of abiding by the University of Michigan policies and procedures.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1. Active membership shall be limited to persons officially connected with the University of Michigan as faculty, staff, or registered students. In addition, the following requirements are necessary to constitute active members:

- a) Attendance of at least 75% of all weekly meetings.
- b) A minimum of 5 points (1 which may come from a social event. The other 4 points may come from volunteering and/or fundraising events).
- c) Members may not receive more than 4 points for any one volunteering event.

The Pearl Project is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in its membership or activities.

Upon joining the organization, all members agree not to undermine the purpose or mission of The Pearl Project.

Section 2: Joining the organization: Interested individuals may join the organization by attending a meeting, requesting to be added to the listserv, contacting a member, or emailing the group. To be considered active, the individual must meet the requirements outlined in Article IV, Section 1.

Section 3: A member may voluntarily withdraw from the organization by notifying the officer board of their desire to discontinue membership. Financial obligations previously paid to the organization will not be refunded.

Article V: Officers

The Pearl Project will be governed by an executive committee consisting of Four Executive Officers and Three Committee Chair Officers:

- a) An elected President will preside at all meetings. The President will organize all meetings and meeting agendas, shall be present at 90% of The Pearl Project's events and meetings, and will be the main communication source between The Pearl Project and the Roseland "Good News" Community Daycare. The President is also in charge of communicating with all officers, organizing dates for the alternative spring break and summer break trips, gathering paperwork for the previously mentioned trips and organizing meeting dates for members and officer meetings.
- b) The Pearl Project shall elect a Vice President. The Vice President's duties shall be to preside at all meetings and functions that the President cannot attend. The Vice President will also draft emails and assure compliances under university policies. The Vice President will act as the mediator of internal communication by emailing and contacting all members both individually and as a follow-up to every member meeting. Finally, the Vice President is also in charge of recruiting members in the fall and elections in the spring.
- d) The Pearl Project shall elect a Treasurer who will handle all accounts, budgets, fundraisers, donations, and volunteer expenses. The treasurer will also apply to grants.
- e) The Pearl Project will elect a Marketing Chair who will oversee all social media accounts and advertising/ marketing.
- f) The Pearl Project will elect a Member Engagement Chair who will organize social events for all members to partake in and take meeting

minutes, attendance, and events calendar.

g) The Pearl Project will appoint a Volunteer Committee Chair. This individual will oversee the volunteer committee which will organize local volunteer events. The Volunteer Committee Chair will also be the point of contact between The Pearl Project and Foundations Daycare in Ypsilanti, Michigan. This individual will be responsible for organizing all events and volunteer opportunities at this daycare

h) The Pearl Project will elect an Activities Committee Chair. This chair position is responsible for selecting activities for the children in the daycare during both the spring and summer alternative break trips. Additionally, the Activities Committee Chair will be responsible for creating curriculum based lessons for members during select member meetings.

i) The Pearl Project will appoint a Fundraiser Committee Chair who will oversee the committee that organizes fundraiser ideas, brainstorms fundraising ideas, works closely with the Treasurer, and contacts locations for fundraisers.

Article VII: Operations

Section 1. Voting Eligibility: Those officers meeting all requirements of active membership as set forth in Article IV, Section 1 will be granted voting privileges.

Section 2: Election process:

a) All officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the officers of The Pearl Project. All elections will be held on an annual basis during the month of April. Incoming officers will assume their positions one month after elections are held.

b) All officers are able to serve more than one term.

c) Voting will occur in three steps:

i) An application will be sent to members to submit

ii) An interview for the President and Vice President positions will be held by a panel consisting of all officers of The Pearl Project.

iii) A second round of interviews for the remaining officer positions will be held by a panel consisting of the former President and Vice President and the future Present and Vice President.

Section 3: Meetings

All meetings will occur on a weekly basis at a time selected by the executive committee and will follow the procedure set forth below.

1. Attendance
2. Agenda by the President
3. Committee Reports
4. Vote on all committee motions/decisions

5. Committees join together to discuss events, responsibilities, and future planning.

Article VIII: Finances

The Pearl Project will finance the activities it engages in by the following means:

- a) Applying to funding grants from Central Student Government.
- b) Taking account of donations and fundraisers.
- c) It is the Treasurer's duty to oversee any financial obligations.

Article IX: Quorum

Two-Thirds (2/3) of the active members must be present to constitute quorum for elections and official business that requires a vote.

Article X: Removal of Membership or Officers Section

1: Removal of Officers

Any officer of The Pearl Project in violation of The Pearl Project's purpose, constitution, or who fails to fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in Article V, may be removed from office by the following process:

- a) A written request by 2/3 of the members with valid reasoning.
- b) The matter will then be discussed and voted upon by the executive board and the committee chairs.

