



GLEN ECHO PARK

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture

Statement of Solidarity from the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture Friday, June 5, 2020

Dear Friends of Glen Echo Park,

The Board of Directors and staff of Glen Echo Park extend their sympathy and support to the families whose fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, sisters, and brothers have lost their lives as a result of police brutality. Our message to the community is one of peace and support for non-violent protests. We condemn the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and the countless others who have suffered from the systemic racism in our country that continues to create an environment of inequality and suffering.

We, as an organization, commit to building on our history to create a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community. Before we can begin to constructively address racism and overcome it, we must admit to racism in the past and present, and replace it with an open and positive relationship among all people. In this light, we understand how important it is to come to terms with our own history, learn from it, and move forward.

In the summer of 1960, Howard University students led protests at Glen Echo Amusement Park, a privately operated and segregated entertainment venue. The 1921 Dentzel Carousel is the only remaining historic ride from the amusement park era at Glen Echo Park.

The Howard University protesters rode the carousel and were arrested for doing so in violation of the amusement park's segregation policies that barred African Americans. The case went all the way to the United States Supreme Court. Their continued protests under the heat of the summer sun – and the active engagement of community members in the fight – led to the amusement park's desegregation, opening the venue to everyone for its 1961 season and beyond. In 1968, when the amusement park closed, the site became the property of the federal government and is now jointly owned by our entire community and presents arts and cultural programs that inspire and educate.

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture salutes heroes of the past and present in their stand for racial equality. We aim to do our part to support the continued progress toward ending racism and inequities in our country through education initiatives that tell the civil rights story of the park and encourage the new leaders of today's movement.

Learn more about the Glen Echo Amusement Park protests of 1960 at <https://www.nps.gov/glec/learn/historyculture/summer-of-change.htm>

To this end we have been proud to support the production of the upcoming documentary film "There Ain't No Back to a Merry Go Round," which tells in depth the stories of the protests of 1960 at Glen Echo Amusement Park.

Learn more about the film at <https://www.facebook.com/GlenEchoDocumentary/>

The values by which we operate our programs include striving for inclusivity, equal and fair treatment for everyone, inspiring creativity, and learning from one another through cultural sharing and building community. We believe the power of self-expression, individuality, and the right to be treated with dignity and respect are critical to a healthy society. Our programs strive to serve the entire community reaching throughout the Washington D.C. region so that all of us can achieve our full potential.

We look forward to serving you and everyone in our community as we move forward together.

Katey Boerner
Executive Director