



BLACK LIVES MATTER



June 3, 2020

Dear WonderLab Community Members,

It is impossible not to feel the pain of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis or the death of Dreasjon "Sean" Reed, McHale Rose and Chris Beaty from our Indianapolis hometown in recent days. We mourn these individuals and others lost and harmed, along with their families, friends and communities.

WonderLab has always provided an enriching safe space and is founded on values of inclusion and access. It is clear that more intentional action is needed. Just one week ago [Christian Cooper](#) faced discrimination while bird watching as a Black man in a public park, highlighting how systemic racism excludes some people from following the same curiosity about nature that inspires so many of us.

To our Black members, visitors, volunteers, board members, families and friends, please know that your WonderLab community stands in solidarity with you. WonderLab joins the Association of Science and Technology Centers [<https://www.astc.org/diversity-equity-accessibility-and-inclusion/statement-by-astcs-president-and-ceo/>] and other science museums in publicly supporting Black lives, committing to anti-racist practices, and strongly advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM education.

WonderLab has been shaken to the core by the events of the past days and months, yet we also have a new lens to look through as we move ahead. We embrace not only our

work to Reopen the Museum in a brand-new way, but also a newly activated duty to evaluate and enact business practices to be more intentionally focused on goals of inclusiveness, diversity, equity and access that systematize new ways of thinking and doing.

WonderLab commits to the following actions moving forward:

- WonderLab will always be a safe space for our Black visitors, volunteers, interns and families. Black Lives Matter: we see you, welcome you, and honor you.
- WonderLab's established **I.D.E.A. Committee** (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) will continue to meet on a regular basis to identify and advance work on these specific priorities.
- Most immediately, the Reopen Task Force will invite participation from Black community members to inform our reopening plans and strategies.
- WonderLab staff professional development and volunteer trainings will incorporate anti-bias, inclusion and access themes and involve trainers with this expertise.
- WonderLab will continue to develop and present educational events and content focused on inclusive science engagement.
- WonderLab will amplify the contributions and voices from diverse groups of scientists and educators, both past and present, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally for their important contributions to scientific discourse and discovery.
- WonderLab will commit to the development of a substantive and sustainable plan to make our business practices and operations move actively towards inclusion, diversity and antiracism at all levels.

These are beginning steps. More work and projects will develop. We promise to keep you updated on our progress.

In closing, **Black Lives Matter**. I encourage all of us to unite in efforts that support the children, families and individuals in our communities near and far, and to consider ways to act that reflect the goodness in our hearts.

Respectfully Yours,



Karen Jepson-Innes
Executive Director

wonderlab.org