



To our community:

As the world watches, we have been holding our breath for today's verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial.

Today marks one step forward. Derek Chauvin was convicted by a jury of his peers of second degree unintentional murder, third degree murder, and second degree manslaughter—all three charges brought against him by the prosecution. We support this victory while acknowledging that a guilty verdict does not redeem George Floyd's death.

It does not redeem Philando Castile's death. Nor Jamar Clark's. Nor Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Adam Toledo, and so many more. A block away from where George Floyd was murdered, a symbolic cemetery with 150 headstone markers has been erected to memorialize people of color who have been killed by police. And last week, our community began a new cycle of grief after Daunte Wright was killed by a police officer in Brooklyn Center. This cannot keep happening.

The fight is not over. We are living through the largest civil rights movement in our country's history, and we cannot and will not sit this one out. It is incumbent that we leverage our individual and institutional voices to demand justice. To demand policy change that will reimagine community solutions to public safety. To hold each other accountable and to commit to an actively antiracist path forward. To center Black, Brown, and Indigenous lives, and to work to dismantle the systems that perpetuate racism and inequity. We commit to amplifying the work of community organizers working to end police brutality such as Campaign Zero, Communities United Against Police Brutality, and Reclaim the Block, and supporting motions like @yes4minneapolis.

As an arts organization, we are doubling down on our work to expand access and artistic opportunities for artists of color who have been historically underrepresented in, and excluded from, the book arts. This work has sparked change on both policy and program levels, informed by our new strategic framework and the creation of community guidelines grounded in antiracism and equity.

All lives cannot matter until Black Lives Matter. Our art spaces cannot flourish until Black Lives Matter. Our communities cannot be free until Black Lives are free.

Onward.

Minnesota Center for Book Arts