

Dear Halsey Institute family,

June 10, 2020

Black Lives Matter. We write this letter because we believe that silence is violence. While the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and Ahmaud Arbery (to cite only the most recent public examples) are the impetus for recent protests and a larger spotlight on anti-Black violence, we must all acknowledge and work to dismantle the systemic racism at the core of our country's institutions. We believe it is critical that we collectively and proactively facilitate difficult conversations that can help create action for a more equitable future.

While our heartache for the lives impacted by white supremacist systems reflects feelings rather than actions, we will continue to strive to be more proactive, inclusive, and reflexive. In addition to listening, learning, protesting, donating, and advocating as individuals, we are committing our organization to programming that will amplify conversations about systemic racism—and what we as a society can do to dismantle it.

In our new strategic plan, the College of Charleston collectively identifies and affirms our commitment to Core Values that include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. While our organization has been making strides to ensure equity and inclusion, we are not moving fast enough. We will push harder for change within the Halsey Institute, as well as our institutional host, the College of Charleston. Our ongoing commitment to an anti-racist framework is not only the morally correct thing to do, but also means that the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art will be better fulfilling its mission.



We will:

- Participate in the College of Charleston's twice-monthly town halls with campus experts to address concerns, resources, and actions related to racial justice.
- Work with the College of Charleston Office of Institutional Diversity to assess our micro and macro spaces of privilege.
- Constantly evaluate our implicit biases in regards to our operations, exhibitions, and programs.
- Use our programming calendar to highlight issues facing our country and our communities.
- Create more room in our budget for training around racial equity.

The Halsey Institute is proud to support the work of Black artists and scholars. This work has helped to build the Halsey Institute's reputation, and we acknowledge how we have benefited from Black creativity. We know the path forward requires us to look inward and strategize ways to diversify our partners, contractors, board, and staff to better reflect the community we've built together. We believe that art is a powerful vehicle for social justice and change, and we will continue to listen, learn, grow, and act, as individuals and as an organization. Countless organizations, community leaders, and advocates have been sharing anti-racism resources. To aid in the sharing of those resources, please [click here](#).

In all of this, the Halsey Institute staff remains committed to listening to our community. At the College of Charleston, the impartial channel for reporting discrimination and harassment is the Office of Equal Opportunity and Programs, which can be reached at (843) 953-5754 or eop@cofc.edu. We are committed to the work necessary and look forward to the day when we all share in an equitable world.

In sincere appreciation,
Halsey Institute staff

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