

The Jasper Project fully supports Black Lives Matter and their efforts to end the systemic racism that has been visible and invisible in all areas of our country's economic, educational, public safety, military, political, and arts systems throughout its history.

Since its beginning, The Jasper Project has strived to give audience to artists of color throughout the communities of Columbia. But we haven't done enough. In the coming months, The Jasper Project board of directors will be implementing a program that emphasizes amplifying these voices of artists of color and is piloted by artists of color.

Projects implemented by The Jasper Project such as The Supper Table, Fall Lines, Jasper Magazine, and 2nd Act Film Project have made strong efforts to actively search for and present artists of color who have been creating work that calls for recognition.

But now is the time to listen.

By the end of the year The Jasper Project will create an ad hoc group comprised solely of artists of color whose mission will be to introduce us to those young creative voices in communities around Columbia that we have not heard. And in turn, The Jasper Project will make efforts to give a stage to these artists and listen, watch, read, and sing and dance with them.

Wade Sellers President The Jasper Project Board of Directors

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