Greater Atlanta Tamil Sangam (GATS) – First Board Meeting
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Date: January 15, 2026 Time: 9:00 PM – 10:30 PM

Attendees: Anbu (Chairman), Divya, Madhu, Sankar, Rajarajan, Punitha, Prathiba, Peter, Sangeetha, Arul, Ganeshan

1. Welcome & Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order, welcome all BODs by Chairman Anbu, who reviewed the agenda and emphasized below items:

• Act with fairness, integrity, and transparency at all times
• Follow GATS bylaws, policies, and established procedures
• Treat all members, partners, and stakeholders with respect and dignity • Maintain professionalism in conduct, communication, and decision-making • Promote good governance and accountability
• Do not engage in favoritism or preferential treatment
• Do not bypass GATS bylaws or governance processes
• Do not misuse authority, position, or organizational resources

2. Board of Directors Introduction

• All Board Members introduced themselves.

3. Quick Updates

a. Consulate General Office Visit – January 16 confirmed
• ID cards are mandatory.
• Members must arrive sharply by 1:30 PM.
b. Marietta Tamil School – Membership Drive – January 17 - confirmed • GATS has a few minutes of stage time during the event.
• Ganeshan prepared a membership flyer with a QR code.
c. Upload of 2024 Tax Documents
Upload of 2024 tax documents to the GATS website is completed.
• IRS forms indicate income is for promoting South Indian cultural activities.
Further discussion required regarding income classification.
d. BRAC Update
A new email ID has been created for Gokul to support the BRAC team. • Gokul to continue to work and complete pending work.
• A new email ID has been created for Gokul to support the BRAC team. • Voting is planned to be extended until April to benefit current and incoming members – To be confirmed from BRAC
• Increased membership is expected around April.
e. Transition to 2026 Updates
Finance transition, annual registration, and mail key handover are completed. • Seed money documentation - Pending

4. Oath Ceremony & Bylaw Review

• The oath ceremony will be conducted in person.
• The 2025 Chairman will lead the oath ceremony.
• Date to be finalized after checking Kroger venue availability – Chairman

5. Tax Resident Certificate Approval ($185) & Authorization

• The chairman added background to this requirement. Companies who pay from outside the US require TRC. Chairman to send additional info to all BODs regarding this for review and approval.
• Requested a guaranteed letter from Integrated company - Chairman follows up and provide update
• Sangeetha will research TRC certificate requirements - TBD
• Upon guarantee letter confirmation, approval will be requested.
• The Treasurer will apply for the certificate.
• Approved with assurance, subject to research outcome.

6. FeTNA Delegate – Deadline January 31

• Delegate selection pending.
• Review of last five years' delegates is required.

7. Sponsorship Updates

• Girish Modi – confirmed payment $500
• Venkat (Realtor) – Confirmed so far $1,000. Discussion ongoing for future sponsorships • Tanishq – payment not confirmed; requested exclusivity as fine jewelry sponsor (decision pending)
• Lakshmi Florist – payment pending; providing yoga mats voluntarily • Joy Alukkas – interested in booth participation
• Indifresh – requested an order in exchange for sponsorship
• Booth fee reduced to $150

8. Pongal Program Updates

Celebrities have been confirmed.
Competition forms have been released.
• Overall budget pending finalization and approval.
• Treasurer to send Pongal budget for review prior to next meeting

9. OC & Sub-Committee Updates

• To be decided.

10. OC Introduction to BOD

• Roles and responsibilities for At-Large members in organizational governance and operations are yet to be defined.

11. Planning Ahead

• 2026 Strategy Overview: GB meetings planned for February & August; budget and communication planning discussed.

• 2026 Seed Money & Q1 Opening Balance: Pending discussion. • 501(c)(3) Filing: Target August–September 2026; expiry September 24, 2026. • Aandu Malar: 2024 & 2025 Pending discussion.
• Insurance:
o Officers & schools – planned for August
o Members – TBD due to cost; sponsorship required
• Tamil Varam Proclamation Week: Approval received.

12. Grievance Discussion
• To be addressed in a future meeting.

13. Open Discussion / Board Member Inputs
• General inputs shared by Board Members.

14. Action Items & Next Steps
• Release At-Large flyer - CC
• Procure badges before the Membership Drive – Secretary
• Hall book for in person Oath ceremony – Chairman
• Pongal Budget to send prior to 1/21 – Treasurer

Next Meeting Priorities
• Review status - Guarantee letter from Integrated company and apply TRC • Review & Approve Pongal budget.
• Review and finalize the FeTNA delegate.
• Grievances
Other items to be discussed
• Aandu Malar – 2024 and 2025
• Seed Money – 2026 team
• Overall, 2026 strategies
• Review tax document for accuracy - IRS forms indicate income is for promoting South Indian cultural activities.

Next meeting: On 1/21/26, Wednesday.