MISSION STATEMENT AND BYLAWS OF THE
MICHIGAN ANISHINAABEK CULTURAL PRESERVATION AND
REPATRIATION ALLIANCE

ARTICLE I
PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

We, the Nations represented by the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation and Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA), thankful to the Creator for our sovereign freedom, in order to re-bury Ancestors that have been removed from their resting places and are known to us, to bring home to rest all remaining Ancestors who have been taken out of their aboriginal homelands and lands known today within the state of Michigan, to defend and protect all indigenous graves; to protect and defend all traditional cultural properties. Sacred Sites, and Sacred Items, and to unify ourselves in the pursuit of these goals, hereby ordain and establish these bylaws. These Bylaws shall govern the administration and activities of this organization.

Section 1: Unified Voice in Return of Identified Ancestral Remains.

In accordance with the Consensus Statement, we support all indigenous North American Nations seeking the return of identified Human Remains that have been unearthed and are now housed in institutions and facilities regardless of where they are. Each Nation represented through its signatories lends its voice to any other Nation represented who seeks to request the return of its Ancestors from a museum; federal, state or local agency; the Smithsonian Institution; and any international entity. The request for return carries the weight of the Nations and Bands that comprise the MACPRA voice. We are of one mind when we feel that our convictions require a resolution of situations involving our Ancestral Remains. It is important that we stand united as an alliance to assist one another in bringing home our relations and their possessions, and also any and all sacred items.
Section 2: Call for Repatriation of Ancestral Remains Deemed Unidentified.

The MACPRA holds that no Human Remains should be left to fend for themselves in the confines of institutions and facilities. There is no reason to deny these Ancestors their rightful rest in the Earth because of the lack of proper identification. As long as there are Ancestral Remains and Sacred Items separated from the Earth and the people, the welfare of the related Tribe is at risk. As a result, our Tribes continue to experience upheaval, disruptions, and internal disharmony. It is the position of the MACPRA that the need to honor those who have gone on, to validate their life and to respect them, and their rest, far supercedes the data that results from exhumation and scientific research. We, as an alliance, are committed to the fulfillment of this task.

Section 3: Inherent Responsibility for the Protection of Traditional Cultural Properties

MACPRA holds that it accepts it's inherent responsibility for the protection of traditional cultural properties and Sacred Sites. It shall identify and cause to be identified all Sacred Sites including but not limited to Fasting Grounds and other types of Ceremonial Grounds, and those associated with traditional and cultural gathering activities.

Section 4: Identifying and Securing a Burial Ground and Other Sacred Sites.

MACPRA shall locate appropriate places for re-burial of all unidentified Ancestral Remains and associated and unassociated funerary objects known to have been removed from our aboriginal and current homelands.

Section 5: Defense of Ancestral Burials and Sacred Sites and Sacred Items from Desecration and/or Disinterment.

We maintain that Ancestral Remains, Sacred Items and Sites must remain undisturbed. We are opposed to the excavation, curation, and study of all Ancestral Remains (associated and unassociated funerary objects) found in our aboriginal and current homelands. We reject any
arguments that scientific analysis (such as any conservation and curation techniques and methods that would compromise the cultural integrity) must be done on any Ancestral Remains, Sacred Items, and associated and unassociated funerary objects taken from our aboriginal and current homelands.

Section 6. Education.

The exhumation of Ancestral Remains and associated and unassociated funerary items, as well as the treatment of Sacred Items and Sites had, and continues to have, spiritual and emotional impacts on the Native American Communities. This alliance will provide ways to develop a better understanding of this impact in museums; the Smithsonian Institution; any international entity; within our Communities; and in the general society. The MACPRA will assist in developing memorandums of understanding, memorandums of agreement and programmatic agreements with governmental and public and private institutions to bring about results satisfying these objectives.

ARTICLE II
Organization

Section 1: Directorship. The corporation is organized on a directorship basis. The Board of Directors shall be known as the Executive Board.

Section 2: Executive Board. The affairs of the MACPRA shall be managed by the Executive Board with all powers and authority necessary to or appropriate for the complete execution of the purposes of the MACPRA except if and so far as there may be any limitation in these By-laws or the Articles of Incorporation. The board shall have general management and control of the business and affairs of the corporation and shall exercise all of the powers that may be exercised or performed by the corporation under the statutes of the State of Michigan, the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws. The Executive Board shall have the full power and authority to
enforce the By-laws and to make, modify, amend and enforce rules and regulations the Executive Board determines are necessary or proper to conduct the affairs of the MACPRA.

