



ANTIRACISM STATEMENT

1. Antiracism statement

The SVA Library stands in opposition to racism and racial violence, and in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and those fighting for racial equity. We recognize persistent systemic racism as an infrastructural issue that has shaped our world, nation, institution, and library. We recognize that libraries are not and cannot be neutral. Working with this knowledge, the SVA Library is actively committed to racial and cultural equity by embodying diversity and inclusion in our collection, resources, and public service.

We see this statement as a living document and declaration of our ongoing commitment to anti-racist practices in the library. We also acknowledge that continued and sustained efforts are necessary to move beyond performative diversity and jargon. Considering this, we will outline a list of evolving actions the library will take to fulfill this pledge. In addition to ongoing efforts at equity in the internal workings of the library such as collection development and cataloging, we are dedicated to fostering an antiracist space free of hate and discrimination. We also aim to expand accessibility on many levels by erasing late fees, providing tech assistance, and facilitating conversations within our programming. By scrutinizing our internal and public practices in order to confront hidden, implicit, and/or structural discriminatory practices in the workings of the library, we hope to make progress toward a diverse and inclusive library environment.

2. Which elements of our library will we investigate?

- **Collection Development**
 - Review collection development policies to give equitable representation to authors and narratives from diverse backgrounds.

- **Programming and Content**
 - Continue to invest in programming centering BIPOC perspectives.
 - Continue to create content in our libguides from underrepresented art historical movements.

- **Outreach**
 - Raise awareness of works by BIPOC artists in our collection through social media and blogs.
 - Reach out to student groups to offer support about how the library can support their efforts.

- **Interdepartmental Advocacy**
 - Facilitate and support the work of the SVA Diversity Equity and Inclusion initiatives, faculty and students across campus.

- **Library Instruction**
 - We acknowledge that the information cycle grows, changes and adapts, and so should the content and methods of our instruction sessions.

- **Cataloging**
 - Consider the ethical implications of library metadata, cataloging, and classification standards, practice, and infrastructure.
 - Align with emerging cataloging standards

- **Archives**
 - Relationship-building with student groups to preserve their work and legacy

- **Professional Development in Librarianship**
 - Librarians will continue to attend conferences, lectures, and events related to anti-racism and related topics.

3. Openness for Community Feedback

The SVA Library is committed to critical thinking, questioning, and the pursuit of knowledge toward change, invention, and better futures. We welcome all feedback about how we can further embody a diverse and inclusive atmosphere for our community. We strive to be considered a safe space and forum for many voices and perspectives.

Contact us at library@sva.edu with any questions, suggestions or ideas on how we can better be of service to the SVA community.

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