Dear Brava Family,

We must continue to say their names George Floyd, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Oscar Grant, Michael Brown, Philando Castil, Amadou Diallo, Trayvon Martin, Sandra Bland, Nia Wilson, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Alex Nieto, Mario Woods, Jessica Williams, Amilcar Perez-Lopez to name a few.

We must shout out loud BLACK LIVES MATTER. We must insist BLACK LIVES MATTER. We must end institutionalized racism that gives permission for those that “protect and serve” to murder our children, parents, and community members. We must commit to dismantling white supremacy and systemic racism so healing can happen.

We must sing songs, paint murals, create dances, and write stories so these Black and Brown Brothers and Sisters are remembered. We must have a collective spiritual and moral awakening so that our Democracy is not lost, choked by greed, temptation, contempt and convenience.

“Progressive art can assist people to learn not only about the objective forces at work in the society in which they live, but also about the intensely social character of their interior lives. Ultimately, it can propel people toward social emancipation” — Angela Davis

Brava! for Women in the Arts stands in solidarity with BLACK LIVES MATTER in the struggle for justice and human dignity. We call upon our communities and our allies to unequivocally demand justice for George Floyd and his family. No Justice, No Peace.

The pandemic, police brutality, economic disparities and the video recording of it all make it impossible to ignore the embedded racism and the deep inequities in our society. Brava exists to make sure we move toward social emancipation and away from the toxic patriarchies that plague us.

There is much to be done. We must:

· VOTE for change
· Mobilize our communities to vote
· Stay educated on our history and the complexity of its impact
· Unpack our own privileges & acknowledge how we might benefit or participate in the systems of supremacy
· Remember that all Black, Indigenous, and peoples of color in this country are targets
· Keep talking about ending racism
· And finally, pray to whichever spirit elevates us to practice loving kindness

In Solidarity,

Anastacia Powers
Executive Director