

Community Manifesto & Code of Conduct (working doc)

These documents were drafted during the hic et nunc hicathon and got worked on since then by the Teia community. Those are “living documents” that have not been voted on yet and will be subject to changes made by the "core values" working group of the teia community until finalized by an official vote. However they are put in place until consensus is reached as they reflect the current state of the discussion and are the result of a wide and long process with diverse contributors.

If you want to add ideas/feedback – go to the #core-values-philosophy channel on the [Teia Discord](#) and bring your input there!

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Core Values (working document)

PREAMBLE

TEIA is an open, digital platform of ideas and works of creativity. It is an artwork made of artworks; Artists and collectors coming together as equal lovers of creativity in order to emancipate and democratize art.

We want to elevate art, no matter how known or unknown the artist. We want to protect our art. We want to fill the blank canvas that is TEIA.

TEIA is a self sustaining organization managed by the community for the community.

TEIA is built and improved by its participants. We believe that we as a collective can be bigger than the sum of our members. We strive to improve TEIA in a decentralised manner. That means we can build and evolve everything at once, everything follows chaotic growth. This infinite process might at times look disorganized from the outside looking in, but it isn't: The community organizes itself; chaos creates beauty.

We want, however, to protect and preserve the spirit of Teia. Those core values should guide our decisions moving forward in this rapidly evolving space. This manifesto, collectively written, tries to put this spirit into words.

- **§1 Inclusivity**

- 1.1 We believe in a community for all users and all art forms.
 - 1.1.1 Inclusive for everyone, no matter your race, ethnicity, religion, class, culture, national background and citizenship status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, or mental or physical disability, neurotype, health related issues, income level, mental health status or trauma
 - 1.1.2 Inclusive for all participants, no matter the social/economic status.
 - 1.1.3 inclusive for all art forms and mediums including but not limited to: digital, analog, graphics, vr, video, audio, music, fiber, physical and the ones to come.
- 1.2 We want to reach a parity in voice and contribution between people from all communities and sorts of privileges and locations. This needs to be reached through concrete action and leveraging power

- **§2 Respect**

- 2.1 We believe in a community that respects one another's dignity, ideas, thoughts and art.
- 2.3 We respect our community and value each person's contribution.
- 2.4 We understand that this is, and always will be, a work in progress and we are empathetic and patient with this process.

- **§3 Community/Solidarity**

- 3.1 We are an egalitarian community. Our community is not about rank, status, or popularity. It's about contributing, building together, fostering connections, encouraging community interactions, providing support, and growing together.
- 3.2 The community must ensure the freedom of the individual, but this freedom ends where it endangers the well-being of the community.
- 3.3 We want to
 - 3.3.1 Avoid displaying indications of rank, status, or popularity
 - 3.3.2 Build what benefits the whole community, not just a select few.
 - 3.3.3 Create systems that are inclusive to the community as a whole.
 - 3.3.4 avoid systems that could be exclusive in any shape or form.
 - 3.3.5 Protect the community and their intellectual property from threats.

- **§4 Decentralization**

We believe in shared ownership on the platform, no one should have exclusive rights over others.

- 4.1 We believe in a platform that radically dismantles and democratizes the established art market and methods of distribution.
- 4.2 Teia should remain open source. We aim to create open solutions and look for ways to limit gatekeeping and share knowledge wherever possible.

- 4.3 We want to build a transparent platform that facilitates a rich ecosystem and integrates with the world around it. We encourage third party additions/tools for the Teia core as long they stay true to the spirit of Teia
- 4.4 We want to build a platform where important decisions are voted on in an open and fair process before being implemented. We want to
 - 4.6.1 Encourage and secure open and free discussions around community voting.
 - 4.6.2 Give all users fair rights in this voting process.
 - 4.6.3 Encourage and help all members to participate in community votes.
- 4.5 The community should respect and encourage all opinions, even if they are against the consensus. The individual should respect consensus reached by the community in the same way.

