# RESTATED AND AMENDED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF LOS ISLEÑOS HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ST. BERNARD

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
ARTICLE I - NAME	1
ARTICLE II - REGISTERED OFFICE	1
ARTICLE III - MISSION STATEMENT	1
ARTICLE IV - DURATION	2
ARTICLE V - LIMITATIONS ON ACTIVITIES	2
ARTICLE VI - DISSOLUTION	3
ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS	3
ARTICLE VIII - MEMBERSHIP	4
ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS	4
ARTICLE X - FISCAL YEAR	4

## **ARTICLE I - NAME**

SECTION I The name of the nonprofit corporation shall be Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society of St.Bernard. In these Articles of Incorporation, it shall also be referred to as the corporation.

# **ARTICLE II - REGISTERED OFFICE**

**SECTION I** The location of the registered office of the corporation shall be 1357 Bayou Road, Saint Bernard, Louisiana 70085. The current President shall serve as the registered agent for the corporation.

## **ARTICLE III - MISSION STATEMENT**

**SECTION I** Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society of St. Bernard is organized to preserve, interpret, and promote the language, heritage, and cultural traditions of colonists from the Canary Islands who settled in

Louisiana between 1778 and 1783 to found the Parish of Saint Bernard in 1780. Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society of St. Bernard shall document the historical and cultural evolution of the Canary Islander colonists and their descendants in St. Bernard Parish, interpreting that evolution through the interaction of the Canary Islander Descendants Community with the natural environment and communities including Spaniards, Acadians, Filipinos, Frenchmen, Africans, Sicilians, Germans, Native Americans, and all other ethnic groups which have contributed to the ethnic diversity of the region.

**SECTION II** Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society of St. Bernard shall develop and provide for the development of the Complejo del Museo de los Isleños (Los Isleños Museum Complex) located on St. Bernard Parish property. Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society of St. Bernard shall publicly interpret the heritage and cultural traditions of the Canary Islanders, in addition to the manner in which the Canary Islander Descendants Community has adapted and become an important element of the cultural diversity of lower Louisiana. **SECTION III** Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society of St. Bernard shall fund two (2) annual scholarships to be awarded to members of the Canary Islander Descendants Community entering a course of studies in a university or college. Applicants shall be required to submit a written essay to qualify for this scholarship.

#### **ARTICLE IV - DURATION**

**SECTION I** The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual.

### **ARTICLE V - LIMITATIONS ON ACTIVITIES**

**SECTION I** No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, Officers, Directors, or other private persons, except that this corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments, distributions, and reimbursements in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Mission Statement hereof. Notwithstanding other

provisions of these Articles of Incorporation, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the Mission Statement of this corporation.

**SECTION II** The corporation shall not issue any capital stock.

**SECTION III** Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society of St. Bernard shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan political principle nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office. This prohibition is inclusive of Officers, Directors, and Committee members. No political statement through any means of communication by these individuals will be tolerated.

#### **ARTICLE VI - DISSOLUTION**

**SECTION I** Upon the dissolution of this corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after dispersing funds from the treasury to settle all just debts, donate the residue of the treasury to the St. Bernard Parish Public School System to develop and support a curriculum which teaches the Isleño Spanish dialect of St. Bernard Parish described by academics like Raymond R. MacCurdy, Samuel G. Armistead, Manuel Alvar, and others, in addition to teaching about the cultural legacy of the Isleño community which includes their *décimas*, folklore, cuisine, traditions, livelihoods, remedies, history and beliefs. All museum, research, and library collections shall be donated to Elaine P. Nunez Community College and/or the Capitol Park Museum maintained by the Louisiana State Museum.

#### **ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**SECTION I** The government and management of Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society of St. Bernard shall be vested in its Board of Directors.

**SECTION II** The Board of Directors shall consist of five (5) Directors: the immediate past President, the current President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian.

**SECTION III** Officers and Directors shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and shall not possess a term limit apart from the President, who shall be limited to two (2) consecutive terms. Further qualifications shall be elaborated in the By-Laws of the corporation.

**SECTION IV** One-third  $(\frac{1}{3})$  of the membership of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

### **ARTICLE VIII - MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION I** Membership in Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society of St. Bernard shall be extended to individuals of Canary Islander or Isleño descent, collectively known as the "Canary Islander Descendants Community," as well as individuals not of Canary Islander or Isleño descent but who are interested in preserving and promoting the Isleño identity in Louisiana. The Board of Directors reserves the right to review and approve membership applications.

#### **ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION I** The Articles of Incorporation shall be amended by a two-thirds  $(\frac{2}{3})$  vote of the active membership present at a regular general membership meeting provided the proposed amendments have been presented at the previous general membership meeting.

#### **ARTICLE X - FISCAL YEAR**

**SECTION I** The fiscal year shall begin January 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.

**THESE RESTATED AND AMENDED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF LOS ISLEÑOS HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ST. BERNARD** were adopted by unanimous vote of the general membership assembled in regular session, Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Frank M. Fernández, Jr. Isleño Center, 1357 Bayou Road, Saint Bernard, Louisiana 70085.