



The UNM College of Fine Arts condemns all racially motivated acts of violence, dehumanizing aggression and the systemic racism that is ingrained in nearly every aspect of higher education in this country. The onslaught of racism and violence against black lives is not new and it impacts us all, especially those who must witness people who look like them and their brothers, mothers, children, and loved ones lose their lives and dignity in egregious and brutal attacks by Law enforcement and unchecked gun violence from our neighbors. It needs to be said again and again. **Black Lives Matter.**

We know that words and statements are meaningless without action; this College is committed to raising awareness of anti-racism – especially anti-Black racism through revision of our curriculum, performance practices and classroom discourse. We pledge to take a stand as one voice through a prism of disciplines to find a way to enact change from within our organization. We stand firm in the conviction that we must work together as artists, educators and activists to change the tide of this destructive force. While it is easy for some of us to hide behind our privilege, we know that we must disrupt the status quo of Arts Education and look deeply into our infrastructure and policies. We must create safe spaces in our classrooms, studios, lecture halls and performance venues for Black stories, Black voices, Black images, Black bodies and Black scholarship to emerge as central, valid and worthy.

While this statement is made at a moment in time, it is a time when we are galvanized by the latest killing of an innocent Black citizen it reflects a commitment to moving forward together as a college of artists to use art, music, film, dance and theatre to enact respectful dialogue with the hope of racial justice.