

# Harambee House Manifesto

## Preamble

We the members of Harambee House Cooperative, in order to form a sustainable and just cooperative recognize that it is necessary:

1. 1. To promote a clear awareness to the membership of their responsibilities and obligations toward the house; furthermore
2. 2. To ensure that said responsibilities and obligations are discharged in a manner efficient, practical, and harmonious; also
3. 3. To maintain Harambee House financially and physically in the soundest possible condition; moreover
4. 4. To protect the individuals, living in the house, of minority opinion from harsh and unjust rules;

Hereby create this constitution to govern over the Harambee House Cooperative

## Article I: Definitions

1. **1.** 'Constitution' shall refer to this document in its entirety.
2. **2.** 'Harambee House Cooperative,' 'Harambee House,' 'Harambee' and 'house' shall be defined as the building located on the property: 427 Hillsdale Street, Lansing, Michigan 48933
3. **3.** 'Student Housing Cooperative,' and 'SHC' shall refer to the body that owns the Harambee House Cooperative.
4. **4.** A 'member' is any person who has ever held a valid contract with Harambee House Cooperative.
5. **5.** An 'active member' or 'house member' is any member currently living in Harambee House privy to the following conditions
  1. **a.** Has a valid contract with SHC.
  2. **b.** I currently in good financial standing with SHC.
6. **6.** A 'guest' is anyone staying at Harambee House for any length of time without having signed a contract.
7. **7.** 'Active membership' or 'membership' is the total number of individuals who are active members, or the entire group of active members.
8. **8.** A 'house meeting' shall be defined as a congregation of house members assembled to transact business pertaining to the internal operation of Harambee House subject to the rules and regulations set forth by this constitution.
9. **9.** The 'constitutional addendum' or 'addendum' will be where passed rules and regulations will be placed. The addendum is not apart of the constitution, but a supplement to it.
10. **10.** The term 'personal living space' is defined as the individual room that an active member lives in.
11. **11.** A 'common room' shall be defined as any room that is not an active member's personal living space.

## Article II: Scope

1. **1.** This constitution shall be subject to all laws and regulations set forth by the United States of America, the State of Michigan, and the City of Lansing.
2. **2.** This constitution shall be subject to all rules and regulations set forth by the Michigan State Housing Cooperative (SHC) and all its respective governing bodies.
3. **3.** 'This constitution shall supersede and nulls all previous constitutions initiated by Harambee House Cooperative.
4. **4.** This constitution shall supersede any rules or regulations that were implemented under the governance of this constitution.
5. **5.** All rules and regulations made under the governance of this constitution shall be placed in the addendum section of this constitution upon the approval of the active members during a Regular House Meeting.

## Article IV: Governance

1. **1.** All rules and regulations imposed upon the members and guests of Harambee House shall be adopted at house meetings or be stated within this constitution.

## Article V: House Meetings

1. **1.** A Regular House Meeting shall be a house meeting composed of the active membership subject to the following:
  1. **a.** Quorum shall consist of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the active house membership. In the event that quorum was not achieved at the preceding Regular House Meeting, quorum shall be  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the active membership for the latter meeting only.
  2. **b.** House meetings will take place every other Sunday
  3. **c.** A facilitator and note taker will be decided at the beginning of each meeting.
  4. **d.** The standing agenda for house meetings is as follows:
    1. **i.** Committee Meeting Review
    2. **ii.** Officer Reports
    3. **iii.** Member time
  5. **e.** All house members will have the ability to vote on any business that concerns Harambee House.
  6. **f.** Decisions at a house meeting will pass by a majority vote, unless otherwise described in this constitution.
2. **2.** All house meetings are mandatory. If a member has to miss a meeting, they must get permission from the rest of the active members.

## Article VI: Rules

1. **1.** All members and guests are expected to read and heed all rules implemented in the manner dictated in Section 3 of Article VI.
2. **2.** Fines may be administered due to broken rules as agreed upon at a Regular House Meeting
3. **3.** Rules shall be implemented in the following manner:
  1. **a.** Suggested rule is brought up during a Regular House Meeting

2. **b.** Is passed in the manner prescribed by Article V, Section 1, Subsection F.
3. **c.** Is written, posted, and added to the addendum section of this constitution.
4. **4.** Any Rule not added to the official constitution addendum shall not be enforced.

## Article VII: Standing House Rules

1. **1.** Smoking
  1. **a.** There is no smoking of any kind within Harambee House
  2. **b.** Smoking is allowed outside of Harambee House.
2. **2.** Room Picks
  1. **a.** Room picks will be based on contract signing date.
3. **3.** Guests
  1. **a.** Members may have guests at Harambee House a maximum of 3 days per week, 2 of which may be an overnight stay (unless otherwise agreed upon by the house)
  2. **b.** Members must inform housemates of when they have a guest via the Discord Chat.
  3. **c.** House must vote on accepting guests staying longer than a week.
  4. **d.** Guests staying long term may stay no longer than 30 days.
  5. **e.** Guests staying long-term will be charged \$25 each week.

## Article IX: New Members

1. **1.** Potential members of Harambee House must complete an the SHC Application, House Tour, and Interview in order to be accepted in the House.
2. **2.** Membership will vote on accepting a new member. Quorum ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) must be reached for acceptance.
3. **3.** If all rooms are full, members may be accepted and placed on a waiting list.

From:  
<https://wiki.spartan.coop/> - SHC Policy Wiki

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Last update: **2019/12/13 14:37**

