



**State of Rhode Island
Office of the Secretary of State**

Fee: \$35.00

Division Of Business Services
148 W. River Street
Providence RI 02904-2615
(401) 222-3040

Non-Profit Corporation

Articles of Incorporation

(Chapter 7-6-34 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, 1956, as amended)

ARTICLE I

The name of the corporation is Friendly Fruits Community Gardens

ARTICLE II

The period of its duration is Perpetual

ARTICLE III

The specific purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized are:

FRIENDLY FRUITS COMMUNITY GARDENS MISSION STATEMENT:

THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OR PURPOSES WHICH FRIENDLY FRUITS COMMUNITY GARDEN PROPOSES TO PURSUE IN CONDUCTING ITS AFFAIRS IN RHODE ISLAND ARE:

1. CREATE A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE: ESTABLISH A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT WHERE TRANS, NON-BINARY, GENDERQUEER, INTERSEX, AND ALL LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS, ALONG WITH THEIR ALLIES, CAN GATHER, FEEL SAFE, AND BE THEMSELVES.

2. PROMOTE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: FOSTER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND BUILD SOCIAL NETWORKS BY ORGANIZING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, AND ACTIVITIES THAT UNITE PEOPLE, STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS AND PROMOTE INCLUSIVITY.

3. PROVIDE FRESH PRODUCE: GROW AND DISTRIBUTE FRESH, NUTRITIOUS PRODUCE TO LOW AND NO-INCOME LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AND IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.

4. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: OFFER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, GARDENING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

FOCUSING

ON ENGAGING LGBTQ YOUTH AND PROVIDING THEM WITH VALUABLE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE.

5. SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES: IMPLEMENT AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, INCLUDING INSTALLING A RAIN COLLECTION SYSTEM AND EXTENDING THE GROWING SEASON WITH COLD BEDS TO ENSURE LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY.

6. ACCESSIBILITY: ENSURE THAT OUR FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS ARE ADA-ACCESSIBLE, CREATING AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT WHERE INDIVIDUALS OF ALL ABILITIES CAN PARTICIPATE AND BENEFIT FROM OUR ACTIVITIES.

7. SUPPORT AND RESOURCES: PROVIDE RESOURCES, SUPPORT, AND A SENSE OF COMMUNITY FOR DISPLACED AND LOW/NO-INCOME LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS, HELPING THEM TO FEEL CONNECTED, SUPPORTED, AND EMPOWERED.

8. COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS: COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS PVD HOUSE, THE BOSTON SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE, NORTHERN RHODE ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT, LASA, DEM, AND THE RI FOOD POLICY COUNCIL TO MAXIMIZE OUR IMPACT AND EXTEND OUR REACH WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

9. HEALTH AND WELLNESS: UTILIZE THE THERAPEUTIC ASPECTS OF NATURE AND GROWING TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL, COGNITIVE, AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING AMONG COMMUNITY MEMBERS, FACILITATING HEALING AND FOSTERING RESILIENCE.

10. CULTURAL CELEBRATION: CELEBRATE AND SHARE THE DIVERSE TRADITIONS AND CULTURES WITHIN THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY THROUGH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES THAT HONOR AND RESPECT EACH INDIVIDUAL'S IDENTITY AND HERITAGE.

BY PURSUING THESE PURPOSES, FRIENDLY FRUITS COMMUNITY GARDEN AIMS TO CREATE A VIBRANT, SUPPORTIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY THAT ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL ITS MEMBERS IN RHODE ISLAND.

ARTICLE IV

Provisions, if any, not inconsistent with the law, which the incorporators elect to set forth in these articles of incorporation for the regulation of the internal affairs of the corporation are:

FRIENDLY FRUITS COMMUNITY GARDEN BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: MISSION

THE MISSION OF FRIENDLY FRUITS COMMUNITY GARDEN IS TO FOSTER COMMUNITY AND CULTIVATE A SAFE, HEALING, AND INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR TRANS, NON-BINARY, GENDERQUEER, INTERSEX, AND ALL LGBTQIA+ INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR ALLIES, REGARDLESS OF AGE, GENDER, RACE, CLASS, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, AND IMMIGRATION STATUS.