• §5 Simplicity and accessibility

- 5.1 Teia should aim to be as accessible as possible. The creation of an account should be simple and fast and possible anonymously and without providing any personal information.
- 5.2 Teia should not store or collect personal information about its members beyond their tezoz addresses and user name and optional linked accounts.
- 5.3 We want to provide a simple and easy-to-use platform for all users, including those with accessibility needs.
- 5.4 We want to help those without access to the platform to get the ability to participate. (i.e. via donations for people who can't afford to mint)
- 5.5 We believe in providing access to useful tools for all members of the community.

• §6 Sustainability

We believe in sustainability. With technology evolving, we as a community need to evolve too and build towards a more viable future. We shall be mindful of the consequences of our actions and evaluate our decisions with that in mind, always pursuing the least destructive path.

- 6.1 Things that may look responsible now may be problematic for us and everyone in the future. Lifecycle impacts must be considered.
- 6.2 With that in mind, we should always be open to the possibility of changing the technological foundations of Teia in order to ensure it stays sustainable, transparent and accessible to everyone.
- 6.3: Teia should find decentralised and long-lasting solutions for storing files associated with Tokens minted on Teia. The files need to always be accessible to the public no matter the future state of the platform.

• §7 Creativity

- 7.1 Creativity has no borders. We want to encourage and organize events that bring the global community together and create bonds and collaborations between us and contribute to shaping the future of art as whole.
- 7.2 We want to encourage and help the development of new forms and shapes of art through collaborations between the users.
- 7.3 We believe in providing an open and supportive space for all artists and collectors to express themselves freely and without limitations.
- 7.4 Creativity needs freedom, we want to make sure there are as few restrictions as possible in place to make Teia a place of creativity without limitations but also

ensuring the intellectual rights of creators/artists and complying with legal requirements as well as the wellbeing of Teia's community.

Code of Conduct (working document)

Teia is a community of artists, creators, and collectors from all around the world, who come together to grow and inspire others. All participants in the community are expected to act lawfully, honestly, ethically, and in the best interest of the community. All users are expected to follow the rules and guidelines laid out in this document, acting against this CoC in any of Teias spaces might result in account restrictions or bans.

1. Contribute and help improve the community.

- Look for ways to contribute and find positive solutions. Stay open minded and empathetic around areas of improvements. And take initiative to help out where you can.
- Try to share your knowledge with the community.
- Your participation matters. If you feel that you or the group you identify with is underrepresented or does not have a voice in the community, know that you are welcome here. Be the first to fill that gap, invite your peers, and make yourself heard.
- Bugs and security flaws in the platform, blockchain or smart contract should be disclosed responsibly, according to regulations and best practices regarding those procedures.

2. Unacceptable behavior

We do not condone harassment or abuse against any member in any community environment, online or offline, for any reason. This

includes the usage of Teia Infrastructure and smartcontracts related to Teia. Abusive actors can get banned from any Teia related spaces.

People with significant experience and/or connections within the community are expected to behave with special care with regards to their privilege. i.e. negative comments and behaviour from them towards others may carry an unintended backlash or harm.

Harassment includes

- targeting individuals in a manner that makes them feel uncomfortable, unwelcome, or afraid.
- offensive verbal, visual or text based comments related to gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, neurotype, health related issues, income level, mental health status, trauma, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, religion.
- deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, sustained disruption of conversation.
- Violence, threats of violence or violent language directed against another person.
- Posting or displaying sexually explicit or violent material outside of the context of artistic expression.
- Posting or threatening to post other people's personally identifying information ("doxxing").
- Inappropriate photography or recording.
- Inappropriate physical contact, unwelcomed sexual attention or advances, inappropriate touching, groping. You should always have someone's active consent before touching them.

Abuse includes

- Using one's authority, reputation or knowledge to intimidate or threaten others.
- Maliciously causing someone to doubt their own perceptions, senses, or understanding with the objective to win an argument or force someone to behave the way you want.

