

Solidarity Statement for Black Lives Matter

The Concordia Undergraduate Journal of Art History (CUJAH) stands in full support and solidarity with the ongoing Black Lives Matter protests occurring in Tiohtià:ke/Montréal and across North America. CUJAH firmly aligns itself with those organizing, coordinating, and leading protests and rallies demanding an end to police brutality and systematic racism. We condemn the continued police brutality inflicted on Indigenous and Black people and firmly support the defunding of the SPVM, the RCMP, prisons and the military.

Many groups and organizations have released statements in support of Black Lives Matter. It is not enough to only acknowledge and recognize the injustices that are currently in place, or the existence of systematic racism. Action and change must be taken to address racism's impacts on all institutions. We must continuously work towards dismantling them in our education, work, health systems, policing and incarceration institutes, and disown institutions that continue to uphold these inequalities. We must continue fighting against police brutality and demand their abolishment, financially supporting those who continue to educate us, and those who have disproportionately suffered—CUJAH is in support of these actions.

As of this year, CUJAH will be updating its mandate to reflect our position on Black Lives Matter. We will be redistributing 5% of our annual funds to Black and Indigenous organizations annually. We will also be joining the Defund the SPVM coalition to support the movement to defund the police in our city. As an academic organization, we will be facilitating at least one annual event, workshop, speaker event or discussion that centers on anti-oppressive and anti-racist ideas and will make it part of our mandate going forward.

At CUJAH, we encourage everyone to continue educating themselves on racism and societal injustices and compensate those who have provided them and the world around them with this essential knowledge. Apart from education, we encourage action by participating in protests, events, and rallies devoted to ending systematic racism and police brutality. Lastly, we encourage other student groups at Concordia to formulate a plan for action. Anti-racist work is continuous and dependent on our collective action.