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### **A Message to Our Community**

WHEELING, W.Va. – June 2, 2020 – Wheeling Heritage has released the following statement:

“We at Wheeling Heritage join those standing against institutionalized racism, inequality, and senseless violence. As a heritage organization, we don’t just focus on the past. We have a responsibility to be cognizant of history as it happens around us, and that means listening to the voices throughout our community and thoughtfully responding to bring about positive change.

It’s the mission of Wheeling Heritage to serve as a catalyst for the revitalization of Wheeling. We have specific ways to accomplish that mission, and one is vitally important right now: “Engaging the citizens of Wheeling in our projects, programs, and activities – to the benefit of all.”

We work to ensure all members of our community have access to and are represented in our work, from art exhibits like "The Art of Inclusion" to collaborating with members of our black community on Juneteenth celebrations.

However, there is still work to be done. During this crisis, we will build new strategies to support our community, ensuring that all of our work is grounded in equity, access, diversity, and inclusion.

We stand with our black community members in solidarity and hope.”

-Alex Weld, incoming executive director and Jeanne Finstein, president of the Board of Directors

### **About Wheeling Heritage**

[Wheeling Heritage](#) is a catalyst for the revitalization of Wheeling. Through historic preservation, community development, and the arts, we help to tell Wheeling’s story and shape its future. We seek to improve the quality of life in Wheeling by preserving and investing in our city, collaborating with others, and engaging the citizens of Wheeling in our work.