Other unacceptable behavior

- Impersonating others and plagiarizing

- Spamming or vandalizing any of Teias spaces, online or offline, on-chain or off-chain.
- Scamming and social engineering.
- Sustained disruption of community events, including talks and presentations.
- Advocating for, or encouraging any of the above behavior.

Consequences of Unacceptable Behavior

Unacceptable behavior from any community member, including sponsors and those with decision-making authority, will not be tolerated.

Anyone asked to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately.

If a community member engages in unacceptable behavior, the community organizers may take any action they deem appropriate, up to and including a temporary ban or permanent expulsion from the platforms and spaces associated with the Teia community without warning (and without refund in the case of a paid event).

If a community manager does not actively investigate any reported and unacceptable behavior fairly, they will need to be held responsible and might be removed from their position.

3. Fairplay on the marketplace

- Collectors should voluntarily refrain from using automated tools for collecting, from hindering other participants from collecting and from interfering with the site and the smart contracts in any way.
- Collectors should voluntarily refrain from collecting excessively such as collecting large amounts of a “free” or low priced edition. Participants should apply their discretion as to what counts as “excessive”.
- Artists have certain moral rights to work they create. We believe Art and also NFTs are more than simple financial assets and should be treated as such. owners of tokens should refrain from using NFT mechanisms such as burning in ways that

could impact the creators moral rights to their work or reputation or endanger the digital artwork/concept without the creators consent.

- Users are expected to refrain from any market manipulation such as wash trading and conspiring to artificially increase the perceived demand or price.
- users should voluntarily refrain from minting other peoples work even if consent has been given by the original creator. While there are legitimate reasons for minting pieces by other artists for them (such as gallery projects) this goes against the spirit of NFTs and has proven to be problematic for various reasons. **Gallery projects are asked to mint other artists work via Teia's collab contracts with the main creator as co-collaborator.**

4. Reporting Guidelines

- If you are subject to or witness **unacceptable behavior**, or have any other concerns, please notify a community organizer as soon as possible either via the [report form](#), the [discord](#) channel #report or a mail to "info@teia.art"
- For **reporting copymints**, please use the discord channel #report-copyminters or send a mail to "info@teia.art". If you report accounts via mail, please make sure to include: The full longform Tezos address of the reported account, and evidence of unacceptable behavior.
- Community moderators are available to help those experiencing unacceptable behavior feel safe.
- In the context of **in-person events**, organizers will also provide escorts as desired by the person experiencing distress.
- If you feel you have been **falsely or unfairly accused** of violating this Code of Conduct, you should notify Teia with a concise description of your grievance via mail. Your grievance will be handled in accordance with our existing governing policies.

5. Content rules and Teia profile restrictions

The Teia community reserves its right to moderate content and ban/restrict wallets from the marketplace to make Teia a fair and safe experience for all.

The content moderation team operates on the following Terms and works voluntarily to protect TEIA collectors and artists from copyminting and other types of malicious activity.

Please understand their role and that processes like this do generate mistakes. The team investigates when alerted through the #report-copyminters channel in the TEIA Discord. Please respect their work, and help them by being courteous and accurate with the information that will help your inquiry.

Various other Tezos marketplaces also use the TEIA restricted list of accounts, which means that once TEIA restricts an account, other NFT marketplaces will likely follow suit. Note that other marketplaces, even those using the same minting contracts, may have different Terms and Codes of Conduct, and so account restrictions may sometimes differ between platforms that display the same works.

Since TEIA is a decentralized application, restricted OBJKTs are only restricted on Teia's user interface, meaning that they are still available through APIs and on-chain data.

5.1 Types of profile restrictions

- **“Restricted account”** Accounts that TEIA restricts are labeled “restricted account,” and OBJKTs that a restricted account has minted are labeled “restricted OBJKT” in the marketplace.
- **“Account under review”** Accounts that are marked as “under review” have been flagged for further investigation or minor misbehaviour or general red flags. Accounts under review can still trade on the Teia UI. Users whose account has been put under review are asked to come to the #report-copyminters channel on the Teia discord for clarification.

