The Message

Our nation is in the midst of an extraordinary historical moment the ramifications of which remain uncertain. Racial inequality runs like a fissure through the structure of our country, and it is splitting open. **Now is a time for unflinching honesty and humility, compassion and tireless community building.** Our country requires voices of vision and hope. We must say clearly and without reservation – **Black Lives Matter. The future we are committed to building is one of justice and peace.**

**The arts have a history as imperfect as any other arena of society.** We too have struggled with elitism, prejudice and unearned privilege. This should not be whitewashed. Still, humanity has a deep, relentless need for creative expression. People make art while they are hungry and homeless, in prison and in peril. We just can’t help ourselves. This shared need communicates across divisions and pain.

**Please keep challenging, criticizing and creating. Our nation needs your voice.**