

To Our Supporters and Friends,

At the Catalogue for Philanthropy, even in challenging and divisive times like these, we see stories of hope, heroism, and resiliency from our nonprofit partners. It is a great privilege to watch these organizations rise to the daily needs of our community, and to do so with even more urgency to address the impact of the ongoing pandemic. For them, they didn't need another national story of racism and violence to remind them of the stakes of this fight and the everyday urgency of pushing back on the inequality facing our Black and Brown communities. Their clients and staff face these challenges daily, and racism manifests itself in many, if not all, aspects of the social problems they are working to address.

We had originally planned to announce our new 2020–21 Catalogue class of nonprofit partners today. However, as our neighbors here in DC and across the country take to the streets in protest over the murder of George Floyd (and Ahmaud Arberry, Breonna Taylor, and countless black men and women before them), we feel doing so would be inappropriate. It would take away from their voice and their message. Now is the time to listen and to act – to listen to our Black and Brown communities as they demand change, and to follow their leadership as we act, both as an organization and as individuals, to help eradicate the racism and inequality these communities face in all aspects of their lives

We know systemic change is hard and takes time — but we can change our relation to, and behavior within, those systems right away. Both the Catalogue and nonprofits as a sector must continue to serve our communities, but we must also advocate for an end to racism and inequality. We have an obligation to push for change at all levels, while focusing simultaneously on what we can do each day.

For many of the Catalogue's staff, supporters, and partners, racism isn't just a topic for discussion and debate, it is an issue felt and experienced daily. It is a fear and anger felt daily. The Catalogue stands with them and with all of our Black and Brown neighbors as they call for change and we are committed to finding ways to continue to support that effort.

As we work together to chart a new path forward, we will continue to support and lift up stories of local nonprofits making a difference, close to home. We hope this message finds you healthy and safe and that even in this time of isolation that you feel a sense of community. Because we need community – now more than ever.

In solidarity,  
The Catalogue Team