ARTICLE II: HOURS

GARDEN HOURS AND POLICIES WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE AND BY THE GARDEN GATE.

FRIENDLY FRUITS COMMUNITY GARDEN WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR A MINIMUM OF 20 HOURS PER WEEK.

ARTICLE III: GARDEN USE AND POLICIES

FRIENDLY FRUITS COMMUNITY GARDEN IS AN INCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD SPACE. WE STRIVE TO BE A SAFE AND WELCOMING SPACE FOR EVERYONE WHO COMES INTO THE GARDEN. MEMBERS AND VISITORS ARE EXPECTED TO CONFRONT AND STOP ANY BEHAVIOR OR LANGUAGE THAT IS CONTRARY TO THIS POLICY.

• SMOKING AND ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION: SMOKING AND ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION ARE FORBIDDEN ON THE GARDEN GROUNDS.

• NO PETS ALLOWED: PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE GARDEN.

• COMMUNAL PLOTS: ALL PLOTS ARE COMMUNALLY MANAGED. CROPS ARE PLANTED AND MAINTAINED BY MEMBERS, ACCORDING TO THE DESIGN AND GARDENING PRACTICES APPROVED BY THE BOARD, WITH THE GUIDANCE OF THE MASTER GARDENER, IF ANY.

• ORGANIC PRACTICES: WE ADHERE TO ORGANIC GROWING PRACTICES. CHEMICAL PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, OR FERTILIZERS MUST NOT BE USED ANYWHERE IN THE GARDEN. CHEMICALLY TREATED WOOD MUST NOT BE USED FOR GARDEN BEDS.

• HARVESTING: ANYONE MAY HARVEST FROM THE COMMUNAL PLOTS. WE ASK THAT

YOU

ONLY TAKE WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION.

• SPECIAL PURPOSE PLOTS: ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS WHO WISH TO USE A PLOT FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE OR PROJECT MAY REQUEST TO MANAGE A PLOT FOR THE UPCOMING GARDENING SEASON. SUCH REQUESTS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE GARDEN BY JANUARY 10TH. THE PLOT ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF VOLUNTEERS AND AT LEAST TWO BOARD MEMBERS, WILL REVIEW APPLICATIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING, WHERE A FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE BY A VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT.

• COMMUNAL PLOT REQUIREMENT: AT LEAST HALF OF THE AVAILABLE PLOTS FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON MUST REMAIN AS COMMUNALLY MANAGED PLOTS. THE PLOT ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MAY RECOMMEND ALLOCATING FEWER THAN HALF OF THE REMAINING AVAILABLE GARDEN PLOTS TO INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS, BASED ON THE MERITS OF THE APPLICATIONS AND THE NEEDS OF BOTH THE GARDEN AND THE COMMUNITY.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: INDIVIDUALS WHO WISH TO JOIN AS MEMBERS MUST:

1. SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO ABIDE BY THESE BYLAWS.
2. PAY AN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (\$20/INDIVIDUAL AND \$30/HOUSEHOLD).
3. SERVE ON ONE OR MORE COMMITTEES.
4. ATTEND A MINIMUM OF 2 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS PER YEAR.

*SLIDING SCALE FEES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. FEES CAN BE WAIVED FOR THOSE IN NEED, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP: FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH BYLAWS AND MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS CAN RESULT IN REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS, DECISION-MAKING, FUNDRAISING, AND COMMITTEES

MEETINGS: GENERAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD THE FIRST SATURDAY OF FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER, AND DECEMBER FROM 1-3 PM AT THE GARDEN UNLESS

OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. GENERAL GARDEN MEETINGS ARE HELD BIMONTHLY (EVERY OTHER MONTH) AND ARE FACILITATED BY TWO VOLUNTEER MEMBERS ON A ROTATING BASIS. RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE CREATING AN AGENDA IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CO-SECRETARIES, KEEPING MEETING NOTES, AND MANAGING THE CONVERSATION SPACE DURING THE MEETING.

