



*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA.*  
*Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture*

June 11, 2020

RE: Taking Action to Create a More Equitable Community

Dearest faculty, staff, and students,

In the wake of the tragic deaths of George Floyd and others due to systemic racism, we write to affirm that the Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture (GCA) is unequivocally committed to becoming an anti-racist community. We seek to create places of equity for ALL people including communities of color, and especially for Black and Brown communities during these difficult days. We have read a series of important and strong statements from [President Harroz and other university presidents](#), [civic](#), and [industry leaders](#) across the nation inviting us to identify injustice and racism in our communities and to work in unity to address these systemic problems. The voices of Black and Brown communities must be centered in these efforts, and the forum for them to speak must be safe and secured. As faculty, staff and students, we must take action here in our own college home to confirm and promote our anti-racist commitments.

The achievement of an anti-racist community is a group effort and we all must play an active role. We, the GCA, must take action in ways that reinforce and extend beyond our [previous commitments to creating an equitable community](#). Currently, we engage in training, workshops, recruitment efforts, public events, collaborations, and create policies to promote equality. We must go further. We ask that you help us develop a new phase in our plan of action that we will begin to carry out upon our collective return to campus in August. We challenge you to add to the list below as to how we all, students, faculty, staff, as well as our professional networks, can do more *now*. What questions still must be posed? What might be your responses to these questions below?

- Would you be willing to join formal or informal GCA discussion groups in order to better understand racism and what a path towards an anti-racism community might look like?
- How might our GCA community-engagement efforts, whether in lecture, studios, or student activities, work in meaningful partnership with Black and Brown communities on projects prioritized by those communities?
- How might GCA faculty adapt course material, discussion groups, and assignments to better highlight diversity issues in the history of our professions, the biases that have pervaded these for centuries in many cases, and the possibilities for acknowledging and addressing these in future practice?
- How can GCA student organizations prioritize programming that encourages more voices to be heard and supported, especially those of the Black and Brown community?

[To share your thoughts on the questions above, please click here at any time in the coming weeks.](#)

We must bring answers to campus by August and be ready to act. We at the GCA are about action. It is time for us to prove this again. We must act as often as needed until racist acts are relegated to

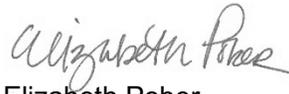
the past and only discussed in history courses. Our words must be transformed with agency into actions that highlight our daily life at the GCA. We must prepare for a practice of planning, design, and construction of places of equity. We must ensure that the businesses and agencies with whom we will find future employment demand such commitment and abilities of us.

Join us as we take action in ways that clearly, collaboratively, safely, and respectfully communicates our commitment to an anti-racist GCA and one which fosters places of equity for ALL people, and particularly for people of color.

In solidarity,



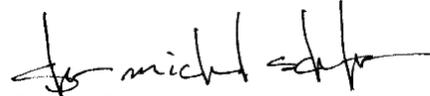
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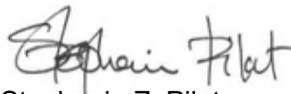
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