

A CALL FOR A RESPONSE FROM THE VISUAL ARTS SECTOR IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

This is a message of solidarity with Black Lives Matter to condemn racism, and a commitment to improve YVAN's practices for anyone who is currently discriminated against by the arts because of their skin colour.

We acknowledge that YVAN has a journey to make to become the organisation where artists of colour see and feel their culture and presence is truly represented in its programme and governance.

This is a journey of change – it is long overdue.

YVAN is committed to taking this forward to ensure the visual arts in Yorkshire is contemporary, inclusive and diverse; that it opens up opportunities in fair and transparent ways; and challenges itself and network of partners to examine the unconscious bias and prejudice against Black culture and BIPOC communities that permeate the arts and its institutions.

We ask all of those working in leadership roles to now break this status quo through education, policy and programme to make visible the changes required. We ask our colleagues and artists of colour to watch this space whilst we begin reassessing our practices and actioning our commitment to leveraging institutional change in the arts sector.

We are concerned about making value statements as an ally of the Black Lives Matter movement without showing a related programme of activity that is authentic. We commit to do this in ways that foster wider dialogue and debate.

YVAN works towards being an anti-racist organisation for the visual arts in the Yorkshire region. YVAN continues to demonstrate its commitment to Equity, Diversity and Well-Being through its governance and programme structures.

We need to hear your thoughts – please contact chair@yvan.org.uk.

Statement from the Chair and Directors of Yorkshire and Humber Visual Arts Network:

Sue Ball, Exec Chair

Michael Barnes-Wynters

Alice Bradshaw

Sharon Gill

Helen Nakhwal

Liz Ainge

Laura Biddle

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