5.2 Copyright and intellectual property

As artists and collectors of art, we want to acknowledge and protect intellectual property as it is crucial for our integrity and work but we also acknowledge that some forms of art need to use the works of others (i.e. remixes, tributes, quotes).

- *“Artists should avoid uses of existing copyrighted material that do not generate new artistic meaning, being aware that a change of medium, without more, may not meet this standard.”**
- *“The use of a preexisting work, whether in part or in whole, should be justified by the artistic objective, and artists who deliberately repurpose copyrighted works should be prepared to explain their rationales both for doing so and for the extent of their uses”[*]*
- *“Artists should avoid suggesting that incorporated elements are original to them, unless that suggestion is integral to the meaning of the new work.” [*]*
- We suggest not to mint content that is in the public domain or under other similar licenses that allow reselling without creative changes or using it as a way of artistic expression. While some content is free to be used and if specified in the license even commercially, there are problematic implications that come with minting unchanged content and selling it as a NFT, such as occurring double mints if multiple people mint the same public domain content (see Terms & Conditions).
- When creating a tribute piece to somebody else’s work, an artist should get written permission from the creator of the original, clearly label it as a homage and name the original creator, unless there is an articulable aesthetic basis for not doing so (i.e. pastiche / sampling / collage / satire / public domain source).

[*] taken from page 11 of the [“Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for the Visual Arts”](#) by Patricia Aufderheide and Peter Jaszi, 2015)

5.3 Proper content classification

- **NSFW content:** explicit, overtly sexual or violent imagery or potentially disturbing (“Not safe for work”) material should always be tagged as “NSFW” in the provided check box in the minting interface. This content is not banned but will be moderated differently on the platform.
- **Photosensitive content:** Content that contains flashing/stroboscopic animations may cause harm to users and **must** be tagged accordingly with the checkbox provided in the minting UI to help make Teia a safe space for its users.

5.4 Possible Reasons for an account restriction:

- **Copyminting:** Minting another artist(s) work without their consent. Copyminting can also include works based on another artist's work, with minimal filters or modifications applied
- **Double minting:** Minting the same work more than once without artistic merit or an apparent reference for prospective buyers. Of every piece of content there should be only one NFT. Doublemints on multiple marketplaces, contracts or blockchains are treated as copymints. For pieces that are double-mints on the hicetnunc minting contract, this rule is enforced for objkts minted after 01.01.2022.
- **Infringed copyright:** The use of artists' work in part or whole in a way that is not in line with the license/copyright of said work or not defensible through artistic merit.
- **Plagiarism:** Implying authorship of work created by others; i.e. by copying, reproducing or using other peoples work as a base without clearly citing the source and giving credit within the work itself or within the description associated with the NFT. Exceptions can be made if the artistic merit lies within the practice of repurposing content.

- **Clear association with confirmed restricted accounts:** Ample evidence of being a person that engaged in restricted behavior. i.e. by funding (sending an account its initial funds) of restricted accounts, being funded by a restricted account or other clear evidence of association with restricted accounts.
- **Market Manipulation:** for example buying one's own tokens to artificially increase prices (“washtrading”).
- **Freeloading:** abusing the services or infrastructure of Teia in ways that put the platform in danger. Ie by minting excessive amounts of tokens in short periods of time. Cases like this don't necessarily result in a ban but Teia might need to reduce the impact on its infrastructure ie:. By unpinning the content from Teia's IPFS node.
- **Illegal Content:** Minting material that glorifies human rights violations or is solely pornographic without artistic expression or might otherwise put Teia in legal jeopardy. This applies especially but is not limited to cases of copied or slightly modified NSFW content stolen from third parties and depictions of sexualized underaged characters. NSFW material is generally allowed if classified properly.
- **Public domain content:** Accounts that mint public domain content or content under C00 or similar licenses without changes or adding new artistic meaning might get restricted or those tokens might get restricted from getting sold, especially if they are not clearly indicating the original author and license in the description. This is due to the complexity to verify if such NFTs are complying with the license of the original content and the copymint team having only limited resources to do that.
This rule might get lifted in the future with the implementation of new systems of verification or moderation. If your artistic practice involves using public domain work without change, it might help to notify the copymint team prior to minting and discussing the individual case.
- **Missing classification of NSFW/Photosensitive content:** Teia might restrict accounts that mint NSFW or photosensitive material without properly classifying it upon mint, the team can also classify accounts or individual pieces after the mint.

