

The art project team of the Alliance for Watershed Education stands in solidarity with BLACK LIVES MATTER in calling for immediate and dramatic police and criminal justice reform nationwide in response to the tragic murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. We believe in our shared humanity and the right of Black people to live without fear and racism.

As artists, we understand the power of culture to imagine new worlds and new ways of being. Generation after generation of Black artists, from Simone Leigh to Sun Ra to Octavia Butler, have illuminated the world as it is and imagined what it might become. Black artists teach us, inspire us, and make the world a richer place. At a time like this, their work is more important and more visionary than ever.

In this moment, we must use our grief and anger to catalyze action, step outside business as usual and push ourselves to bring long-overdue change into reality. We encourage all who read this to listen, educate yourselves, and take action in support of Black lives.

For those in a position to donate, please consider supporting these Black-centered / Black-led organizations:

Philly Area protest support & police reform

www.phillybailfund.com

www.blmphilly.com

<https://artforphiladelphia.com/> artist fundraiser for the [Philadelphia Community Bail Fund](#).

Local orgs related to food & land justice and / or arts & culture

[The Village of Arts and Humanities](#)

[North Philly Peace Park](#)

[Soil Generation](#)

[Olney Culture Lab](#)

[The Colored Girls Museum](#)

[Theater in the X](#)

National orgs

[Outdoor Afro](#)

[Youth Outside](#)

ADVOCATE FOR REFORM

Philadelphia's current budget proposal increases funding for police and decreases everything else. [This link](#) has more information about the budget and how to email council persons.

SUPPORT BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES!

Here's a Black business list for Philadelphia: <https://www.ibuyblack.org/>

RESOURCES

Movies & Videos:

[13th](#). Documentary by Ava DuVernay that traces the legacy of the 13th Amendment through today's criminal justice system.

[Whose Streets?](#) Documentary on the uprising in Ferguson, MI after the police killing of Michael Brown.

Books:

Michelle Alexander, [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#). Michelle Alexander literally wrote the book on the intense racism imbedded in the criminal justice system. Essential reading on institutional racism.

[The End of Policing](#) This book attempts to spark public discussion by revealing the tainted origins of modern policing as a tool of social control. It shows how the expansion of police authority is inconsistent with community empowerment, social justice—even public safety.

Richard Rothstein, [The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America](#). Deep and disturbing analysis of the many ways that federal, state, and local government policy segregated housing, destroyed Black communities, and undercut Black wealth. Another essential primer on how institutional racism operates.

Leon Litwack, [Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow](#). A look at the enduring traumatic impact of the Jim Crow South.

Carolyn Finney, [Black Faces, White Spaces](#) – Finney examines racism in outdoor spaces and in the environmental movement.

Primers for white folks:

Ijeoma Oluo, [So You Want to Talk About Race](#)

Ibram X. Kendi, [How To Be An Antiracist](#)

Robin DiAngelo, [White Fragility](#)

Peggy McIntosh, [White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#)

Real (and real funny!) talk from Ijeoma Oluo: "[Welcome To The Anti-Racism Movement — Here's What You've Missed.](#)"

[Scene on Radio podcast - "Seeing White"](#)

Literary work from Black Authors:

Toni Morrison, [The Bluest Eye](#) (and anything else by Morrison).

James Baldwin, [The Fire Next Time](#) (and anything else by Baldwin).

Ta-Nahisi Coates, [Between the World and Me](#). Coates' book length essay about being Black in America, framed as a letter to his young son.

Bryan Stephenson, [Just Mercy](#) (as well as the [movie](#) of the same name). Stephenson's memoir as a civil rights attorney seeking justice for death row inmates in Alabama.

Essays:

Ta-Nehisi Coates, "[The Case for Reparations.](#)"

Nikole Hannah-Jones, [The 1619 Project](#). Jones, along with other New York Times reporters, re-examined the legacy of slavery in the United States, on the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Africans in Virginia.

Essays related to art and cultural work:

Maisha Z. Johnson, "[What's Wrong with Cultural Appropriation?](#)" Explains what cultural appropriation is and why it is hurtful.

Felicia Fitzpatrick, "[Queer Black Playwrights to Know and Support.](#)"

Angela Pelster-Wiebe, "[White Artists Need to Start Addressing White Supremacy in Their Work. Those Who Benefit From Racism Should Be on the Front Lines Fighting It.](#)"

Resources for deeper study and reflection:

Layla Saad - [Me and White Supremacy](#)

[Training for Change](#) - Anti-Racism trainings that team members have personally attended and recommend.

adrienne maree brown, [Emergent Strategy](#), and the associated [Emergent Strategy Institute](#) are a favorite - applying ecological principles to justice organizing. Swoon!

[Dismantling Racism Works](#) Workbooks and Toolkits, especially their [unpacking of workplace white supremacy culture, also profiled here.](#)

[Letters for Black Lives.](#) Crowdsourced, multilingual, and culturally-aware resources to raise understanding of racial justice and anti-Black racism.

Interactive, performance and participatory:

[Trading Races](#) - A card game exploring Black culture

[For My People \(Kat Mosley\)](#) - A hilarious game show (originally live, now online) exploring racial stereotypes with teams of comedians.