

## **ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF BEYOND THE STEPS**

### **An Unincorporated Non-Profit Association in the State of Mississippi**

#### **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this unincorporated non-profit association shall be **Beyond THE STEPS** (hereinafter referred to as the "Association").

#### **ARTICLE II: PRINCIPAL PLACE OF OPERATIONS**

The primary area of operations and meetings for the Association shall be located within the State of Mississippi. The address may be designated from time to time by the leadership framework of the Association.

#### **ARTICLE III: MISSION AND PURPOSE**

**Beyond THE STEPS** is a youth-focused initiative dedicated to holistically supporting the next generation.

1. **Purpose:** The mission of the Association is two-fold:
  - To provide essential need items to youth in our community to ensure they have the resources to thrive.
  - To use the art of dance ministry to foster spiritual growth, confidence, and creative expression.
2. **Execution:** By pairing tangible support with the transformative power of movement, the Association aims to uplift the spirit and meet the physical needs of the youth we serve.
3. **Non-Profit Character:** The Association shall be operated exclusively for non-profit, religious, charitable, and educational purposes. It shall not be operated for the personal financial gain of any individual or member.

#### **ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP**

1. **Eligibility:** Membership in the Association is open to any individual who supports the mission and purposes outlined in Article III and agrees to abide by these Articles.
2. **Dues & Contributions:** The Association may determine membership parameters or optional dues framework as decided by the leadership, but it shall not actively solicit public charitable donations from the general public.

## **ARTICLE V: LEADERSHIP AND OFFICER ROLES**

1. **Founding Leadership:** The President and Founder of the Association is **Deja Leflore**.
2. **Officer Framework:** To ensure proper organization and internal compliance, the leadership shall consist of the President and at least two other designated officer roles:
  - **President/Founder:** Responsible for the visionary direction, general oversight, and execution of programs.
  - **Secretary:** Responsible for recording minutes at meetings and maintaining the official records of the Association.
  - **Treasurer:** Responsible for tracking any internal funds, volunteer supplies, or shared financial records.
3. **Term of Office:** Officers shall serve until they resign or a successor is chosen by mutual consent of the leadership team.

## **ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS AND DECISION MAKING**

1. **Regular Meetings:** The Association shall hold periodic meetings to coordinate community resource distributions and dance ministry practices.
2. **Voting:** Major decisions regarding the direction or actions of the Association shall be decided by a majority vote of the active leadership officers.

## **ARTICLE VII: FINANCES AND PROPERTY**

1. **Receipts:** Any funds collected via program participation, structural dues, or internal member contributions must be directly applied to the operational costs, essential need purchases, or logistics of the dance ministry.
2. **Bank Accounts:** Any bank account established for the Association must be held in accordance with legal age and banking guidelines in the State of Mississippi, utilizing a designated co-signing adult if required by banking regulations.

## **ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS**

These Articles of Association may be amended, altered, or repealed at any regular or special meeting of the leadership team by a majority vote of the serving officers.

## **ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION**

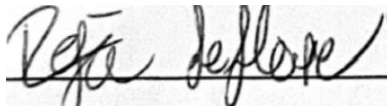
In the event of the dissolution or winding up of the Association, all remaining physical assets, supplies, and funds shall be distributed exclusively to another registered non-profit organization or youth initiative with a similar community mission, as chosen by the final leadership team.

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### **ADOPTION AND SIGNATURES**

By signing below, the founding leader and officers formally adopt these Articles of Association for **Beyond THE STEPS** on this day,

**President & Founder:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deja Leflore", written over a horizontal line.

**Deja Leflore**

**Officer / Witness (Adult Mentor):**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carla Lewis", written over a horizontal line.

**Print Name:**

Carla Lewis