- **Exploiting the marketplace contracts:** For example by circumventing royalties.
- **Gambling and scamming:** selling/using NFT tokens as a tool for scamming or gambling (i.e. prize scamming).
- **Violating the Terms of Service or Code of Conduct in other ways:** Mainly if it is overtly abusive to another group, invokes violence, or intimidates, harasses or impersonates.

5.5 Procedure if your Teia account has been restricted

If you are banned, please don't create new accounts to circumvent the account restriction but request for an unban first, those accounts might get automatically banned. If you want to keep on minting, please get in touch with the content moderation team first and discuss the way forward.

Contesting restrictions can be made through the #report-copyminters channel in the TEIA Discord. It's important to notice that errors are possible at this stage, and we apologize for such cases. We ask users to direct such issues exclusively through the channel.

Unfortunately, the Content moderation team has to begin the process with a lack of trust, and you have to convince them that you are trustworthy. The most straightforward way to overturn a mistaken restriction is to engage with the team politely and honestly.

Provide your account address and the reason for the dispute. Be prepared to show works in progress or versions of a work in question so the team can verify and determine if the restriction is mistaken. Having a well-used Twitter account, work is shown on your website, Instagram, Flickr, Tumblr, etc., that is your own will help.

If the copymint team agrees that the account does not violate the TEIA CoC, the account will have its restricted or under-review

status removed. It takes about 5 mins for any changes to the restricted list to go live.

Old paragraphs that are covered in the new ToS

2.Limits of liability

- Use Teia at your own risk: Teia provides a User Interface for minting and trading, the users are fully responsible for their owned NFT Tokens and actions.
- The user agrees that the Teia marketplace does not bear any responsibility for failed transactions on the Tezos blockchain and in the ecosystem of accompanying services (including: wallets, etc.).
- Teia will not refund users for possible exploits and other losses directly caused by third parties.
- Teia reserves its right to moderate content on the Teia marketplace. This means that Teia's moderation team can block accounts from interacting with Teia's User Interface and block tokens from being sold on Teia's marketplace. Teia cannot compensate for assumed or real losses of sales. A Teia account restriction does not change ownership or access to the NFT token associated with banned accounts.

- Teia is a non-profit platform working in good faith with artists. Users of the platform acknowledge that Teia is not responsible for losses through web or 3rd party downtime etc, data corruption or in the case of account restrictions either temporarily or permanently or similar and related consequences.

3. Content Warning

The art on the Teia.art marketplace is user-created and some of it might not be suitable for all ages. If you are underaged, don't use the platform without your legal guardians. Efforts are made by the Content Moderation team to provide a user experience free from excessively violent and sexually explicit or photosensitive artworks visible on Teia's UI for unsynced users, and consent to view these artworks may be granted by each individual user within their user settings while synced with their wallet.

1. The platform rules

- By agreeing with this Code of Conduct and Terms & Conditions you become a user of the Teia platform.
- By agreeing with this Code of Conduct and Terms & Conditions the User accepts responsibility for their activity on the sites and spaces associated with the Teia Community.
- The User agrees that the Code of Conduct can be changed to other official documents or updated versions thereof. Changes of Manifesto/Code of Conduct/Terms & Conditions will be announced through the official [Teia Blog](#)
- In case of replacement or change of this Code of Conduct with other official documents, User must either accept new official documents or refrain from using the Teia platform and its associated spaces.

- This code of conduct/terms and Conditions and its related procedures also apply to unacceptable behavior occurring outside the scope of community activities when such behavior has the potential to adversely affect the safety and well-being of community members.