



Greater Columbus Arts Council

February 23, 2021

Dear Grantees:

Last year, the Greater Columbus Arts Council adopted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statement and a Racial Equity Statement and we believe that equity work must start with an acknowledgement of our collective role in perpetuating oppressive systems. The first step for the Arts Council is to assess where we are now and then set deliberate goals each year. We have begun that process but there is much work to do.

Beginning in 2021, basic demographic information will be collected as part of the grant process for artists applying for funding. Artists will be asked to provide demographic information about themselves, however, there will be the option to select "I prefer not to answer" on all questions. Organizations also will be required to report on the demographics of their staff and board of directors. The Arts Council also collects this information regularly for our own staff and board of trustees.

The data collected will serve multiple purposes:

- To help us understand how we, the Arts Council and our grantees, reflect our diverse communities;
- To utilize data to better serve, represent and support our artistic community, and;
- To track progress with our collective inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (I.D.E.A.) efforts.

We recognize there can be sensitivity around collecting demographic information but this a critical step if we are to collectively measure change and dismantle inequities in the policies, programs, and practices within our organization. This information will be strictly confidential and used only to assist us in holding ourselves accountable to our I.D.E.A. goals.

We know that advancing equity requires a hard look at who we are and who we are serving and we can't do it alone. Your participation in this data collection will help make our arts community a more representative, responsive and equitable place to live and create.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom', written in a cursive style.

Tom Katzenmeyer
President and CEO

**Supporting art.
Advancing culture.**

182 E. Long St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215
P (614) 224-2606
F (614) 224-7461

gcac.org