

# **The Constitution of the Art, Research and Teaching Special Interest Group of NPO Japan Association for Language Teaching**

## **Name**

### **Article 1**

The name of the organization is 言語教育美術研究会 in Japanese and the **Art, Research, and Teaching Special Interest Group** in English and its abbreviation is ART SIG.

## **Affiliation**

### **Article 2**

1. The ART SIG is a semi-autonomous group within NPO JALT (The Japan Association for Language Teaching).
2. In the conduct of its activities, the ART SIG shall comply with the policies and directives of the JALT National Executive Board, and act in accordance with the provisions of the national constitution and bylaws.

## **Raison D'être**

### **Article 3**

The ART SIG is for artists, researchers and teachers who are interested in exploring and utilizing visual art for teaching and learning and who share an interest in the recognized roles and future possibilities for visual artworks in the language-learning classroom. The visual arts (paintings, photos, illustrations) help students to learn the target language as well as multicultural literacy and multimodal reading skills, which are essential for this internet era. Art also engages learners by offering affordances to interact with the SLA material, reduces social anxiety, increases social inclusion and, perhaps most importantly, a deep engagement with visual arts promotes critical thinking skills, the bedrock of learning how to learn.

## **Purpose**

### **Article 4**

The ART SIG is a community of educators and school administrators whose purposes is to foster research, hold periodic meetings and forums, issue publications, cooperate with interested professional organizations, including other JALT special interest groups and Chapters, and engage in other activities for those interested in art and its role in language teaching and learning.

## **Membership**

### **Article 5**

Individual voting membership shall be open to any JALT National member upon payment of the annual SIG membership fee currently set by JALT.

## **Annual General Meeting**

### ***Article 6***

The ART SIG shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the JALT International Conference. The time and place shall be announced to all ART SIG members at least one month in advance of the meeting. Each ART SIG member shall have an equal voting right at the Annual General Meeting. Members of the SIG present at the Annual General Meeting will constitute a quorum. At this meeting, SIG officers will report on the state of the SIG's treasury, programs, membership, and publicity during the period since the last Annual General Meeting. Officers for the coming year will be elected at the AGM. Members may also vote for officers via the Internet preceding the meeting.

## **Executive Board**

### ***Article 7***

The Executive Board shall be the chief policy-making body of the ART SIG. The Executive Board consists of officers. Each officer shall have an equal voting right at the Executive Board Meeting. All proposals and motions shall be approved by majority vote of the officers attending the meeting. In the event that voting cannot resolve the issue because the Executive Board members are equally divided on the issue, the Chairperson shall cast the deciding vote.

## **Officers**

### ***Article 8***

The ART SIG has the following officers: Coordinator, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Program Chair, and Publications Chair. Officers shall be elected and approved at the Annual General Meeting held at the JALT International Conference. Members may also vote for officers via the Internet preceding the meeting. The term of office shall be for 1 (one) year. An officer shall begin his or her term of office immediately following JALT's Ordinary General Meeting and perform his or her duties until the election at the following year's Ordinary General Meeting. However, reelection shall not be prohibited. Any officer may hold more than one officer position. However, the coordinator and treasurer positions shall not be held by the same person.

## **Remuneration**

### ***Article 9***

Officer's expenses needed to perform his or her duties shall be reimbursed.

## **Publications**

### ***Article 10***

The ART SIG shall produce online publications about the roles for the visual arts in language learning and teaching.

## **Financial year**

## **Article 11**

The ART SIG's financial year shall begin on 1 April and end on 31 March.

## **Amendments**

## **Article 12**

Amendments to this Constitution must be proposed by at least three members of the ART SIG Executive Board or at least 5% of the ART SIG members. The proposed amendment(s) shall be ratified in a procedure clearly explained to all ART SIG members in writing and delivered online. The proposed amendment(s) must be ratified by a simple majority of the members voting at the Annual General Meeting. Voting by absentee ballot will be possible.

# **Bylaws of the Art, Research and Teaching SIG**

## **I. Officer Duties and Committees**

**1. Coordinator:** The Coordinator shall have general responsibility for coordinating the activities of the ART SIG Executive Board and for directing the affairs of the ART SIG. She/he shall preside at the ART SIG Annual Meeting and at other ART SIG sponsored events. In the absence of the Coordinator, another officer appointed by the Coordinator shall chair the meeting. The Coordinator will serve as liaison to other similar organizations. The Coordinator shall submit an annual report to JALT.

