



A message from Adria Focht, President & CEO of The Charlotte Museum of History

The Declaration of Independence proclaims that all of us are created equal and endowed with "certain unalienable Rights, that among these are **Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**"

Sadly those ideals are far from realized. Our nation continues to struggle with endemic racism and oppression, injustices made viscerally painful once again last week with the death of George Floyd. The museum stands with those who are protesting Mr. Floyd's death and the systemic inequities suffered by African Americans and other people of color since our nation's founding.

How can The Charlotte Museum of History help? We will start by recommitting to inclusivity and honesty in our educational programs, exhibits and events. We will work harder to hold up a clear mirror to Charlotte's history. That means especially telling stories of how our society has failed to live up to its ideals of freedom and equality.

In recent years, I believe the museum has made progress in representing our city's whole history. Some of that work is [listed here](#), along with links to resources where you can learn more.

My pledge to you is that we will not stop here. The museum can and will do even more to lift up the stories and experiences of all the peoples who have built our region over the centuries, especially African Americans and Indigenous Peoples.

In the meantime, I'd like to personally invite you to our virtual Lunch and Learn on Thursday, June 18. It will explore Juneteenth, which commemorates the liberation of the last remaining enslaved African Americans in 1865. Khadija McNair, assistant site manager at Historic Stagville, will explore the enduring legacy of Juneteenth and why it matters. You can register for this free online event at [charlottemuseum.org/events](https://www.charlottemuseum.org/events).

Our Commitment Includes:

- Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion training for our staff on a more frequent basis;
- Intentional efforts to diversify our board of trustees, advisory council, staff and volunteers;
- Ongoing outreach to attract a more diverse group of members and visitors;
- Continued educational programming about Charlotte's ongoing history of school segregation;
- Continued fundraising for the Save Siloam School Project;
- Continuing to host our free African American Heritage Festival annually; and
- Prioritizing further analysis of existing archaeological studies of our historic homesite so that we can uncover more about the lives of the people who were enslaved here in the 1700s and 1800s.

The museum will continue to look for new ways to provide history resources and educational support for the struggle for human rights and justice. If you

have ideas for programs you would like to see at the museum, please reach out to me and our museum staff at info@charlottemuseum.org.



Adria Focht | President & CEO

704.568.1774 | charlottemuseum.org | 3500 Shamrock Drive

STAY CONNECTED

