



## HEALING ARTS | ATLANTA

### VALUE STATEMENT

Racism is a system of power that disadvantages communities, leading to poor health outcomes. We acknowledge that experiences of racism vary greatly within and across Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals and communities. In prioritizing BIPOC voices, histories, stories, cultural expressions, and joy – we aim to identify calls to action that uplift the unique circumstances of communities by centering folks who have been historically excluded.

We hope these events will provide attendees with new knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of the evidence, stories of lived experience, and artistic brilliance driving advancements in health, civil, and human rights. Recognizing that racism, like any epidemic, is multifaceted, pernicious, insidious, and resistant to treatments – therefore our intervention strategies must be rigorous, creative, and evolving to provide the necessary tools to improve health and wellness for BIPOC communities.

In creating arts-based interventions to improve health, we acknowledge that racism is a structural social determinant of health that shapes social conditions and health outcomes at the individual and community levels. We also believe in the WHO definition of health— health is not merely the absence of disease and infirmity but the achievement of the highest state of physical, mental, and social wellbeing. One possible approach for addressing racism as an epidemic would be to explore solutions for uplifting historically excluded cultural practices with the goal of supporting the human right of living a healthy life and wellbeing. Health Promotion is more than promoting healthy behaviors. Our search for meaning, identity, and belonging is part of being a healthy individual and society.

Healing Arts Atlanta will lift up the many ways in which the arts and arts therapies are used to combat racism and achieve social cohesion and health equity. The arts can be used to expose racial bias, visualize and work through the visceral, psychological, and social impacts of racism, and provide a platform from which to share the authentic experiences and aspirations of BIPOC individuals and communities created by BIPOC individuals and communities. The process of healing and thriving is reckoning with the past, supporting each other in the present, and imagining our future together.

Hope is a creative act.

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