**2. Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall keep all financial records and collect and disburse all funds of the ART SIG. She/he shall present an account of the financial status of the organization at the ART SIG Annual Meeting and submit regular financial reports to the National SIG Treasurer Liaison. The Treasurer shall prepare the financial documents for an internal audit to take place after the books have been closed at the end of each fiscal year.

**3. Program Chair:** The Program Chair shall supervise the planning and organizing of all regular and special programs and provide the necessary information to officers of the SIG or other JALT agencies as needed. S/he shall solicit presentation proposals from ART SIG members and arrange for vetting them where necessary. S/he shall contact and arrange for speakers to present at the JALT International Conference and SIG Forum and actively offer programs to JALT Chapters, special events of JALT, or other L2 educational organizations within and outside of Japan.

**4. Membership Chair:** The Membership Chair shall be responsible for registering and renewing ART SIG membership, keeping membership information provided by members, maintaining a comprehensive and up-to-date list of the membership, databasing for internal analysis, and forwarding membership information to the appropriate JALT officers. The Membership Chair shall assist the Publicity Chair and Publication Chair as needed for distribution of ART SIG publications.

**5. Publications Chair:** The Publications Chair is responsible for overseeing all ART SIG publications, including the publication of official newsletters. Newsletters will be published online, with the possibility of publishing print issues. The Publications Chair, who may or may not be the editor, will appoint an assistant editor and other publications staff as necessary.

6. In addition to the five required positions, supporting positions may be instituted to identify other important responsibilities such as: Young Learners Chair, Website Editor, etc. Any number of volunteer officers may work together as a team using titles to reflect this sharing of responsibilities such as Publicity Co-Chair, etc.

7. Membership on committees appointed by the Coordinator is open to ordinary SIG members. The chair of each committee, however, must be a member of the ART SIG Executive Board.

## **II. Nominations, Elections, Vacancies, and Removals**

1. Nominations for officers by members in good standing shall be solicited and accepted by the ART SIG Executive Board, either in writing prior to the Annual General Meeting or in person at the meeting.

2. Candidates must acknowledge acceptance of nomination, and provide relevant biographical information at the Annual General Meeting.

3. The Executive Board members shall be empowered to poll the voting members in the form of a primary SIG election in order to determine a slate of officers to be presented as a motion for approval by the Annual General Meeting. There is no limit to the number of officer positions that can be created or shared. Voting members shall be ART SIG Members.

4. If no officer positions are being contested among two or more candidates, the ART SIG Executive Board may present the full slate of officers to the membership at the Annual General Meeting for approval by the members present. If there are contested positions, elections will take place at the Annual General Meeting or prior to the AGM via the Internet, with the results subject to approval by the ART SIG Annual General Meeting.

5. If for any reason an office becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Coordinator, subject to approval by the ART SIG Executive Board.

6. An officer who fails to perform his/her duties under the ART SIG Constitution and Bylaws or the JALT National Executive Board policies may be removed from office by a three-fourths vote of the ART SIG Executive Board.

## **III. Language**

For administrative purposes, the working languages of the ART SIG shall be English and/or Japanese.

## **IV. SIG Activities**

In addition to fulfilling its purpose as stated in the constitution, the ART SIG will place priority on keeping the number of members at 50 or more, the number of officers at 4 or more, and the number of newsletters published per year at 1 or more.

## **V. Amendments**

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by a majority vote of the ART SIG Executive Board. Any such proposed amendments shall be distributed to the members before the Annual General Meeting. To become effective, proposed amendments must be approved by a simple majority of the members voting at

the Annual General Meeting. Alternatively, these Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the ART SIG Executive Board.

## **VI. Management of Meetings**

The Coordinator shall recommend procedures for the management of the ART SIG Executive Board and the Annual General Meeting. In case of objections to such recommendations, the Executive Board members present shall discuss and agree upon rules and procedures to manage the meeting, consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws.

This Constitution and Bylaws were approved by the ART SIG Executive Board on 2022/03/29

Brennan Conaway – Coordinator

Namiko Tsuruta – Membership Chair

(open) – Program Chair

Robert Olson – Publications Chair

William Tiley – Treasurer

Martin Sedaghat – Publicity Chair