COMMITTEE AND OTHER MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AS NECESSARY.

DECISION-MAKING: ALL MAJOR DECISIONS ARE MADE AT GENERAL MEETINGS. IN THE EVENT A DECISION NEEDS TO BE MADE BETWEEN GENERAL MEETINGS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL MAKE TIME-SENSITIVE DECISIONS.

VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE AT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS. A QUORUM OF 10 PERCENT OF MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING, AND NO FEWER THAN 5 SUCH MEMBERS, MUST BE PRESENT AT A MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR A VOTE TO TAKE PLACE. ADDITIONALLY, 50 PERCENT OF THE BOARD MUST BE PRESENT FOR A VOTE TO TAKE PLACE. ONLY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING MAY VOTE. A SIMPLE MAJORITY WILL DECIDE THE VOTE, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF VOTES TO REMOVE AN OFFICER, WHICH REQUIRE A QUORUM OF NO FEWER THAN TEN MEMBERS AND A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO PASS.

FUNDRAISING: ANY MEMBER CAN BRING UP A GRANT OPPORTUNITY OR OTHER FUNDRAISING IDEAS TO THE GENERAL MEETING AND/OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS. ANY GARDEN MEMBER CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS, BUT ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE OVERSEEN BY GARDEN LEADERSHIP.

COMMITTEES: CURRENT COMMITTEES INCLUDE: GARDENING, COMPOST, UPROOTING, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, ARTS + EVENTS, AND FINANCE.

IF A GRIEVANCE IS REPORTED, A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE FORMED. ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES MAY BE FORMED BY PROPOSAL AT THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND APPROVAL BY A GENERAL VOTE.

COMMITTEES WILL MEET AS NECESSARY AND PROVIDE UPDATES TO THE BOARD AT A MINIMUM DURING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.

ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

ELECTIONS: ELECTIONS SHALL BE HELD AT THE OCTOBER MEETING WITH NEW OFFICERS

TAKING OFFICE AT THE DECEMBER MEETING. THE CO-SECRETARIES AND THE TREASURER

WILL SERVE FOR TERMS OF ONE YEAR. IN THE CASE OF RESIGNATION, OR IF THERE IS A MEMBERSHIP VOTE TO REMOVE AN OFFICER, INTERIM ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD. A VOTE TO REMOVE AN OFFICER MUST BE TAKEN AT A MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS COMPRISED OF TWO CO-SECRETARIES, A TREASURER, AND THE CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEES. THE POSITIONS OF THE CO-SECRETARIES AND THE TREASURER ARE ELECTED.

RESPONSIBILITY OF CO-SECRETARIES: THE CO-SECRETARIES ARE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF THE GARDEN, OVERSEEING THE COMMITTEES, MAINTAINING MEMBERSHIP RECORDS, AND ENSURING ALL NEW MEMBERS SIGN THE CURRENT BYLAWS.

RESPONSIBILITY OF TREASURER: THE TREASURER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL FINANCIAL MATTERS, INCLUDING DISTRIBUTIONS AND COLLECTIONS, MAINTAINING ACCURATE RECORDS, AND SERVING AS A SIGNATORY FOR THE GARDEN'S BANK ACCOUNT. THE TREASURER WILL PROVIDE A QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF THE GARDEN'S FINANCIAL STATUS TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES FOR CHECKS WILL INCLUDE THE TREASURER AND ANY OTHER SELECTED GARDEN MEMBER. ALL CHECKS MUST BE SIGNED BY TWO OFFICERS, WITH NO TWO SIGNATORIES FROM THE SAME HOUSEHOLD.

THE TREASURER MUST RECEIVE APPROVAL THROUGH VOTING FROM GARDEN MEMBERSHIP FOR TRANSACTIONS OVER \$500. ITEMIZED RECEIPTS MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE TREASURER FOR REIMBURSEMENT.

COMPENSATION: NO DIRECTOR OR OFFICER OF THE GARDEN SHALL RECEIVE ANY FINANCIAL BENEFIT FROM THE GARDEN'S OPERATIONS, EXCEPT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES.

