



Dear Friends,

The senseless murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and countless others are a dreadful reminder and gives rise to the inequality that exists in our nation. This does present us with both an opportunity and responsibility to create and advocate for change, where the black and brown community can feel safe enough to move around their cities without fear.

Part of Fountain City Performing Arts mission is to "foster an environment to empower youth through original art; to unite, educate and enlighten the change in hearts and minds" and we need "unity" now more than ever.

The leadership of FCPA is committed to working with youth of all backgrounds, meeting them where they are; advocating, inspiring and empowering them to lend their voices through the arts to make positive and societal change. The last ten days has given us hope by seeing hundreds of thousands of young, generational and peaceful protestors demanding change. Today's youth are bold, courageous, and authentically verbal, who stand ready to lead us to a better society. We see you, we hear you and we'll continue to listen and learn from you as the new generation of leaders with a promise to give voice to the voiceless.

As a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Straight Allies youth organization, we believe that everyone has the right to be and speak freely, no matter where they live or the color of their skin. We're proud to say **BlackLivesMatter**, but it's much more than saying it, our actions should speak louder than words and we will remain in this fight to combat racism, prejudice, discrimination, injustice and division. This is a reality we should not perpetuate or accept. We must do better.

As we navigate through the current coronavirus pandemic and social & civil unrest – of which, a dangerous combination, we look to celebrate pride, the promotion of self-affirmation. We acknowledge the hard work ahead of us but let us continue to show and express the pride we have as a people, as a community and as a nation.

For more information about our programs, services and how you can get involved, please visit us online at fcpakc.org

In Solidarity,

Adriane Shands
Board President

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Vice President

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Treasurer/Secretary

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Founder/Managing Dir.