



Artwork by [@sacree_frangine](#)

Dear Community,

Pratt Fine Arts Center is committed to continuing to do the work to dismantle White supremacy and disrupt our own institution's structural racism.

We know that Black Lives Matter and our board and staff have been working together to navigate an intersectional approach to disrupting existing systems of oppression within our institution and as members of the Seattle arts community.

Our in-depth racial equity work started over 5 years ago, and you can read more about our commitment to racial equity [here](#).

Only after we identify and solve the ways we continue to oppress, will we be able to successfully and sustainably support Black, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, & People of Color) and Central Area artists in their artistic exploration and development.

We will work harder to share Black art and art history. We will work to create space in our classes and studios so BIPOC feel safer and a sense of belonging, with rightful access to professional arts space, tools, and resources for building and sharing their mastery of the visual arts.

We are working to address racial inequities in board, staff, student, and instructor representation. We are working on diversifying our arts programming.

As Kaisha S. Johnson from Women of Color in the Arts discussed yesterday in her piece, "[Enough Already with the Statements of Solidarity, Arts World.](#)" we recognize that statements of support do not always lead to action.

Here at Pratt we have been working to turn our [Racial Equity statement of purpose](#) into a sustainable organization-wide plan of action. One that centers voices of BIPOC and increases opportunities for Black artists, for Black youth to explore themselves as artists, and Black teaching artists to share their talent and perspectives with us all.

We believe we can build this inclusivity, and we recognize we can only do that in partnership with Black, Indigenous, and POC arts leaders and by supporting a diverse community of artists. We also recognize in order to further develop these partnerships we must ensure that we are a safe space for Black people and BIPOC community.

We have evaluated the results of our efforts and continue to work with external consultants to evaluate our progress - as this work to end structural racism is an ongoing active process we all must commit to. You can review an example of this work from our 2018 [Pratt Race Equity Continuum](#), and know since then we have been making strides towards structural and institutional change.



Learn more about our namesake and social justice advocate for Black lives, Edwin T. Pratt. In 2019, 50 years after Edwin's life was taken, Pratt Fine Arts Center published an essay celebrating Edwin's life and legacy in the context of the local and national civil rights movement: [Edwin T. Pratt: Excellence and Opportunity](#) by local author Nancy Rawles.

Ending structural racism in the arts starts with recognizing the work that has been done and continues to be done by Black people in the fight for social justice and by making space and offering support for new generations of BIPOC to add to that legacy.

Please stand with Black Lives and find a creative way to take ACTION.

#CharleenaLyles

#ShaunFuhr

#TommyLe

#CheTaylor

#JTWilliams

#IsaiahObet

#JesseSarey

#JusticeForStoney

#ManuelEllis

#SaidJoaquin

#SayHerName

#BlackTransLivesMatter

#BlackLivesMatter

The tragic loss of Black lives due to police brutality aren't issues that solely happen out-of-state. This is a stark reality that we have to acknowledge happens and has been happening at home: in our neighborhoods, in our region and in our state.

The image (**above**) is a list of Black & BIPOC community members whose lives were taken from them too soon.

Say their names to honor them, their legacy & to sustain and drive this work forward towards racial justice and systemic change.

Please support and contribute to local Black-led arts organizations and connect with our friends & artists at:

Central District (CD) Forum for Arts & Ideas

Langston

Wa Na Wari

NW African American Museum (NAAM)

~ THANK YOU BLACK ARTISTS ~

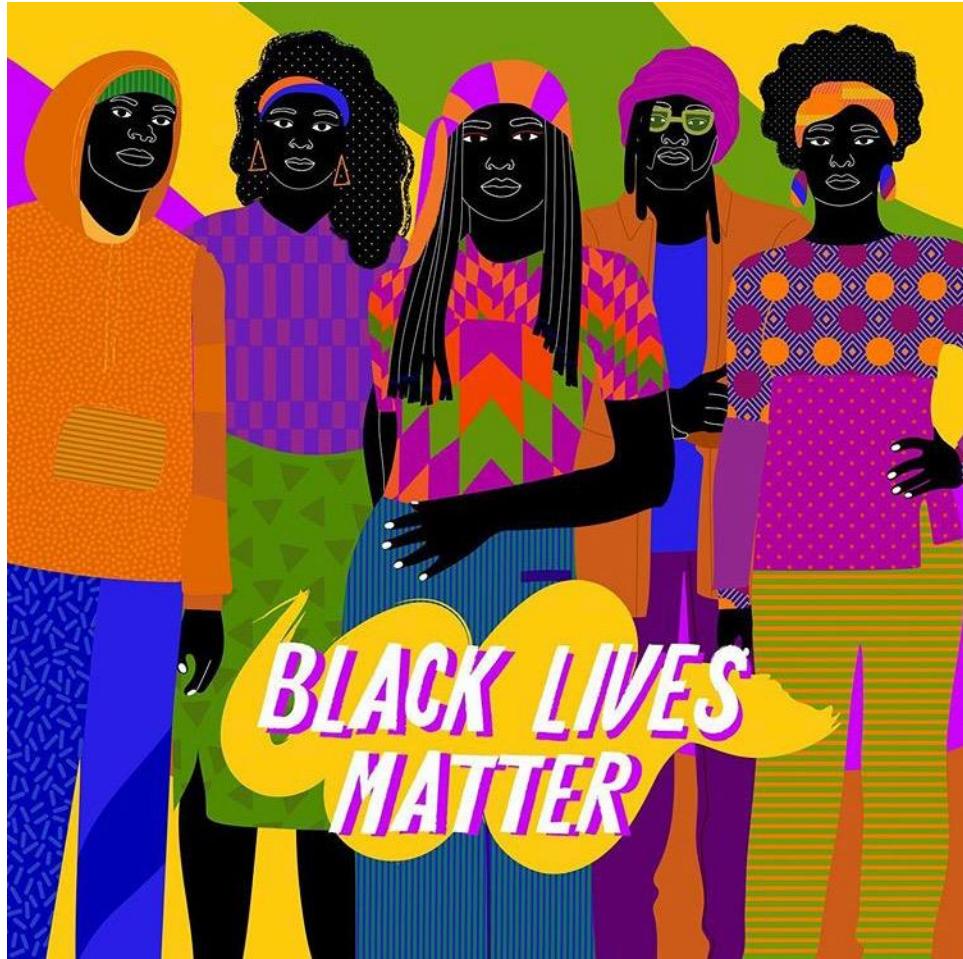
To support the #BlackLivesMatter movement locally, make a donation, attend a rally

- and be sure to center Black Lives & Black voices when you go:

Black Lives Matter Seattle - King County

Northwest Community Bail Fund

Seattle King County NAACP #1136



Artwork by [@4ur3lia](#)

For an ongoing list of anti-racism resources, where you can donate & support local Black artists, organizations and businesses, [click here.](#)