ARTICLE VIII: GRIEVANCES

MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE RESPECTFUL AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESOLVE DISAGREEMENTS THROUGH DIALOGUE, BOTH WITH EACH OTHER AND AT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.

SEVERAL MEMBERS HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN MEDIATION AND CAN SERVE AS NEUTRAL THIRD PARTIES TO HELP RESOLVE CONFLICTS. ANYONE MAY SOLICIT HELP OR GUIDANCE FROM A MEDIATOR.

IF A GARDEN MEMBER WISHES TO RAISE A FORMAL GRIEVANCE, THEY MAY SUBMIT IT IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY. THE SECRETARY WILL ASSEMBLE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF 5 RANDOMLY SELECTED MEMBERS AND AT LEAST TWO BOARD MEMBERS. THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW THE GRIEVANCE, HOLD AN IN-PERSON MEETING WITH THE GRIEVANT IF REQUESTED, AND ISSUE A RECOMMENDATION WITHIN 30 DAYS. THE RECOMMENDATION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE SUBSEQUENT MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

UPON REQUEST OF A GARDEN MEMBER AND A MAJORITY VOTE, A PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE BYLAWS WILL BE CONSIDERED. THE PROPOSED CHANGE WILL BE CIRCULATED IN WRITING OR ELECTRONICALLY TO MEMBERS, AND A VOTE WILL BE HELD AT THE SUBSEQUENT GARDEN MEETING. A VOTE TO CHANGE THE BYLAWS REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY APPROVAL.

ARTICLE V

The street address (post office boxes are not acceptable) of the initial registered office of the corporation is:

No. and Street: 9 WELFARE AVE
City or Town: CRANSTON State: RI Zip: 02910

The name of its initial registered agent at such address is DAMON GOODRICH-HOUSKA

ARTICLE VI

The number of directors constituting the initial Board of Directors of the Corporation is 3 and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as the initial directors are:

Title	Individual Name First, Middle, Last, Suffix	Address Address, City or Town, State, Zip Code, Country
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DIRECTOR	BRIDGETTE BLIGHT	9 WELFARE AVE CRANSTON, RI 02910 USA
DIRECTOR	DANA CABAL	75 INDEPENDENCE WAY, APT 30-212 CRANSTON, RI 02910 USA
DIRECTOR	DAMON GOODRICH-HOUSKA	9 WELFARE AVE CRANSTON, RI 02910 USA

ARTICLE VII

The name and address of the incorporator is:

Title	Individual Name First, Middle, Last, Suffix	Address Address, City or Town, State, Zip Code, Country
INCORPORATOR	DAMON GOODRICH-HOUSKA	9 WELFARE AVE CRANSTON, RI 02910 USA
INCORPORATOR	BRIDGETTE BLIGHT	9 WELFARE AVE CRANSTON, RI 02910 USA
INCORPORATOR	DANA CABRAL	75 INDEPENDENCE WAY APT 30-212 CRANSTON, RI 02910 USA

ARTICLE VIII

Date when corporate existence is to begin

(not prior to, nor more than 30 days after, the filing of these Articles of Incorporation)

Signed this 22 Day of July, 2024 at 5:11:35 PM by the incorporator(s). *This electronic signature of the individual or individuals signing this instrument constitutes the affirmation or acknowledgement of the signatory, under penalties of perjury, that this instrument is that individual's act and deed or the act and deed of the corporation, and that the facts stated herein are true, as of the date of the electronic filing, in compliance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 7-6.*

Enter signature(s) below.

DAMON GOODRICH-HOUSKA

BRIDGETTE BLIGHT

DANA CABRAL

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State of Rhode Island
Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State
Gregg M. Amore, *Secretary of State*

I, GREGG M. AMORE, Secretary of State of the State of Rhode Island,
hereby certify that this document, duly executed in accordance with the provisions
of Title 7 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended, has been filed in this
office on this day:

July 22, 2024 05:09 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregg M. Amore".

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

