June 10, 2020

Colleagues, alumni, friends, and students,

We write this overdue letter to you today in response to the nine-minute event that occurred in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020, where George Floyd was murdered by a police officer(s) for allegedly trying to pass a $20 counterfeit bill. We are angered beyond words. Our hearts bleed for the Floyd family, for the city of Minneapolis, for the Black community, and for our country as a whole.

This event and the long history of similar events in our country carry a systemic oppression and dehumanization of people targeted, stereotyped, and murdered for the color of their skin. In response, as Chair of the CU Denver Architecture Department, as a Black faculty member and architecture practitioner, as a graduate student of color and the current president of our NOMA (National Organization of Minority Architects) Student chapter, and as a Black graduate student and designer, we share the following principles for which we stand:

**We stand with the people in our country’s Black community who have endured systemic, deep-seeded racism, violence, and unjust treatment for far, far too long.**

**We stand with those demanding to hold the officers and judicial system accountable who have been negligent, if not racist and biased, in their duties and responsibilities to the American people and especially the Black community.**

**We stand with our own Black students, in the Department of Architecture, who are suffering, protesting, and speaking out.**

**We stand with our own Black faculty and staff, in the Department of Architecture, who are committed to advancing our school and elevating the conversation.**

**We stand with our Black alumni who are practicing in the discipline and working to illuminate the endemic problems of bias, racism, and injustice in the architecture profession.**

**We stand against racism.**

**We stand against injustice.**

**We stand up to institute radical changes in architecture education and practice.**

**We stand up to institute change in the design of our built environments.**

**We stand up to take action.**
Please know that if you are a student, staff, or faculty member who is feeling anxiety, who is suffering, who has questions, who demands action, or who needs conversation, we are here for you. You can contact any of us who have authored this note. We write to you today with love, care, and compassion.

We are not just standing idly by. We are planning action. A few of the things we have either set in motion, or, are in the process of considering and planning, as a school, and as a student body, include:

- A 9 day questionnaire called "9 minutes" on the NOMAS Instagram page. https://www.instagram.com/nomas.cu.denver/
- A survey determining student needs (soon to be sent out).
- A list of resources and information for students in need and for those protesting (soon to be made accessible).
- A lecture series that addresses racial issues in the profession (accepting suggestions for names).
- A requested conversation between our faculty, staff, and students and the CU Denver Police Department.
- A summer art competition with an emphasis on social and racial justice.
- A virtual town hall meeting to openly discuss issues of race and bias in the architecture department.

Thank you for being a part of our community. Thank you for making us better. And thank you for raising the level of conversation so that what happened to George Floyd on May 25th never happens again.

Sincerely,

Xiomara Amaro
Jazmyn Dennard
Anicia Streete
Marc Swackhamer