

Official Constitution of Acción Boricua at Columbia University

Mission

Acción Boricua was initially founded to foster "awareness, promotion, and education of Puerto Rican culture, history, and current situations while simultaneously providing a support group for Latino/a issues at Columbia University in general", and also to collaborate with other non-Latino/a groups inside and outside the Columbia gates.

Today Acción Boricua continues to strive to achieve its original mission, however for the purpose of achieving maximum change and influence in the Latino and greater Columbia community, these goals shall be a few among many. They are to be outlined as follows:

Acción Boricua is a space that pays homage to the history of all Latino people and recognizes that there is not certain way to vie for historical and academic recognition of Puerto Ricans and Latinos, in addition to accomplishing social equity and political justice.

Acción Boricua opposes all forms of oppression whether they may be sexism, homophobia, racism, classism, and institutional and systemic disempowerment of all People of Color, Women, Gay, Lesbians, Bisexual, and Transgender.

Acción Boricua endeavors to build community among Latinos, People of Color, and GLBTQ.

Acción Boricua understands that individual experiences and trauma are relative to greater historical and political occurrences.

Acción Boricua affirms Puerto Rican and Latino/a heritage throughout the academic year and beyond the Columbia University gates.

Acción Boricua above all provides a space that fosters unconditional pride, self-love, and mutual support for its members.

Preamble

This Constitution is designed to outline, direct, and provide the general guidelines of the purposes and procedures of Acción Boricua of Columbia University. The aims of this constitution are to outline the procedures and purposes clearly in order to maximize the mission of the organization.

Article I: Name

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be Acción Boricua at Columbia University hereafter referred to as Acción Boricua.

Section II: The officers of Acción Boricua shall make up the Executive Board of Acción Boricua, hereafter referred to as the 'e-board.'

Article II: Purpose

Section I: The board shall:

- A. Initiate, facilitate, monitor, and oversee event planning for Acción Boricua
- B. Be responsible for all administrative tasks including budgeting, contract signing, communication with Student Advisors, the retrieval of approval for events, space requests, and SDA/SGA/ABC approval.
- C. Serve as a support group for the Latino/a community and fulfill the mission of the organization.

Article III: Membership

Section I: The general body of the organization must be comprised of at least 2/3 Columbia College, Fu Foundation School for Engineering and Applied Science, School for General Studies, and Barnard College students.

- A: the general body shall express interest in the organization and its mission.
- B: the general body shall attend meetings and events.

Section II: The responsibilities and privileges of membership are:

- A: Responsibilities: attendance to Acción Boricua meetings and events.
- B: Privileges: access to all of Acción Boricua's resources, including the website, events, materials, etc.

Section III: Membership may be revoked by unanimous vote of the Board due to unjust defamation of Acción Boricua, its members, or violent behavior toward the organization's Board of any of its members.

Article IV: Meetings and Procedures

Section I: the Board may call bi-weekly g-body meetings as they see fit.

Section II: All e-board meetings are open to the public.

Section III: Policy decisions are made and voted on in the following manner:

- A. A policy, idea, etc. is nominated by a Board member or general body member of Acción Boricua.

B. The nomination is then presented to the entire membership at a general body meeting.

C. The entire membership presents votes and the policy, idea; etc. is passed if it receives 2/3 of total votes.

Article V: Officers

Section I: Acción Boricua shall have the following officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Officers. Any current member of Acción Boricua may nominate him/herself or another member for office. That member is permitted to run for office if they have attended at least 1/2 of the meetings and/or events held by Acción Boricua prior to their nomination. Only a former Board member who has served as an officer may be nominated for the position of President.

Section II: The duties of these officers shall be:

A. President: Shall oversee meetings, create agendas for meetings and events, collect Acción Boricua mail and disperse pertinent information to membership, be responsible for knowing the policies and procedures of SDA and ABC, serve as a contact person for the group, perform any of the administrative tasks necessary for the functioning of the group, assign duties to the Executive Officers and be responsible for board development.

B. Vice-President: Shall assist the President in all of his/her duties and take his/her place in result of his/her absence and shall work with the executive officers to make sure that there is constant contact with Barnard's SGA, a stable relationship with the Multicultural Recruitment Committee, and a stable recruitment and retention.

C. Treasurer: Shall attend Treasurer training sessions, formulate yearly budgets, collect account statements, sign e-forms and ABC approvals, keep record of all of Acción Boricua's money transactions and keep all receipts, monthly budget update, and teach treasurer responsibilities to the e-board.

D. Secretary: shall be responsible for keeping notes, dispersing information via email to the general body, and assisting the President in his/her duties.

E. Executive Officers: there shall be a maximum of three (3) Executive Officers. They shall be responsible for the promotion of all events, record all events, maintain a historical binder, attend United Students of Color Council meetings as representatives, attend Latino leaders meetings along with the President and Vice- President, plan events during Latino Heritage Month, maintain relationships with Latino Heritage Month, keep in contact with other cultural groups attend leadership training and community building workshops, and assist all other Board members in his/her duties.

F. Webmaster: shall manage and maintain the website, keep online record of past, present and future events, maintain contact with President and Secretary, and upload weekly meeting notes onto the website.

G. Events Coordinator: shall have the responsibility of organizing events that promote Puerto Rican culture and community outreach on campus. This Person shall act as a liaison for co-sponsorships and focus on attracting prospective members.

H. In addition to these specific responsibilities, all Board members must attend a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ of Acción Boricua meetings unless he/she had a valid reason and communicates that reason to rest of the Board at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. The Board is also responsible for informing its members of any pertinent information and changes within the organization, the Columbia community, and the world beyond the gates.

Section III: The length of the terms of officers of Acción Boricua shall be one school year from election and an individual may serve as a Board member as long as they fit to the stipulations outline in Section I and are elected by the membership of each term.

Article VI: Election, Appointment, and Removal of Officers

Section I: Acción Boricua elections must take place at least once per year, in the spring term, or as the Board sees fit.

Section II: Newly elected board members take office as soon as the elections are completed, unless an agreement had been reached with the prior Board members for a different date which they shall relinquish responsibilities.

Section III: The members of the Board may be impeached and removed by the membership by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the general body for failure to perform the duties specific to their office or those duties assigned by the President, and for failure to uphold the organization's mission. Interpretation of whether an officer fails to uphold Acción Boricua's mission is left up to the Board to decide.

Section IV: In the events of a mid-term vacancy of an elected officer, nominations and appointments may be carried out by the Board.

Section V: The Board is responsible for the survival of the organization and executive decisions may be made by the board or President in dire times.

Article VII: Committees:

Section I: There are no outstanding committees specifically outlined for Acción Boricua by this Constitution.

Section II: The current Board may form temporary committees as the need may arise and at the time, may decide how committee members will be selected and removed.

Section III: All committee formations and membership appointments must be approved by a 2/3-majority vote of the Board or membership.

Article VIII: By-Laws

Section I: By-Laws of the organization shall be established and altered by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board and/or membership.

Section II: By-Laws of the Board shall be established and altered by 3/4 agreements of the Board officers.

Article IX: Amendments

Section I: An amendment of the Constitution may be proposed by any member of the Acción Boricua membership or Board, and must be seconded by a second member or Board officer before it is voted on. The amendment is adopted if 2/3 of the voting membership or Board agrees. If the change is not adopted as is, the proposed change may be negotiated and altered and then voted upon again, of which a 2/3-majority vote of the voting membership or Board is again required.

Article X: Ratification

This Constitution shall be established by a 3/4-majority vote of the current membership of the organization.