

## RACIAL EQUITY IS THE ONLY PATH

*Chestnut Hill Conservancy's message of unity and action*

Earlier this week the Chestnut Hill Conservancy was among a collaborative group of community-based organizations that published a joint statement unequivocally condemning violence and racism. We are schools, civic and business organizations, a hospital, a museum, a conservancy and archive, a country club, an arboretum, a newspaper, and a park stewardship group, and we stand in solidarity with other communities and with every person who rejects hatred, racism, bigotry, intimidation, and social division.

Black Lives Matter. We maintain that peaceful protest and informed discourse are foundations of American democracy. We believe that racism creates inequity and inequality in economic and educational opportunity, housing, health care, and environmental security. We pledge to work toward the elimination of racism and the social inequities, by working together collectively, and being proactive in our individual activities, as never before in order to create a more just, inclusive, and peaceful society. We commit to awareness, growth and action through self-examination, recognition and dismantling of power imbalances where they exist, and institutional accountability within our organizations.

We recognize that we need to do better in taking up this challenge, and that our work is now to put action behind these statements. The Chestnut Hill Conservancy will begin by pledging to:

- Encourage and advocate for equitable development, preservation, and conservation, locally and in other area historic and watershed neighborhoods;
- Actively listen, learn, and be open to ideas and conversations that are uncomfortable as well as celebratory;
- Do a better job as allies and public historians in helping to capture, preserve, and amplify a more inclusive diversity of voices and public histories, especially from the communities of Chestnut Hill, Germantown, and Mt. Airy (the historic German Township);
- Utilize our archives and collective memories to learn from earlier efforts at racial equity, and act on those lessons; and
- Build a more diverse and inclusive board, leadership team, staff, and venter pool.

We welcome you to contact us ([Lori@CHConservancy.org](mailto:Lori@CHConservancy.org)). All voices are welcome.