

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
FILM, VISUAL, AND MEDIA CAUCUS OF THE
AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION**

ARTICLE I: NAME, OBJECTIVES, AND GOVERNANCE

Section 1. Name:

The name of this organization shall be Film, Visual, and Media Caucus of the African Literature Association. The Caucus exists as an affiliated but separately administered organization of scholars whose expertise and interest relates to the field of film, visual, and media studies who are also members of the ALA.

Section 2. Objectives:

The objectives of this organization shall be:

- (1) To establish a network of scholars, teachers, filmmakers, artists doing work in the field of artistic, cultural, and scholarly production in African and African Diaspora cinemas, visual, and media studies.
- (2) To promote scholarship on African and African Diaspora cinemas and media, their visual, artistic, and cultural production, distribution and exhibition.
- (3) To ensure the continued examination of issues related to the development of African and African Diaspora filmmaking, visual, and media production.
- (4) To explore avenues of development in the scholarship and teaching of African and African Diaspora visual and cultural productions.
- (4) To provide support resources for African filmmakers to present and discuss their work at the Conference.
- (5) To organize a film program to be presented during the Conference.
- (6) To offer a collegial network for the advancement of visual arts in the African Literature Association and other related associations, media, universities, and publishers.

Section 3. Governance and Structure:

A. The Film, Visual, and Media Caucus of the African Literature Association shall be governed by its Constitution and by-laws, and such other actions as the caucus make consistent therewith.

B. Structure:

1. Executive Council

- (1) Chair

(2) Vice Chair

(3) Treasurer: this is an ad hoc short-term position based on the needs of the caucus. This position does not carry a two-year term.

2. Standing Committees

(1) Program Committee

(2) Publication and Scholarship Committee

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

Section 1. Members

Membership in Film, Visual, and Media Caucus of the African Literature Association is open to ALA members, professional scholars, teachers, filmmakers, artists doing work in the field of artistic, cultural, and scholarly production in African and African Diaspora cinemas, visual, and media production, and to other persons interested in the development of scholarship and knowledge related to the aforementioned scholarly fields, and who subscribe to the goals of the organization and the caucus.

Section 2. Affiliation:

The Film, Visual, and Media Caucus-ALA shall be affiliated to the African Literature Association, which will be characterized by:

- A. Holding annual meetings at the ALA's Annual Conference;
- B. Sponsoring meetings, panels, roundtables, film screenings, etc. in conjunction with the annual meetings of the ALA, ASA and other related organizations;
- C. Titles suggested by the caucus through its Executive Chair will supply panels and roundtables.

Section 3. Meetings:

- A. Notice of place of meeting shall be given in the program of the conference. The caucus Executive chair will submit a preferred time to convene and will consult with members concerning possible time slots.
- B. Other meetings of the caucus will be convened upon request of members.

Section 4. Voting:

At every membership meeting, each member shall be entitled to cast one ballot, which may also be cast for that member by proxy or in written form.

Section 5. Officers:

Officers shall be elected for a two-year term. The Vice Chair shall succeed to the office of Chair in the year following his/her term as Vice Chair. The Chair will be the organization's representative on the ALA Executive Council.

The Vice Chair is the representative for all Film, Visual, and Media Caucus-ALA programming and will be Chair of the Caucus Program Committee and representative to the ALA Conference Committee.

Section 6. Annual Report and Program of Action:

At each annual members' meeting, officers shall present a report and submit a recommended program of action for the year ahead.

ARTICLE III: COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT DUTIES

Section 1. Chair:

The Chair shall preside over meetings and facilitate and otherwise manage the affairs of the Caucus. The Chair shall call and coordinate meetings and shall make announcements public. The Chair shall also be the representative of the Film, Visual, and Media Caucus-ALA to other organizations and the public.

Section 2. Vice Chair:

The Vice Chair shall perform all duties of the Chair in the event that the Chair is unable to do so.

Section 3. Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall manage all finances of the Caucus on an ad hoc basis, and shall work with the Chair and the Vice Chair. Upon the end of all duties, the Treasurer shall provide a report to the Caucus.

Section 4. Program Committee:

The Program Committee shall be chaired by the Vice Chair and shall be responsible for all programming of the Caucus.

Section 5. Publications/Scholarship Committee:

The Publications/Scholarship Committee shall be responsible and active regarding a range of publications, lectures, and workshops for Film, Visual, and Media Caucus-ALA. A committee of three (3) will be selected each year to which submissions will be sent. The committee shall also propose other ways to the body by which it can enhance the scholarship of African and African Diaspora cinemas.

ARTICLE IV: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution shall require prior notification of the proposed amendment in writing. Amendments will be adopted if approved by two thirds majority vote of members present.

ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS

Elections will be held every two years for the designated officers at the annual meeting. Votes will be cast by secret ballot. The body of the Film, Visual, and Media Caucus-ALA will identify committee members.