

HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

WE STAND AGAINST RACIAL AND SOCIAL INEQUITY

The Houston Public Library condemns racism and social inequity in all forms as we remember George Floyd and the many others who have fallen victim to the systemic hatred and bigotry in our society. We stand with our community members, our library customers, civic leaders, friends, and neighbors in the pursuit of racial equality and social justice.

Today, we share in the grief and pain of our City as we remember and honor the life of George Floyd. Mr. Floyd will be laid to rest here in Houston, his hometown, on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

The Houston Public Library stands with libraries across the nation against the injustices taking place daily as our society struggles with the fundamental human rights of equity, fairness, and justice. We stand with everyone who seeks better, who wants better, and who deserves better.

The murder of George Floyd has unearthed and laid bare the systemic racism that undermines our society for all to see. We are appalled by it. Racism needs to end. We hope that the peaceful protests that have emerged across the nation and globally by those seeking justice for Mr. Floyd's death will evolve into positive, determined energy, unity, and vigor toward implementing strategies for lasting change. Eradicating racism will be difficult and will require all of us to work together.

Public libraries are playing a unique and vital role in advancing equity and addressing racial divides. Twenty-first-century libraries are pillars of safety, inclusion, diversity, and democracy for the communities we serve. Libraries provide equitable access to information and digital resources for all people, regardless of race. They provide safe, respectful, and welcoming spaces for civic discourse and the expression of diverse voices. Through carefully curated collections, community partnerships, and targeted outreach, libraries intentionally engage and serve the needs of all populations.

We are fortunate to live and work in the nation's most diverse city filled with rich cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity. We work hard every day to celebrate this diversity and to provide platforms that bring communities together to learn from each other and to promote better understanding.

We are proud that equity, diversity, and inclusion are among the core values of all aspects of our work at the Houston Public Library. We ensure that these vital components are included in onboarding, training and development, and ongoing awareness efforts in every facet of our work - but we know we can do more. We know we must do more, and we commit to doing more. We take pride in creating a welcoming environment for all ages, races, genders, sexual orientations, ethnicities, cultures, abilities, heritages, and religions. We are a platform that lifts all voices in our communities. The richness of the variety of the experiences offered at your library are at the heart of real change.

**The Houston Public Library stands against racism.
We stand for social justice and equality for all.
Please stand with us.**