

Americans for the Arts

Jun 17, Black Lives Matter, protests and related equity-centered news

Hello/hola, esteemed colleagues:

In response to requests for information, national context and what is happening in other communities, we are compiling this digest to support you in navigating current events and in your commitment to equity in the long term. We will circulate this news digest weekly, every Wednesday.

We are looking at additional ways to support your equity work and welcome resources, ideas, examples and opportunities to share with the field. Please send them to services@artsusa.org.

Thank you for your continued work.

PROGRAMMING/RESOURCES

- Jun 22/Jun 29, 2:00p EDT: [Beyond the Board Statement: How Can Boards Join the Movement for Racial Justice?](#)
Join nationally recognized governance, strategy, and equity consultants Vernetta Walker and Robin Stacia for an in-depth set of conversations about how boards of directors can and should join the movement for racial justice. With each day come more statements from organizations articulating their stances and, in some cases, their specific commitments to be part of change in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd. Some nonprofit and philanthropic boards are actively discussing whether to make a statement at all and if so, what it should contain. What is the nonprofit board of directors' responsibility and opportunity for leadership around racial justice? Beyond the board statement, what can boards do to ensure that the organizations they govern are living their values?
- Jun 24, 8:00p EDT: [Art & Activism: A Conversation with Black, Indigenous and Artists of Color](#)
Denver Arts & Venues hosts a conversation with Black, First Nations and artists of color about ways in which creative voices can address racial injustice and its resulting trauma, and inspire healing and social change. This event is open to artists who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). The event will be limited to 50 people -- first come, first served -- as we want this to be an engaging and productive conversation around ways Arts & Venues can support BIPOC artists and their ideas.
- 4News: ['This moment holds possibilities for change we have never before experienced in this country' – activist and writer Angela Davis](#)

ARTS/ARTISTS RESPONSE

- WTTX, Jun 11: [How Arts Organizations in Chicago Are Challenging Systemic Racism](#)
- 7x7, Jun 12: [Breathtaking murals for justice proliferate on the streets of downtown Oakland](#)
- NBC4, Jun 14: [Arts collective seeks to add music to peaceful protests in Columbus](#)
- NPR, Fresh Air, Jun 15: [Poet Eve Ewing Connects 1919 Chicago To Today's Racial Unrest](#)
- Broadway World, Jun 15: [BWW Exclusive: The National Black Theatre Team Makes Statement With A SEAT AT OUR TABLE](#)

- The New Yorker, Jun 14: [Kadir Nelson's "Say Their Names"](#). A closeup examination of the artist's latest cover, in which the murder of George Floyd embodies the history of violence inflicted upon black people in America.
- ArtNet News, Jun 2: [George Floyd's Last Words Were Flown on Banners Over Cities Across America as a Rapid-Response Public Art Project](#). The project was the work of Dallas-based artist Jammie Holmes.
- NYTimes, Jun 15: [Museums Embrace Art Therapy Techniques for Unsettled Times](#). Several institutions are preparing to reopen with an awareness of a new mission as people struggle with loss and unrest.

NEWS

- ABC6, Jun 16: [Target declares Juneteenth an official company holiday](#)
- The American Prospect, Jun 12: [How Protest Graffiti Recontextualizes Public Art](#). Throughout the country, street art has forced people to confront and examine our troubling racial realities.
- NYTimes, Jun 9: [Poetry Foundation Leadership Resigns After Black Lives Matter Statement](#). The departures came in response to an open letter signed by more than 1,800 people criticizing the organization's remarks and calling on it to dedicate more funding to antiracism efforts.
- ArtNet News, Jun 10: [Microsoft's Ad Agency Asked Artist Shantell Martin to Paint a Black Lives Matter Mural While It Was 'Still Relevant.' Her Response Shook the Internet](#). Artist Shantell Martin says the incident is an example of "performative allyship."
- ArtNet News, Jun 9: ['People Are Unaware of Their History': Why Museums Are Collecting Artifacts From the Black Lives Matter Protests as They're Happening](#). Museums are reacting quickly to protests across the country.
- The Wall Street Journal, Jun 5: [What CEOs Said About George Floyd's Death](#). A look at what the leaders at 35 big companies from Facebook to Bank of America said in response to the killing and recent protests

TAKE ACTION

- Grantmakers in the Arts: [Our Call to Funders to Commit to Black Communities Through Action and Investment](#)
- Nicole Cardoza, [Subscribe to the Anti-Racism Daily](#). Anti-racism work doesn't start and end when the protests do. It's a practice, which means we do it consistently, over time and with vigor. Racism is our default practice. Therefore, we need to consciously commit to practicing anti-racism in all that we do.
- Fast Company, Jun 11: [Why your #BlackLivesMatter response falls short](#). We've seen companies scrambling to say what Black Lives Matters means to them, but few have taken the time to develop a tangible strategy for authentic and measurable change.
- Metro, Jun 8: [Don't turn your back on Black lives when the hashtags fade](#)
- Ethnicities releases white paper: [Racism, whiteness, and burnout in antiracism movements: How white racial justice activists elevate burnout in racial justice activists of color in the United States](#)
- NPR, Jun 7: [Beyond Protests: 5 More Ways To Channel Anger Into Action To Fight Racism](#)
- The Lily, Jun 8: [Real progress takes time. Here are 5 ways activists can keep their stamina up. You cannot pour from an empty cup](#)
- Woke@Work: [So You Want to Hire an Equity Consultant](#)