
Board Statement: Black Lives Matter

The Association of Moving Image Archivists stands in strong solidarity against white supremacy, police brutality, racism, oppression, and inequality and condemns the widespread state-sanctioned violence and the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade. These names are the latest in a long list of Black Americans who have been victims of the systemic racism that continues to permeate culture in the United States.

As a community of individuals and institutions dedicated to the preservation, discovery, and use of audiovisual media, we are acutely aware that acts of police brutality and violence, captured by people on video as events unfold, are crucial in shaping public opinion and understanding. People now have near-instant access to social media, making acts of violence and harassment more likely to be swiftly and readily exposed. We can now see, on full display, systems of power that fail in their responsibility to hold accountable those who commit heinous crimes against the people they are sworn to serve and protect. In response, peaceful acts of protest are occurring across the United States and internationally in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, in recognition that serious action must be taken against systemic racism.

The AMIA Board recognizes the need for concrete and tangible actions. AMIA must do more than express verbal support for anti-racist practices. We must do our part institutionally to advance racial justice. We understand that our membership has many ways of showing up and showing support for the multiracial, multiclass movement that the work of Black organizers has inspired. This moment presents an opportunity for personal and institutional transformation that includes consistent and sustained actions that will ensure our Association and our field can better serve and embrace Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities and professionals.

The AMIA Board reaffirms the Association's commitment to our goals of equity, diversity, and inclusion as core values to be reflected in our field, our membership, and within the institutions and constituencies we serve. As stewards of our moving image heritage, we cannot remain neutral. [We will prioritize projects that work towards change.](#) We will provide spaces for discussions on bringing change to our field, and we will support and amplify this critical work. We encourage our membership to reach out to local organizations working for racial and social justice to find specific ways they can help, and to share these ideas. We hold ourselves accountable to continue this necessary work. The AMIA community should hold us accountable too.

[Black Lives Matter](#)

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