**ACKNOWLEDGE**

A Collective Declaration on Racial Justice and Equity in Tennessee

**WE VOW TO ACKNOWLEDGE.**

We vow to acknowledge. We vow to listen.

**WE VOW TO LEARN.**

We vow to learn. We vow to act.

**WE VOW TO REPAIR.**

We vow to repair. We vow to act.

We encourage you to review the statement and then take action. Join us as we use the town hall forums to work together to take action and to bring about the change we need to see. The resources below will assist you in understanding the role of our profession in addressing the injustices we see around us. In the coming weeks we will be hosting a series of virtual town hall meetings to learn more about the dates and registration for these town hall meetings. 

**LISTEN**

Work in 2020 (MICHAEL G. Davis, Director of the Ford Fund of Philanthropy, AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION)

To truly understand how to best make our health care system better, we need to understand how other countries do it. In the first of a three-part series, Michael G. Davis, Director of the Ford Fund of Philanthropy at the American Hospital Association, discusses why the United States should look to other countries for inspiration on health care reform.

In recent weeks, we have been confronted with the wounds of social injustice and racial discrimination bared by the reality of the senseless killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Michael Brown, Shantel Davis, Atatiana Jefferson, Laquan McDonald, and so many others. 

The all-important questions must then be asked – what is the American Institute of Architects’ role in addressing this? How do we work more closely with our partner organizations that can assist in making meaningful, sustainable change? How do we ensure that our profession is part of the solution, rather than part of the problem? How do we make sure that the voices of those who have been marginalized are heard, and that the values of Black, Brown, and other marginalized communities are protected?

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If you have not already done so, we encourage you to read the statement from NOMA National President Kimberly Dowdell. The Nashville and Memphis chapters of NOMA are looking forward to working closely with AIA TN and our local chapters of NOMA. 

Our local chapters of NOMA currently sponsor community outreach programs such as architecture-oriented publications and community involvement. Our chapters also sponsor programs that outreach on issues largely affecting the black community such as affordable housing and gentrification.

Our chapters in Tennessee have heard from many of our members who have shared their messages in their own words. These stories are a testament to the power of personal narratives. These stories show the importance of listening and learning in order to promote social justice and equity.

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It is time to do better. The chapters of the AIA and NOMA in Tennessee stand in solidarity.

Our collective mission is to enhance the quality of the built environment – of which we are all a part – in order to create better communities for all people. These are not just the words of our mission statement; they are the foundation of our work. We must do more to ensure that our profession lives up to that mission statement.

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During the town hall meetings, we will be discussing actions that we can take as a profession to bring about change. The resources below will assist you in understanding the role of our profession in addressing the injustices we see around us. In the coming weeks we will be hosting a series of virtual town hall meetings to learn more about the dates and registration for these town hall meetings.

**LEARN**

Words from NOMA Memphis Chapter Vice President Colby C. Mitchell, NOMA:

With that, what is the African American contribution to the design profession as it relates to the built environment?

There is a cultural shift in the American architecture profession. The monumental social movement towards the Black Lives Matter awareness and the bold, unapologetic stance we have taken as a profession to speak on racial injustice has enabled us, as a profession, to transform. Our profession can no longer afford to be a bystander. We are at a pivotal moment in our profession’s history.

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