

Dear transcenDANCE Community Members,

As a Creative Youth Development organization focused on youth voice and racial equity, we are outraged and devastated by the murder of Mr. George Floyd. We affirm that we reject racism, all anti-Black violence and the mistreatment of people of color. We affirm our support of Black Lives Matter.

The protests in response to the murder of Mr. George Floyd demonstrate that the violation of fundamental human rights of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) no longer can be ignored. transcenDANCE vows to listen and reflect on the voices of Black leaders as we navigate these difficult times. transcenDANCE will continue to provide a safe space for our BIPOC students and alumni who have wisdom and insight to share from their experiences as BIPOC. transcenDANCE will self-reflect to identify our own biases and systemic practices that do not align with true equity.

We acknowledge and affirm that transcenDANCE has an important role to play in the dismantling of white supremacy and institutional racism. We will continue to provide our youth a forum for social justice activism that our communities and country desperately need to become an equitable society.

One of our high school students, Keiana, who identifies as Black, writes:

**"I can't breathe",  
"Please don't kill me",  
"I don't want to die young."  
Say their names: George Floyd, Treyvon Martin.  
Say their names: Breonna Taylor, Dion Johnson.  
Black men, have to fight to live.  
Black women, have to beg to live.  
Black children, have to cry to live.  
Fighting for the same rights that the white man has,  
When we fight, we're looked down on,  
"You're looting"  
"You're causing a disturbance in the community."  
"This isn't Justice."  
Peaceful protest, How it all started,  
People of color coming together,  
Letting the higher ups know,  
"This is not right, What's happening, Is not okay."  
While Black men, women and children are outside,  
In the hot rays of the sun, screaming from the top of their lungs:  
"No Justice, No peace"**

**We're shot at,  
Tear gas is thrown.  
What do we have to do to have people understand,  
All Lives won't matter until Black Lives matter?**

To begin the healing of our communities and country we will continue to carve out space and time to dialogue with students, artists, staff and board members about the injustices Mr. Floyd's murder has forced to the forefront of every American's life. transcenDANCE will continue to provide culturally relevant resources to our students to ensure that the healing and support of our students is priority above anything else we do for our students at this time.

We invite you to take this time to listen, reflect and identify the steps you can take to support Black lives and dismantle the systemic racism that has led our community and country to the unfortunate breaking point we are at today.

In solidarity,

transcenDANCE Youth Arts Project

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## ***Resources***

[Black Lives Matter](#)

[Pretty Good – Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup](#)

[NPR – Talking Race with Young Children](#)

[Black Youth Project](#)

[GoFundMe – Dede McClure Community Bail Fund](#)

[Racial Justice Coalition of San Diego](#)

Visit the transcenDANCE website

