

## **Department of Theatre Black Lives Matter Statement**

UMBC Theatre has a duty to speak out against anti-Black violence, and to amplify voices responding to systemic racism and targeted brutality. We condemn the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmad Arbery, and David McAtee, along with the countless other Black lives that have been taken. We stand by the statement issued by USM leadership and Dr. Hrabowski last Friday, on Structural Racism and the Killing of George Floyd, and take these values as our own. Unequivocally, we believe that Black Lives Matter. We acknowledge that students of color in the Department of Theatre need to be heard, and the particular experiences of Black theatre students are in the forefront of our minds right now. Structural racism requires an active response; we therefore commit to developing anti-racist practices, and to building a Department culture that promotes open, productive conversation and proactive change. Thanks to all who are pushing for cultural change, recognizing our particular roles as theatre artists to speak up. We look forward to our upcoming conversations, and to our collaborative work to come.