



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 25, 2021

Contact: [tpitts@mnaonline.org](mailto:tpitts@mnaonline.org)

## **Remembering George Floyd on the anniversary of his death**

One year ago today, people worldwide watched in horror as George Floyd, a Black man was murdered on the streets of Minneapolis, after an officer kneeled on his neck for over 9 minutes. Mr. Floyd's dying words, "I can't breathe," became a rallying cry and sparked nationwide protests, and a racial reckoning against police brutality. He was cruelly robbed of years of life he might have spent with his daughter, family, and friends.

On this day, May 25, 2021, we remember Mr. Floyd, his daughter Gianna, his family, friends, and all those who loved him. As we reflect on the tragedy of his murder, one year later, it still feels just as shocking, raw, sad, and unjust. While we are firmly aware that systematic racism will not disappear overnight, we vow to continue the fight to break down the walls of racism and to stand for racial equity. We have long prioritized DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) at Michigan Nonprofit Association, but a couple of years ago we added justice to our core values. And little did we know at the time how important it would be for us to solidify that value.

### **A reflection on the anti-racism work we've done over the past year:**

- This year, we launched the first ever [Nonprofit Leadership Census survey](#) aimed at building a solidarity network among BIPOC-led nonprofits (Black, Indigenous and people of color) in the city of Detroit and across Michigan. The survey intends to generate the first comprehensive, diverse data set about nonprofit leadership across the state.
- We started our Community Conversations series last fall to be a space where we, as nonprofit leaders, volunteers, and professionals, can discuss how we make our organizations more equitable. The focus of these conversations is to build leadership to support the sector's capacity and action towards the racial justice imperatives facing the sector. These virtual rooms make space for BIPOC leaders to gather, to create communities of practice and healing. We've reflected on the year that was 2020, on how our sector can do better in hiring and retaining talent and are closing out the series with a conversation next month on how to lead organizational change from within.
- We are mobilizing local nonprofits to engage the communities they serve in active participation to achieve [fair and impartial district maps](#) for Michigan--specifically to promote racial equity so that communities of color have a voice and are not locked out of the decision making that occurs at the local, state, and federal levels.
- We worked alongside nonprofits statewide to ensure that Michigan had a fair, accurate and inclusive census for the state's hardest-to-count communities. The social justice campaign had an intentional focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- We are committed to examining and reflecting on our own privileges and practices to envision a more just sector. We continue to listen to our staff, and we are guided by them in our effort to build and maintain a workplace of true inclusion, diversity, equity, and justice.

Our work isn't done. In fact, we're just rolling up our sleeves and getting started. We will continue to hold uncomfortable and difficult conversations- demanding and influencing real change. We must not become complacent. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are rights that should be accessible to all, and it is fundamentally important that we continue to do everything that we can to confront racism and demand accountability. Today, we unite with communities worldwide to continue to demand that Black Lives Matter.

###