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To Whom it May concern,

This is a Letter of Support for Katie Green and for supporting some murals in the Calgary Area related to the Black Lives Matter movement meant to encourage conversation around racism and discrimination.

Antyx Community Arts is a non-profit association based in Calgary uses the arts as a tool to create opportunities for youth to become more engaged in their communities while experiencing increased connection and empowerment. We engage youth 12-24 to become change-makers in their neighbourhoods while voicing and advocating on issues important to them through Art for Social Change projects and methods. We engage youth in complex conversations and dialogue about various social justice issues, how to use art as a tool to make systemic change, and how to make our communities stronger. These youth are empowered by the projects they do with Antyx and have the chance to become change-makers in their community.

Systemic racism and advocacy on how to have justice for BIPOC citizens has been a topic that we have been passionate about for years and our youth have been involved in different projects and advocating towards systemic change. Many of our youth come from marginalized populations and face discrimination on a daily basis. In the past we have hosted various initiatives to combat racism and discrimination. Some of our most recent anti-racism projects have been:

- In 2016 and 2017 we partnered with Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation to host the **48 hour Anti-Racism film Festival** where artists from all backgrounds had 48 hours to plan, write, film and edit a piece.
 - **#Standup** was a compilation of video, posters, and performance by youth at Ian Bazalgette jr. high around human rights and discrimination.
 - Over the last three years we have been collaborating with Action Dignity on various performance pieces, camps and showcases around racism, discrimination and the history of Canada from diverse perspectives. Youth from our groups performed pieces in **"Our Canada, Our Story"** reformatted some of these pieces for a **"Jane's Walk"** the following spring. Then most recently, last spring we collaborated on **"Labelled"** which was a spoken word showcase at arts commons on racism and discrimination.
- In fall 2018 youth in our Youth Arts Action North group at Genesis centre made a zine on racism called **"Grey Zone"** they also followed that up with a zine on mental health.

- Youth in our forest lawn groups have done a series of murals over the last 5 years at various locations, where they have been mentored by indigenous artists and elders and we have been looking at Canada's history pre and post colonialism and what this land means to us. (located at Forest Lawn Natural Playground, Bob Bahan Pool and the Alex Community Food Centre)
- Most recently with the current protests, we have been having deep conversations with our youth over the past few weeks and they are passionate about making change. We have one group of youth working on a poetry compilation where some of these issues will most certainly be showcased. Another group, is a collaboration between our youth and a group in England that are both working on protest art. #Listentome campaign was our 2019/2020 protest poster making campaign on our side, and on their side they were making some performances around protest. Since March they have been collaborating more frequently with regular zoom sessions and are working on a digital performance showcase centered around "protest" for the fall.
- We also have a group running currently, in collaboration with The Coalition for Equal Access to Education, that has been looking deeper into racism in schools.

Antyx is passionate about making a difference on issues around discrimination and injustice and we are happy to support any artists in Calgary that are motivated to dive deeper into these same issues.

To support this project we can recruit some teens that are interested in visual art and making a difference on these issues to work along side Katie and help her with the implementation of these murals. We can also connect Katie to some of our BIPOC contract mural artists to aid in the completion of this project. We find it very important to have diverse voices and BIPOC artists of colour represented in the project, both adults and youth, to collaborate on such an important piece(s) for Calgary.

If you have any more questions, feel free to contact us at 403-444-0500. Details about recent projects and other initiatives by Antyx can be found on our social media sites @antyxarts or on our website www.antlyx.org

Sincerely,



Stephanie Banzky
Community Engagement Coordinator
Antyx Community Arts