Section 3: Tribal Representation.

Each member Nation shall designate one representative and one alternate representative by appropriate Tribal resolution, and/or appointment. The representative shall also be that Nation’s authorized NAPGRA designee representative.

Section 4: Vote.

Each member Nation shall have one vote on all actions of the MACPRA. Vote by proxy is permitted by each Nation who chooses to do so when their representative cannot be present. A Tribal delegate shall contact the chairperson of MACPRA to notify them of their desire to have the chairperson vote for them on a specific issue(s) on the agenda. This notification shall also be submitted to the chairperson in writing via fax, e-mail or postal ground surface mail prior to the meeting that requests the vote by proxy.

Section 5: Alternate Participation.

Each Nation may designate an alternate(s) who attend meetings and provide information and input into the ongoing business of the committee, give reports, serve on any subcommittees, and participate in any other business that the committee undertakes.

Section 6. Term.

The members of the MACPRA shall serve until such time as they step down, or their Nation (Tribe) or Band appoints another in their place.

ARTICLE III
OFFICERS

Section 1: Governing Body.

The governing body of the MACPRA shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers shall be nominated and selected by majority vote of those
members present.

Section 2: Executive Board.

The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer shall act as the Executive Board.

Section 3: Officer Elections.

The selection of Executive Board Members will occur every four years, at first formal meetings of that year. The selection shall be staggered as follows: Chairperson and Secretary in years 1, 4, 8, ... and so on; Vice Chairperson and Treasurer in years 2, 6, 10...and so on. Year one will be understood as beginning on the January 1st following the ratification and adoption of these Bylaws.

Section 4. Vacancy.

If an officer’s position becomes vacant, the MACPRA committee shall elect a person to fill that position by majority vote.

ARTICLE IV
DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Chairperson.

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the MACPRA. He/She shall at all times have general supervision of the affairs of the committee and such matters as naturally pertain to the general welfare of the committee. He/She shall vote only in the event of a tie and shall have the duty to countersign all checks drawn against funds of the MACPRA by the Treasurer. The Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of any subcommittees.

Section 2. Vice-Chairperson.

In the absence of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the committee and shall act in all matters pertaining to the office of the Chairperson.
Section 3. Secretary.

The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the MACPRA and furnish copies thereof to the Alliance. He/She shall be responsible for the prompt and efficient handling of all correspondence pertaining to the business of the Alliance. All official records of the Secretary shall be open to the committee membership at all times. The Secretary shall also be responsible for informing the committee members of meetings.

Section 4. Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds in possession of the MACPRA from any source. He/She shall keep an accurate record of all such funds and shall approve all disbursal of same funds in accordance with the vote of the committee. The records of the treasurer shall be open to the members of the committee at all times and shall report quarterly.

ARTICLE V
MEETINGS

Section 1: Schedule for Meetings.

Regular meetings of the MACPRA shall be held at least quarterly. Special meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Chairperson, or upon request of four (4) representatives. Reasonable written notice of all meetings will be given to all MACPRA members in advance of any meetings.

Section 2: Quorum.

Representation of a majority of the members present or in their absence, the designated alternates, shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3: Meeting Rules.

The MACPRA shall prescribe rules of order for its meetings.

Section 4: Open Sessions Subject to Sensitive Matters.
The meetings of the MACPRA shall be open to the public except where sensitive or confidential matters require a closed session. Attendance shall be encouraged in the community in which the meetings are held.

**ARTICLE VI**
**AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Bylaws may be ratified and approved by consensus vote.

**ARTICLE VII**
**ADOPTION OF MISSION AND BYLAWS**

This mission statement and Bylaws, when approved by consensus vote of the members, shall govern the administration and activities of this organization effective from the date of approval.

These By-Laws were originally adopted in 2006, and re-certified as stated below, at a duly-called meeting of MACPRA, on July 28, 2011, in Manistee, Michigan.

**CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION**

It is hereby certified that the foregoing mission and Bylaws of this organization were adopted at a meeting at Manistee, Michigan, on July 28, 2011 by the following vote:

- Number of persons having voting rights. 14
- Number of voting in person. 9
- Number voting for adoption. 9

**Chairperson**

William Johnson

**Vice Chairperson**

Dunney Wemigwaan

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**