To our 2019-2020 season of artists,

For many of you, welcome back! To new artists, welcome! We look forward to working with you as a participant in our new season On Stage at Joe’s with our season theme: When Hate Hits Home.

Google “When Hate Hits Home” and you’ll find countless stories of everyday people all over the world experiencing racism, homophobia, sexism and other forms of bigotry. Most of us can easily recall our own stories of either being the victim or witness to such acts. Whether through a tweet or verbal insult hurled from a passing car, many of us have been given to the message to “go back” when we’re in a place we call home.

The underlying mission of On Stage at Joe’s is to give audiences a deepened understanding of your work, the role you play in anchoring culture for our community, and the power of live performance experiences to be cathartic and to create connection.

This year, we’re asking you, the artists, to reflect on the season theme When Hate Hits Home and share those reflections with us. This is a completely open prompt and we are hoping to collect all your responses to include in our how we promote and share performances. We want to do more than just marketing, but expand perspectives, spark dialogues, enhance empathy, and share actions for positive change.

In addition to the performances, we are hoping to hold monthly In Your Own Voice story-telling circles that are facilitated by you and other leaders. Additionally, the The Prince George’s County Human Relations Commission will be a season sponsor and holding events and discussions.

For those who don’t know, the PGCHRC is is the county’s civil and human rights education and enforcement agency that offering training about discrimination and the law and how to avoid behaving in a discriminatory manner.

Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced. (James Baldwin)
Could you share your thoughts and experiences on:

- Stories of experiencing hate and overcoming it
- Reflections on the theme
- Quotes
- A vision of a world without hate
- Images or videos that reflect your experiences and inspired the work you are bringing to stage?
- A call to action and a partnering resource

We hope to thread this content along with the materials you provide for promoting your show and community engagement activities. Your work is powerful, touches the human spirit, and instills strength and hope. Right now, artists are the saviors for a culture experiencing flu-like symptoms of fear and division. Collectively, our work is healing.

Thank you for your participation as an artist in our season of performances. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions, push back or ideas.

Much appreciation,

Neena and Brooke