

Arkansans For the Arts

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ARKANSANS
FOR THE ARTS
EDUCATE | INFORM | ADVANCE

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Confronting Systemic Racism

The Board & Staff of Arkansans for the Arts

Little Rock, AR | July 9th, 2020: Arkansans for the Arts stands, now and always, with the Black communities and with People of Color in Arkansas and around the nation. Arkansans for the Arts believes that the arts are fundamental to humanity, not only to allow us to share beauty and joy with one another, but for the arts' ability to foster empathy and facilitate cultural exchange, understanding, and individual and collective growth. We are committed to equitable policies, inclusive practices, and celebration of the rich diversity of our state.

We understand that part of our mission to advance the arts, arts education, and the creative economy is to hear and support the BIPOC¹ artists, students, teachers, businesses, and cultural organizations that make up the vibrant and thriving arts community here in Arkansas. We are committed to helping ensure that the arts and creative economy are a safe and equitable place for the artists, arts administrators, and organizations we serve through education and advocacy.

Advocacy begins with education. If you are seeking resources to help you engage in conversations about race and racial justice, there are many resources available to you. We recommend the following as a good place to start:

- The National Museum of African American History & Culture's [Talking about Race](#) project.
- This extensive [list of Anti-Racist Resources](#) includes information on Black arts and arts organizations among other resources for Anti-Racist work.
- [PBS LearningMedia Resources: Race, Racism, Protests, Civil Rights, Current Events, and More.](#)

Advocacy grows with action. Actions you can take to support racial justice in Arkansas include, but are by no means limited to:

- [Registering to vote](#), and voting for candidates that support policies that support equitable legislation and policies at all levels of government.
- [Knowing your State District and Representative.](#) Contact them and urge them to champion policies that support BIPOC Arkansans.
- Contacting your [U.S. Senator](#) and [U.S. Representative](#) and asking them to support federal legislation that supports and protects BIPOC communities and citizens across the nation.

We recognize the immense work before us in eliminating systemic racism in all parts of American society, including the arts. Still, we know that the arts have a fundamental responsibility and are uniquely able to create and support change at all levels. Arkansans for the Arts is committed to working for justice, equity, and inclusion in the Arts, in the Creative Economy, and in communities across Arkansas.

In Solidarity with Black Lives Matter and with all efforts to end racial discrimination in Arkansas and beyond,

The Board and Staff of Arkansans for the Arts

¹ Black, Indigenous, and People of Color