



unlimited possibilities

DATE: JUNE 6, 2020

Dear Keshet Community,

Keshet was founded with a mission to “inspire and unite community.” We honor each other’s diverse backgrounds, and we use the universal language of the arts to learn, grow, and connect through the powerful vehicle of the arts. For 25 years we have worked at the intersection of arts and justice, and we will continue to fight against systemic racism, individually and collectively. We stand in solidarity with all who stand against injustice.

As dancers (and as humans), we also know that standing is not enough, movement is required. Standing is merely the preparation for the movement that follows. So now that we have collectively stood up, we must make sure our community does not sit back down. We recognize that sitting back down can feel like an “easier” path to take, particularly if the seat is one of comfort and privilege. But we must recognize and remember that the seat of comfort and privilege was built through hundreds of years of racist structures, murder, slavery (both historic and modern constructs of slavery), destruction, and injustice.

Now that our community has stood up with such volume and force, don’t sit back down. Move. Vote. Learn. Talk. Listen. March. Vote. Listen. Donate. Vote. Move. Don’t sit back down.

We recognize that dismantling oppressive systems is uncomfortable, messy, and durational (in addition to many less-nice words). We also recognize that failure to actively work towards the dismantling of these systems is equal to support of these systems. We are grateful to be in an arts community that we believe will not stay silent, nor be passive in these efforts. We are committed to the continued pursuit of systemic change. We know our mission “to inspire and unite community by fostering unlimited possibilities through dance, mentorship, and a creative space for the arts” cannot be fully realized until systems of oppression are dismantled and rebuilt, free of white supremacy and institutional violence.

We remain committed to our work using the unique, embodied form of dance to learn, listen, grow, connect, and actuate change. We remain committed to our work at the intersection of arts and justice. And we remain committed to you, our community, as we continue to pursue our mission, and honor our core values through this process. The value that speaks to me loudly today is “personal growth,” internally defined as “seeking opportunities for stakeholders to grow beyond existing levels of competence.” I am reminded of a quote by Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, “If you are not a better person tomorrow than you are today, what need have you for a tomorrow.” As one of many Keshet stakeholders, I am committed to this continued growth, personally and organizationally, in each tomorrow that will come.

Thank you for standing up. Don’t sit back down.

Sincerely,
Shira Greenberg
Founder and Artistic Director

