



Message from the Lloyd Library and Museum

Like so many Americans, the continuing events of racial violence and injustice that have unfolded over the past few weeks have left us saddened and outraged. Today and every day, Black Lives Matter. The team at The Lloyd Library has been reflecting on how we can be better allies to our Cincinnati community, our global membership, and to the broader scientific community. We know there is a lot of work ahead and we are challenging ourselves to listen, engage, and speak-up to support the Black community as we all fight to end systemic racism, discrimination, and oppression.

We remain committed to our goal of being good neighbors. The Lloyd Library sits across a parking lot from City Hall, and thus we have been witness to the protests and marches that have awakened our city. Members of the Lloyd community have participated in the peaceful protests that took place footsteps from our door.

As a library, by definition — we support free speech. Our founding charter requires us to be free and open to the public, a rarity in privately funded libraries. As a science library, we know that science is fact-based, but the application of science is not neutral. Structural inequality, including access to health care and nutritious food options, disproportionately impacts the most disadvantaged among us as we have seen in the current COVID-19 crisis.

We stand in solidarity with the many groups committing to address issues of equity. The Union of Concerned Scientists has vowed to work for racial equity *because we are human beings who believe in justice, and we want our work to reflect that belief*. The American Society of Pharmacognosy states that, *“As scientists, we are called to our work to cure diseases, to understand the biology and chemistry of life, and ultimately, to improve the lives and environment of everyone on this planet... We recognize that marginalized groups do not always have the privilege of separating their science from their life outside the laboratory and are committed to changing this reality.”*

The Lloyd’s strategic plan directs us to make a global and local impact. Our values include accessibility, collaboration, mutual respect, and transparency. We will continue to offer programs, services, and resources that start with science and go on to explore issues of social justice and solutions for addressing food insecurity and the impact of the environmental crisis.

We pledge to be part of the local and international conversations on racial equity. We will be assessing and addressing racial disparity in all our operations from access to our resources to our hiring and leadership practices. We invite you to join us on the journey to work against structural inequality and to move our community to promote justice for all its members.

Patricia Van Skaik, Executive Director

John Brenzel, Jr., Board President