June 12, 2020 New York City

Government Leaders,

As nonprofits, we denounce anti-Black racism in all its forms. As the City quickly plans its final FY21 budget and reallocates funds from policing to community investments, we call on our City leaders to center Black and people of color-led community based organizations. The nonprofit sector has a racial equity problem. People of color are less likely to be in senior leadership positions, 1 the revenues of Black-led organizations are 24% smaller than revenues of white-led counterparts, and unrestricted net assets of Black-led organizations are 76% smaller than white-led organizations. In this moment where deadly structural racism is reflected in the disproportionate deaths of Black and Brown communities from COVID-19 and discriminatory policing, we call on our leaders and our sector to be accountable to communities of color not just in statements but also through resources.

We call on the City to:

● Create space for and listen to Black-led organizations, like TakeRoot Justice, Girls for Gender Equity, the Anti-Violence Project, Girl Vow, Mindbuilders Creative Arts Center, National Black Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and Urban League, and people of color nonprofits like Hispanic Federation, Ballet Hispanico, Asian American Federation, and Coalition for Asian American Children and Families about how funding should be reallocated
● Commit to City Council discretionary funding at FY20 levels in the FY21 budget, which is often one of the only ways small grassroots organizations led-by and serving people of color access government funding
● Increase funding for the Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund to $5M in FY 2021 and restructure the initiative for FY 2022 based on recommendations by Black and people of color led community based organizations
● Increase flexibility in spending requirements for City Council member items and initiatives to allow people of color led organizations to meet immediate needs of the community
● Ensure FY20 Council member items and capital commitments be honored and expedited.

We know the City is in a challenging financial position. However any cuts to City Council discretionary funding, which only accounts for 0.42% of the City budget, are an equity issue and will have a damaging impact on smaller organizations serving communities of color. Grassroots organizations led by and serving communities of color often do not have the organizational
capacity to engage in the onerous City agency RFP process. Discretionary funding is how small organizations closest to New Yorkers and organizations led by people of color get access to public funding.

These actions the City can take will support community based organizations led by and serving those most impacted by COVID-19 and racially discriminatory policing.


Signatories:
A.I.M

Alice AustenHouse

America onTech

American Documentary,Inc.

American Indian Artists Inc.(AMERINDA)

Asian American ArtsAlliance

Asian AmericanFederation

Association of Fundraising Professionals, New York CityChapter

Association of NonprofitSpecialists

Bait-ul Jamaat - House ofCommunity

Berit AhlgrenCreates

Boys and Girls Club ofHarlem
BRI
C
Brighton Ballet
Theater
Bronx Council on the
Arts
Brooklyn Community
Foundation
BUILD
NYC
Callen-Lorde Community Health
Center
Calpulli Mexican Dance
Company
Caps Lock
Theatre
Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora
Institute
Cause
Effective
Center for Performance
Research
Center for Racial Justice in
Education
Chess in the
Schools
Children’s
Aid
Chinese-American Planning
Council
Cicatelli Associates
Inc
City Parks
Foundation
Community Food Advocates
Community Resource Exchange (CRE)
Contemporary Photography and Visual Arts Center
Correctional Association of New York
COOP Careers
Court Appointed Special Advocates of NYC
Dance Theatre of Harlem
Dance/NY C
Dancers Responding to AIDS Day One
Divine Rhythm Productions
The Drug Policy Alliance
East Harlem Block Nursery, Inc.
El Museo del Barrio
Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Project Space Program
Elmcor Youth & Adult Activities (Historically Black Led Organization for 55 years)
Engineering Conferences
International Equity Advocates

Eryc Taylor Dance, Inc.

Exodus Transitional Community

EXPONEN TS

Fifth Avenue Committee & Neighbors Helping Neighbors

FM A

The Fortune Society

FPW A

Friends of Judson Generation Citizen

Getting Out and Staying Out

Girl Vow

Girls for Gender Equity

GMH C

Good Shepherd Services

Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ, Inc.
The GRACE
Foundation
Grand Street
Settlement
Greater Bethel Community Development
Corporation
Green Worker
Cooperatives
HANAC
Inc.
Hester
Street
HEWMAN, Welcome to
Campfire
Hunts Point Alliance for
Children
IMA
NI
India Home,
Inc.
Isaacs
Center
Japanese American Social Services, Inc.
(JASSI)
JCC of Staten
Island
JGM
Consulting
jill
sigman/thinkdance
Joffrey Ballet
School
Judson Memorial
Church
Justice for
Families

Kinding Sindaw Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Kyle Marshall
Choreography

LayeRhytm

LEA
P

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House

LES
Ready!

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Community Center

LIFT-N
Y

Madison Square Boys & Girls Club

Mark Morris Dance Group

Matthew Westerby Dance Company, Inc.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Michele Brangwen Dance Ensemble

MindOpen Learning Strategies

Mixteca Organization, Inc.

MODArts Dance Collective
(MADC)
Movement
Research
Muslims Giving
Back
My Money
Workshop
Nail it with
love
National Dance
Institute
National Lighthouse
Museum
New York
Cares
New York City AIDS
Memorial
New York Council Navy League of the United
States
New York Lawyers for the Public
Interest
New York Society of Association Executives
(NYSAE)
New York Urban
League
New Yorkers for Culture &
Arts
NIA Community Services
Network
NMI
C
Nonprofit Finance
Fund
Nonprofit New
South Asian Fund For Education, Scholarship and Training (SAFEST)
South Asian Youth Action

Staten Island Inter-Religious Leadership

Staten Island Not for Profit Association

Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness

Staten Island Urban Center

Staten Island Women Who March

Stonewall Community Foundation

Supportive Housing Network

TakeRoot Justice

Teens for Food Justice

Turning Point for Women & Families

United Neighborhood Houses

United Way of New York City

Violence Intervention Program

Waterfront Alliance

Wingo NYC
Women Creating Change

World Day of Prayer International Committee

Your Time For Creative Empowerment, Inc.

Youth Represent