Issued Monday, June 8, 2020:

**AIA Queens Statement on Racial Injustice & Inequality**

To our Chapter members, friends, sponsors and affiliates,

AIA Queens is comprised of one of the most diverse group of architects, associates, students and partners, privileged to serve the most diverse borough in the City of New York. Consequently, any adverse treatment of anyone due to the color of their skin, race, gender or creed is contrary to our core beliefs. We are united in our sorrow for the tragic loss of Mr. George Floyd. We honor all peaceful protests in reaction to this heinous tragedy, as we have all watched with sympathy, apprehension and concerns, all recent events unfolding on the streets of our City, State and Nation.

While architects may not design or think alike, there is a common belief within our profession about how we view the end-product on its value. We are united in our profession believing the built environment needs to serve the people, regardless of their sex, creed, theology or race. What we know is that our profession exists to uphold the health, safety and welfare of people through our work, and in whichever way we can improve on that, we must! Racial injustices and inequalities do not get fixed overnight, and committing to taking part of dialogue is always welcome.

Each member of our organization should and will determine for themselves how they will grieve the death of Mr. Floyd. Each individual will determine how they can be a part of the re-building efforts as a community and a society where such deaths shall be prevented in the future. As the Queens Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, we will continue to be inclusive as an organization that listens first and embraces people who seek a world free of racial injustices and inequalities. We will serve the public as we have always done, without discrimination and without prejudice.

With that in mind, we share this respectfully, in honor of those that have voiced their sentiments, those that have not been able to and most importantly in honor of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, who are only some of the most recent names in a long list of people from our Black communities, who did not deserve to be taken, much less heinously, from their loved ones.

May the words, “one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all” prevail.

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The Queens Chapter of the American Institute of Architects