



Office for the Arts at Harvard

74 Mt. Auburn Street | Cambridge | Massachusetts 02138 | T 617 495 8676 | F 617 495 8690 | www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu

June 1, 2020

Dear Friends of the Arts at Harvard,

The events of this past week have left all of us sick at heart. In the wake of the horrendous murder of George Floyd – one in a seemingly endless string of killings of black people – how can any black citizen feel safe? In our academic community, how can our black students feel that American justice is fair and equal? In our creative community, why must the black artists who have mentored and inspired our students and all of us be more at risk every day?

To every black student, faculty member, colleague and graduate of Harvard; to every black artist who has brought excellence to our campus; and to every black citizen who has joined our community in celebration of the arts through the years, the Office for the Arts at Harvard stands with you. Black lives matter. You matter.

This is not the first time that artists have been called upon to raise their voices for justice. Today we raise our voices again. The OFA is developing initiatives to engage our creative community right now to do the work of envisioning a day when no one is endangered because of skin color.

The mission of Harvard College is to educate citizens and citizen leaders through intellectual, social and personal transformation. In the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, our nation also needs transformation. All of us in the creative community have an opportunity to respond as artist citizens. As you consider your own response to this tragedy, I urge you to consider us a resource. More than ever, we need your passion and creativity.

Sincerely,

Jack Megan
Director
Office for the Arts at Harvard