



A Statement of Solidarity and Commitment to Equity

From the Redmond Arts & Culture Commission

The Redmond Arts & Culture Commission mourns the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many more unnamed Black men and women at the hands of police, and at the hands of our institutions, directly and indirectly. We acknowledge that systemic racism unjustly targets our Black communities and we stand in solidarity with our Black and Brown siblings.

The Redmond Arts & Culture Commission is committed to recognizing and actively dismantling the systems of white supremacy (as an institutionalized vehicle of oppression and exploitation) that result in perpetuating racism and violence against the Black community and other communities of color. We have been working on this in many ways, in action and in policy.

The majority of Commissioners and city liaisons are from communities of color including the Chair of the Commission and the Cultural Arts Coordinator; both provide direction and guidance for this important work. The Commission was instrumental in initiating and realizing the City of Redmond Cultural Inclusion Policy Resolution no. 1465, in 2017, which states, "the City of Redmond continues to be committed to making cultural inclusion a fundamental aspect of our community and is determined to lead the way forward in making inclusiveness a priority in Redmond." This powerful statement has guided day-to-day operations of the Commission.

Words without action are meaningless. We commit to:

- Ensuring that grants for the arts are going to racially diverse artists and artist groups.
- Designing grants and opportunities to be accessible to people of color and other underrepresented communities so that they can access these opportunities without barriers.
- Listening to the feedback from our racially diverse communities so that we can adjust and keep working towards advancing our goals of social justice in all aspects of our work.
- Continuing to seek a diversity of applicants and Commissioners to represent the whole of our community.

There is always more that we can do. We know that as artists and supporters of the arts, we have a responsibility to ensure equity in arts funding, programming, policies, and to support a diversity of emerging artists so that our cultural landscape thrives. Art has the power to connect, unite, challenge, educate, and heal.

Right now, we grieve with our Black siblings and offer our solidarity and commitment to action.

Angie Hinojos Yusuf
Savita Krishnamoorthy
Cheri Fowler

Tifa Tomb
Ishita Suri
Kari Tai

Lynn Trinh
Risa Coleman
Bobby Ives