

Anton Art Center
Statement of Acknowledgment and Support
May 2021

The Anton Art Center celebrates and stands with people of color and other underrepresented people in our community and beyond. We recognize that the Art Center has been part of a history of institutionally oppressive systems that have perpetuated inequalities for artists and other members of our community. We recognize that the Art Center's position is not unique, but we cannot remain complicit.

We are committed to challenging systems of oppression in the arts and working to dismantle them in our words and more importantly, in our actions. We are committed to being a better advocate and ally in Mount Clemens and Macomb County, as well as in the arts community more broadly.

The Anton Art Center will use our platforms to bring awareness to issues of inclusion, diversity, equity and access in the arts, while also doing the work necessary to deconstruct systemic racist and colonialist structures that may be inherent in our organization. This work is ongoing, and we will listen to our community and partners to learn our way forward.

We acknowledge that we begin from an imperfect, but essential starting point, and hope to open a platform for discussion, feedback, critique, collaboration, and accountability.

To become a better, more inclusive organization, the Anton Art Center is committed to:

- Establishing a new IDEA Council (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Access) to advise Anton Art Center Board and staff on programming, policy, outreach, and other areas of organizational concern
- Maintaining and promoting our free admission policy
- Discontinuing the membership program and working on new ways to engage audiences that are not transactional in nature
- Initiating a series of Community Conversations to help us learn about our community and how our community wants to engage with the Anton Art Center
- Implementing a public art project with Black artists as a product of the Community Conversations
- Undertaking organizational Adaptive Planning with being more inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible as key goals we are working towards
- Developing recruiting mechanisms to engage more people of color as artists, board members, volunteers, program participants, and staff
- Working to identify and break down other real and perceived barriers to participation

This statement approved by the Anton Art Center Board of Trustees at their May 27, 2021 Special Meeting.