

Black Lives Matter. The Circle Board stands with all members of our community who are fighting against racial injustice and police brutality following the murder of George Floyd and countless others before him who have perished by the hands of law enforcement. Circle is an ally to all those demanding an end to the deplorable and inhumane treatment of people of color by the criminal justice system.

Circle facilitates free, inclusive, and innovative programming that brings the community together in new ways at TMA. The Circle Board is composed of community members, and as a TMA affinity group, we operate under the museum's auspices and collaborate with TMA staff to support the museum's vision to promote diversity and community relevance. We serve the museum and the community through an ideology of inclusion.

We acknowledge the role that museums have historically played in perpetuating structural and institutional racism, and this means that the museum has a great deal of work to do to gain the trust and collaboration of Black and Brown communities in Toledo. Circle's relevant, collaborative approach to engagement starts with listening and learning as we work to amplify the voices and experiences of our community partners; we believe that this is how trust is forged. Doing "more for the future than the past has done for the present" will require that we sit with uncomfortable truths, examine our racial biases, and recognize the ways that privilege and whiteness has allowed institutions to amass influence and power.

We believe that museums can be spaces for transformational dialogue, and that art has the power to generate empathy, challenge deeply held beliefs, and inspire creative visions for a better future.

The Circle Board is eager to continue having difficult conversations with and in the museum so that TMA can truly serve all of Toledo.