

STATEMENT ON CULTURAL EQUITY BOULDER ARTS COMMISSION

On October 29, 2016 the members of the Boulder Arts Commission unanimously adopted the "Statement on Cultural Equity" from Americans for the Arts. It is the recommendation of the Arts Commission that the staff of the City of Boulder Office of Arts and Culture take steps to align the programs, policies, and practices of the Office to these principles:

AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS STATEMENT ON CULTURAL EQUITY

To support a full creative life for all, Americans for the Arts commits to championing policies and practices of cultural equity that empower a just, inclusive, equitable nation.

DEFINITION OF CULTURAL EQUITY

Cultural equity embodies the values, policies, and practices that ensure that all people—including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented based on race/ethnicity, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion—are represented in the development of arts policy; the support of artists; the nurturing of accessible, thriving venues for expression; and the fair distribution of programmatic, financial, and informational resources.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & AFFIRMATIONS

- > In the United States, there are systems of power that grant privilege and access unequally such that inequity and injustice result, and that must be continuously addressed and changed.
- > Cultural equity is critical to the long-term viability of the arts sector.
- > We must all hold ourselves accountable, because acknowledging and challenging our inequities and working in partnership is how we will make change happen.
- > Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society.
- > The prominent presence of artists challenges inequities and encourages alternatives.

MODELING THROUGH ACTION

To provide informed, authentic leadership for cultural equity, we strive to...

- > Pursue cultural competency throughout our organization through substantive learning and formal, transparent policies.
- > Acknowledge and dismantle any inequities within our policies, systems, programs, and services, and report organization progress.
- > Commit time and resources to expand more diverse leadership within our board, staff, and advisory bodies.

FUELING FIELD PROGRESS

To pursue needed systemic change related to equity, we strive to...

- > Encourage substantive learning to build cultural competency and to proliferate pro-equity policies and practices by all of our constituencies and audiences.
- > Improve the cultural leadership pipeline by creating and supporting programs and policies that foster leadership that reflects the full breadth of American society.
- > Generate and aggregate quantitative and qualitative research related to equity to make incremental, measurable progress toward cultural equity more visible.
- > Advocate for public and private-sector policy that promotes cultural equity.

www.AmericansForTheArts.org/CulturalEquity
<http://boulderarts.org/>