

# MRAC Racial Equity Statement

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*Adopted June 26, 2018*

The Metropolitan Regional Arts Council acknowledges the Dakota and Ojibwe Nations as the original people of the land in which we live and work.

MRAC recognizes arts and culture as inherent and vital aspects of life. Art is a proven proponent of healthy, balanced, and prosperous communities. The creation and experience of cultural and artistic expression contribute to both individual and community well being. We believe in the ability to build increased connectivity and economic strength through supporting cultural and artistic expression of all social identities including race, tribal affiliation, ethnicity, national origin, age, gender, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic background and the intersectionality of these identities.

MRAC acknowledges that systems currently in place have historically marginalized and underserved indigenous people of the Americas and communities of color (including but not limited to Native American, Black/African/African American, Afro Latinx, Caribbean, Chicanx/Mexican, Central American, South American, Middle Eastern/North African, Asian/Asian-American, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islanders. This also includes indigenous and/or people of color at the intersection of Immigrant, Refugee, Muslim and other religious minority identities).

We are committed to closing access gaps in the arts with urgency and accountability. We believe sustained impact requires authentic relationships and transformative work, and to this end we are deeply invested.

As stewards of public funds, including those allocated by the Legacy Amendment, MRAC embraces the unique opportunity to ensure that all residents of the seven county metro area have access to quality arts experiences. We celebrate our region as a rich artistic cultural hub where artists and community members from all walks of life intersect. MRAC dedicates its work to providing key support at these vital intersections where art and community align.

MRAC is committed to engaging in the relationship building, self-reflection, community discourse, and hands-on work imperative to make our region a place where all artistic communities can thrive. MRAC will focus our resources to educate ourselves, modify our practices and shift our own organizational culture to challenge racial disparities as we move toward equitable arts communities. We embrace our responsibility to lead racial equity work in funding, while informing and learning from equity and inclusion in the artistic practices and programming of our constituents.