

## **Black Lives Matter.**

The Yes! And... Community mourns the countless lives lost. The precious bodies beaten. The opportunities denied. The legion of dreams deferred.

To our families and staff of color- please know that we stand with you. It is not fair that you must lead the way, but we will follow. We will listen, learn and elevate your voices that have been silenced for far too long.

To our young people- please know that we are here for you. If you are sad, confused, or in trouble- reach out. We cannot do this alone. Our connection is our strength.

To our families of privilege- please know we are a space where you can come to break down the systemic and implicit racism that is within all of us. We join you in this important work because change is required from all of us to create a better world.

We recognize that as an organization we have our own expressions of systematic racism that we need to continue to confront and dismantle. We commit to continue this work with greater urgency.

Change requires creativity, compassion, and perseverance. We will always be about the business of raising up children who know themselves and their worth, who recognize it in the other, and who demand the best for both.

In solidarity,

Christine Herrman, Executive Director  
Brooke Sexton, Artistic Director  
Krista Thorp, Program Director  
Debbie Larsen, Shadow Company Program Director  
The Yes! And... Collaborative Arts Board of Directors