

August 4, 2020

Dear Chancellor Block and EVC Carter:

The UCLA Department of Art affirms its solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives against systemic anti-Black violence, racism and bias and white supremacy. We acknowledge our complicity in structural racism and white supremacy and our failure to effectively and comprehensively address their manifestations within our department, school, campus, and university system. Addressing this failure requires action at all the levels of our university system. At the departmental level, we have drafted a plan of action to ensure that the Department of Art is a fully welcoming, supportive, safe, and equitable place for Black students, faculty, and staff. On the campus level, we call on you to take the actions outlined below.

The Department of Art follows the leadership of the Divest/Invest UCLA Faculty Collective, the African American Studies Department, the Ralph J. Bunche Center, the Executive Committee of Concerned UCLA Faculty, the Black Graduate Student Association, and the Afrikan Student Union and joins them in making the following demands:

- Disband the proposed Public Safety Advisory Council by July 31, 2020. We reject your proposal as a meaningful response to the demand for investment and support the alternative model for a Divestment/Investment Council that will truly further racial justice, work towards divestment and reparations to begin reversing the harms of history.
- Establish a Divestment/Investment Council that is made up of faculty as well as community members, students, staff, and workers. We expect the Council to be led by faculty, with a majority of the seats drawn from the institutional units on campus that have expertise and long standing commitments to racial and gender justice. This would include the Institute of American Cultures, as well as the Center for the Study of Women, the UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy, and the Critical Race Studies Program and Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA Law.
- Defund UCLA PD and reinvest funds in underserved campus communities and sever ties with other police and security forces.
- UCLA leadership must move beyond a statement of dismay and disapproval and affirm that LAPD will not be given use of UCLA facilities in the future.
- UCLA must follow the lead of other public universities such as the University of Minnesota and end its relationship with the LAPD and other county, state, and federal police departments and security agencies.
- UCLA must drop any strike and demonstration-related student conduct charges that may have resulted from any Black Lives Matter or UC4Cola protests, and refrain from making any such charges in the future.

In addition to these campus-wide actions and until they are fully implemented, the Department of Art demands that you allow and support actions by individual academic units to limit policing in their own facilities, including:

- Ending the use of off-duty police and security forces at events.
- Providing clear and readily accessible information and support for students who are threatened by police and security forces.
- Identifying alternatives to police and security personnel for in-person and immediate responses to mental health and other emergencies that endanger self and/or others.

The Department of Art recognizes the commitments made by your office in the June 30, 2020 ‘Rising to the Challenge’ and call on you to move forward with these actions immediately:

- Appointment of a special faculty advisor in the chancellor’s office to advise on issues of concern to Black faculty, staff and students
- Creation of a Black Student Resource Center on campus
- Funding 10 summer graduate fellowship awards for 5 years beginning in 2021
- Funding of 5 postdoctoral positions focused on the Black experience, each renewable for a 2nd year, for 5 years starting in 2021
- Recruitment of 10 faculty members addressing issues of the Black experience, equally balanced between North and South campus
- Allocation of a dedicated staff member in External Affairs focused on issues related to Black life
- \$250,000 for seed research grants on racial inequities and racial justice, including campus climate issues, each year for 5 years
- Allocation of a dedicated staff member in Strategic Communications to amplify the voices of faculty, staff and students of color and others whose work involves challenges to racism and structural inequality

We look forward to seeing your statements of values and principles confirmed and implemented in actions that will meaningfully and effectively address anti-Black violence, racism and bias and white supremacy at UCLA.

Sincerely,
UCLA Department of Art Faculty

Andrea Fraser, Interdisciplinary Studio Area Head, and Chair Department of Art
 Patty Wickman, Professor and Vice Chair
 Jennifer Bolande, Professor and New Genres Area Head
 Russell Ferguson, Professor
 Anna Sew Hoy, Assistant Professor and Ceramics Area Head
 Vishal Jugdeo, Assistant Professor
 Barbara Kruger, Professor
 Candice Lin, Assistant Professor
 Rodney McMillian, Professor
 Catherine Opie, Professor and Photography Area Head
 Silke Otto-Knapp, Professor and Painting and Drawing Area Head
 Lari Pittman, Professor
 Hirsch Perlman, Professor and Sculpture Area Head
 Rodrigo Valenzuela, Assistant Professor