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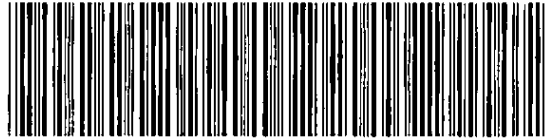
(Business Entity Name)

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SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**  
In compliance with Chapter 617, F.S., (Not for Profit)

**ARTICLE I NAME**

The name of the corporation shall be: The Venice Mermaid Festival Inc.

**ARTICLE II PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

Principal street address:

179 Tosca Villa Blvd  
North Venice, FL 34275

Mailing address, if different is:

**ARTICLE III PURPOSE**

The purpose for which the corporation is organized is: see Attached

**ARTICLE IV MANNER OF ELECTION**

The manner in which the directors are elected and appointed: Directors  
Are Appointed by the Founder.

**ARTICLE V INITIAL OFFICERS AND/OR DIRECTORS**

Name and Title: Chris S. Simmons Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 179 Tosca Villa Blvd Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
North Venice, FL 34275  
Founder & CEO

Name and Title: Sherry B. Simmons Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 179 Tosca Villa Blvd Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
North Venice, FL 34275  
Chief Admin Officer

Name and Title: Robert L. Gorman Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 179 Tosca Villa Blvd Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
North Venice, FL 34275  
Director

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Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ARTICLE VI REGISTERED AGENT**

The name and Florida street address (P.O. Box NOT acceptable) of the registered agent is:

Name: CHRIS S. SIMMONS  
Address: 179 TOSCAVILLA BLVD  
NORTH VENICE, FL 34275

**ARTICLE VII INCORPORATOR**

The name and address of the Incorporator is:

Name: CHRIS S. SIMMONS  
Address: 179 TOSCAVILLA BLVD  
NORTH VENICE, FL 34275

**ARTICLE VIII EFFECTIVE DATE:**

Effective date, if other than the date of filing: \_\_\_\_\_ (~~OPTIONAL~~)

(If an effective date is listed, the date must be specific and cannot be more than five days prior or 90 days after the filing.)

**Note:** If the date inserted in this block does not meet the applicable statutory filing requirements, this date will not be listed as the document's effective date on the Department of State's records.

*Having been named as registered agent to accept service of process for the above stated corporation at the place designated in this certificate, I am familiar with and accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity*

[Signature]  
Required Signature of Registered Agent

10/22/24  
Date

*I submit this document and affirm that the facts stated herein are true. I am aware that any false information submitted in a document to the Department of State constitutes a third degree felony as provided for in s.817.155, F.S.*

[Signature]  
Required Signature of Incorporator

10/22/24  
Date

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

**ATTACHMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF  
INCORPORATION  
FOR THE VENICE MERMAID FESTIVAL INC.**

**The Business**

Venice Mermaid Festival Inc. is organized exclusively for community, charitable and educational purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Designed as an annual event in and around downtown Venice (FL), this whimsical event is intended to entertain residents and visitors alike, provide an effective way for charitable groups to reach audiences interested in Florida's coastal marine ecosystem and allow the corporation to devote a percentage of its earnings to the Tunnels 2 Towers (T2T) Foundation and other worthy causes as desired.

**Charitable Restrictions**

No part of the corporation's net earnings shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

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## **Dissolution**

Should the corporation ever dissolve, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of Sarasota County in which the principal office of the corporation is located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.