



Dear Theatre for Young Audiences National Community,

It is undeniable how much has shifted and transformed around us in the last year. Our theatre doors have largely shuttered and we have all been reimagining the ways in which we serve young people and families. We are experiencing tremendous challenges at every juncture.

However, when large shifts occur, they expose what has long been hiding beneath. What now lays bare is a long-growing call for racial justice and the urgency to bring an end to antiquated, oppressive practices and systems.

You have likely seen or even read the words of movements in the broader theatre community amplifying these demands for equity, for space to be heard, and for humanity. [We See You White American Theatre](#), [The Living Document](#), and so many others created an inspiring framework. However, they did not speak with specificity to the needs and functions of Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA).

Since September 2020, a grassroots group of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) TYA professionals have banded together, cultivated rich community, and forged collective knowledge to create *Anti-Racist & Anti-Oppressive Futures for Theatre for Young Audiences: An Interactive Guide*.

This project is an open invitation to organizational leaders, the artists that comprise those organizations, and independent artists in the field to reflect on the past, sit with the present, and design more equitable futures.

It is also a reminder of our collective responsibility.

A responsibility to remember that we are accountable to the young people we serve and the worlds we help them imagine. A responsibility to investigate our pasts and bravely address our collective history of upholding white supremacy. A responsibility to do so with generosity, grit, and intentionality.

What kind of futures would you like to co-author?

Signed,

BIPOC in TYA