June 9, 2020

Dear NOMA members,

Today, at a time that will be known as a pivotal moment in our country's history, the AIA's Large Firm Roundtable (LFRT) members affirm our alliance with the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA). We commit to continue to work in partnership with NOMA to create meaningful change, equitable work environments and systems to realize our core values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. We are partners with NOMA committed to changing the racial face of architecture.

We have witnessed the horrific murder of George Floyd, as the most recent travesty of a person of color at the hands of authorities. We've watched as systemic racism was used as a tool to fabricate and allege a crime against Christian Cooper. We've experienced pain, disgust, anger and unrest. We've experienced devastation and disruption – some from a distance and some right outside of our doors. We are encouraged by the coming together of diverse groups of people to protest and combat violence, hate, and the abuse of power that impacts our communities of color first and most significantly.

We are taking a stand with NOMA to drive change that achieves racial justice and a better future - for all. We will start, in partnership with NOMA, local NOMA chapters and the communities we serve, by offering help and support to those who are most impacted by the tragedies of the past weeks and committing to working together to dismantle the structural inequities that exist in our firms, our communities and in our work.

The AIA's Large Firm Roundtable (LFRT) members consists of 60 of North America's largest design firms, who lead more than 100,000 design professionals committed to making a difference. Our firms have been working to bring greater intention to the recruitment of minority design professionals, with a deeper focus on graduates from the HBCU institutions, with whom we've developed working partnerships. We are committed to creating a design profession that mirrors the diverse voices of the very communities we serve.

Equal rights for people of color, the healing of our nation, our communities, and our relationships needs to start now. With a commitment to empathy, a willingness to listen, learn and hold open dialogue, and the passion of our diverse creative colleagues, we can and will make a difference together.

Respectfully,

The AIA Large Firm Round Table Members

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AIA LARGE FIRM ROUNDTABLE

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