

Charter of the Far West Popular Culture Association

As initially adopted on October 30, 2020

Article 1. Organization Name

The name of this volunteer, not-for-profit association shall be the Far West Popular Culture Association, alternately known as the Far West Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. Through the remainder of this document, this association will be referred to by the acronym FWPCA.

Article 2. Purpose

2.1 Mission. The FWPCA exists to foster the study of popular culture in its many forms across a diverse range of academic disciplines and through a variety of intellectual approaches, with a special emphasis on topics concerning Las Vegas, the state of Nevada, and the American Far West more broadly. It includes the study of literature, music, theater, film and television, comic books, games, and creative work of all types, both historically and of the current day, from across cultures.

2.2 Conference. To further this end, the FWPCA organizes an annual conference that embraces inclusivity, intellectual growth, and the exploration of how popular culture intersects with the past, present, and future. The conference embodies the legacy of FWPCA founder Felicia F. Campbell, who pushed boundaries and forged new paths throughout her long career. It is a platform for sharing ideas that help us rethink how what we read, hear, watch, play, and create can tell us more about ourselves and each other. The conference is held annually in Las Vegas, Nevada, either in person or remotely.

2.3 Other Activities. The FWPCA may undertake other endeavors as it sees fit to pursue its ultimate goal of encouraging and supporting the study of popular culture.

2.4 Inclusivity. The FWPCA strives to create a welcoming, inclusive environment that fosters engagement and exploration by all. Our work is conducted in a spirit of mutual respect and intellectual curiosity. The organization does not tolerate discrimination based on age, creed, color, gender, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, military status, predisposing genetic characteristics, or any other category protected under applicable law.

Article 3. Members

3.1. Eligibility. The FWPCA's membership is open to all who study popular culture, with no restrictions based on academic affiliation or lack thereof.

3.2 Composition. The members of the FWPCA are all those who have paid their annual dues, participated in an FWPCA event in the past year, or volunteered for FWPCA during the past year.

Article 4. Operating Structure

The FWPCA's all-volunteer leadership is comprised of an executive director and a steering committee. Together, they schedule the conference, determine FWPCA policy, and preside over all FWPCA operations.

Article 5. Fiscal Agent

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas is the fiscal agent for the FWPCA. The executive director will conduct all transactions involving the FWPCA and its operations through accounts maintained with the UNLV University Libraries. Under no circumstances will the executive director or anyone acting on behalf of the FWPCA use any other personal or business account to conduct FWPCA work, nor shall there be any commingling of personal and organization funds.

Article 6. Executive Director

6.1 Selection. The executive director shall be appointed by the outgoing executive director, with the approval of the steering committee.

6.2 Duties. The executive director has the first and final responsibility for all FWPCA strategic planning, financial management, and operations. They are charged with ensuring the health and continuing growth of the FWPCA, representing the FWPCA externally, and adhering to the spirit and letter of the FWPCA charter. Specifically:

- a. Finances. The executive director shall maintain control over the FWPCA's accounts and be responsible for collecting and disbursing all funds as needed. The executive director shall work with the UNLV University Libraries development team to ensure that all accounts are properly maintained.
- b. Conference organization. The executive director shall schedule the annual FWPCA conference in conjunction with the national Popular Culture Association and regional associations to avoid conflicts. They shall also negotiate with and select the conference hotel and/or host venues and manage contracts with all vendors,

and be responsible for recruiting, training, and coordinating the conference's volunteer staff. The executive director has final authority in assembling the conference program and resolving all disputes that may arise before, during, and after the conference.

- c. Membership. The executive director shall maintain a list of active FWPCA members, including email addresses, in order to facilitate communications.
- d. Leadership. The executive director shall continuously consult the steering committee during the development of the annual conference and in conjunction with all strategic planning and decision making. They are responsible for maintaining a roster of engaged members of the steering committee.
- e. Communications. The executive director is responsible all communications to FWPCA members, and for disseminating information about the annual conference and other FWPCA endeavors.

Article 7. Steering Committee

7.1 Composition. The steering committee is comprised of interested, engaged scholars of popular culture who wish to assist in the development of the annual conference and other FWPCA endeavors.

7.2 Duties. Steering committee members shall share with the executive director their feedback with all aspects of the FWPCA's organization and operations, with a particular focus on responding to the executive director's queries about specific issues, such as the planning and organization of the conference.

Article 8. Amendments

This charter may be amended by the action of the executive director, in consultation and with the approval of the steering committee.