

Black Lives Matter Statement of Support

Updated January 2022

Dear Arts for Learning Family,

Arts for Learning WNY honors and values the lives that have been taken from us as a result of systemic racism. Our hearts are with those fighting for justice around the country, and here in Buffalo and Western New York. We know the arts are integral to collective healing and help to amplify the stories and lived experiences of Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and LGBTQ+ communities, who have been marginalized by the systematic injustice in our country. Artists shape culture and if we want to build a world that is just, we as a society need to be able to imagine that world. The arts are critical to that.



Arts for Learning is committed to working towards creating opportunities for Black artists and youth in Western New York, and we recognize the necessity of local and national organizations working together to make real change. Below, we have included a list of educational resources and organizations which are committed to this change.

Please demand better for our country. We pledge to do the same.

What You Can Do NOW

Here are two immediate things you can do to support strategic, anti-racist organizing in Buffalo and Western New York:

- 1) [Register](#) for a SURJ ([Showing Up for Racial Justice - Buffalo](#)) General Meeting
- 2) Follow and support [Black Love Resists In the Rust.](#)

EDUCATE

- [2020 Curriculum Resource Guide: Black Lives Matter At School](#)
- [Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture: Talking About Race Online Portal](#)
- [The New Jim Crow](#)
- [The Color of Law](#)
- [Scene On Radio: Seeing White](#)
- [Code Switch: What Does 'Hood Feminism' Mean For A Pandemic?](#)

ADVOCATE

- [Sign and share this petition](#) for Breonna Taylor
- [Sign and share this petition](#) for Ahmaud Arbery
- [Sign and share this petition](#) for Hands Up Act
- [Sign and share this petition](#) for Belly Mujinga
- [Sign and share this petition](#) for Tony McDade
- Advocate to elected officials for equitable opportunities for artists and students of color

DONATE

- [Black Love Resists in the Rust](#) The only intentional space for Black and Brown folks in Buffalo, NY.
- [National Bailout](#) A Black-led and Black-centered collective of abolitionist organizers, lawyers and activists building a community-based movement to support our folks and end systems of pretrial detention and ultimately mass incarceration.
- [Black Lives Matter](#)

These are by no means exhaustive lists, but we hope that this inspires you to look for more ways to get involved.

The work of dismantling racist systems, institutions, and attitudes is ongoing. We have continued and will continue to highlight learning resources for our community and spread awareness of the many wonderful, Black-led organizations and Black artists that help make this local arts community so vibrant and impactful for all ages.

LOCAL BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES

- [PAUSA Art House](#)
- [Paint the Town](#)
- [Verve Dance Studio](#)
- [Mind Body Flow Yoga](#)
- [The Colored Musicians Club](#)
- [African Heritage Food Co-Op](#)
- [Jade's Botanical Garden](#)

This list is in no way complete. [Click here to see more black-owned businesses you can support in WNY.](#)

LOCAL BLACK ARTISTS

- [Edreys](#)
- [Alexa Joan](#)
- [Jarael Adams](#)
- [Rashaad Holley](#)
- [Drea Dnur](#)
- [Van Taylor](#)
- [Annette Daniels Taylor](#)
- [Gary Earl Ross](#)
- [A.I. The Anomaly](#)

This list is in no way complete. [Click here to see more talented black artists you can support in WNY](#)