Section 2: Removal of Membership

Any member of The Pearl Project in violation of The Pearl Project's purpose, constitution, or who fails to meet the membership requirements as outlined in Article IV, may have their privileges as a member revoked through the following process:

- a) A written request by at least three members of the organization must be sent to the executive committee.
- b) Written notification to the member in question, asking the member to be present the next executive committee meeting and prepared to speak.
- c) A unanimous decision by the officers.

Article X: Amendments

Section 1: This constitution is binding to all members of The Pearl Project but it is not binding unto itself. Amendments to the constitution may be proposed in writing by any voting member of The Pearl Project at any meeting at which quorum is met. The amendments will be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting and voted on at that time.

Section 2: Proposed amendments will become immediately effective following approval of two-thirds (2/3) vote of all active members.

Article XI: Ratification

This constitution must be ratified by two-thirds of all active members to take effect and shall be reviewed every academic year.

Article XII: Statement of Compliance

The Pearl Project has read and agrees to fully comply with the University's policies. We understand that the organization's registration is contingent on acceptance of these policies

Article XIII: Sponsorship

Section 1: Mission Alignment

The Pearl Project's mission is to assist young mothers in financially unstable circumstances by providing free childcare services and emotional strength to allow them to finish their education and acquire a stable career. To that end, *The Pearl Project* will support a well-established free daycare, Roseland Community "Good News" Daycare, in the South Side of Chicago with fundraising events and volunteering at the daycare on an alternative spring break. Additionally, *The Pearl Project* has branched its efforts out to the surrounding South Side area as well as provide similar volunteer services to the Washtenaw County in Michigan, most recently partnering with Foundations Preschool of Washtenaw County. This aligns with the mission of the department of Psychology because *The Pearl Project's* work is aided by understanding developmental psychology and correctly applying its teachings. As the department promotes student engagement in experiential learning, support from department faculty would greatly benefit the students of *The Pearl Project*.

By gaining a sponsorship from the Psychology department, student members of *The Pearl Project* will be better equipped to assist and provide support for children when they learn more about developmental psychology from faculty. They will be able to understand the behavioral patterns of children, especially adversities that at-risk children face in comparison to their privileged peers. Psychology students interested in working with at-risk children and families will also have more information about joining *The Pearl Project*, and this will generate a greater membership for the organization which means that we will have more volunteers to serve at Roseland Daycare during our trips and Foundations Preschool on a weekly basis.

Goals:

- A representative will present a presentation/workshop at a Pearl Project meeting to educate members about topics in developmental and behavioral psychology.
- Pearl Project members will gain a strong understanding of the developmental stages of the children they work with and how to structure educational activities based on this.
- Pearl Project members will have a variety of educational resources that are approved by the sponsoring unit to learn more about topical issues in developmental psychology.

- The Psychology department can assist The Pearl Project in identifying more service opportunities for students to engage where there is a need in the community

The Pearl Project is hoping that student members will gain a greater understanding of developmental psychology for children, particularly those who may be affected by hardships. We are also hoping to gain tools to support the children that we work with in the greatest capacity possible. We were envisioning this being delivered in guest speaking opportunities and educational presentations. The sponsoring unit would be able to provide more opportunities to its students to engage in service opportunities with our organization. The graduate students in the department of Psychology could also have more opportunities in presenting to students by presenting to our student organization if they wish to do so.

Section 2: The Pearl Project is financially independent from the Sponsoring Unit, and the organization will handle its own finances.

Section 3: Risk Management, Insurance, and Travel

The SSO will consult with the Sponsoring Unit during the semesterly meeting to discuss activities and events, in order to confirm that all activities are safe. Members of the Pearl Project will sign or virtually sign liability waivers releasing the SSO and Sponsoring Unit from liability during all activities and events. During transactions involving food, such as bake sales, a sign will be clearly and conspicuously displayed stating that the Sponsoring Unit, University, and SSO are not liable for any food-borne illnesses that may result. All students that travel with the SSO will sign a liability waiver releasing the University, Sponsoring Unit, and SSO from liability in any travel-related situation. The SSO will consult with the Sponsoring Unit before filing a Risk Management Claim.

Section 4: Branding, Logos, and Communication

The SSO will first consult the University Logos and Trademark Policies before each individual use, followed by confirmation and communication of this activity to the Sponsoring Unit as the SSO adopts a general design for digital and graphics. The SSO will not use departmental logos.

Section 5: Student Organization Standards of Conduct & Judicial Process

During each meeting of the SSO and Sponsoring Unit, a specific section of the meeting will be spent addressing complaints and coming up with solutions. If this is not frequent enough, one party will set up a meeting with the other via email to address complaints as soon as they arise.