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ahha

August 11, 2020

The Honorable G.T. Bynum
Mayor City of Tulsa
175 East 2nd Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103

Re: Black Lives Matter mural on Greenwood Avenue

Dear Mayor Bynum,

In regard to the issue of moving the painted yellow Black Lives Matter mural in Historic Greenwood, the Tulsa Arts Commission strongly favors retention of the mural.

In these times of deep discussion over race and racism in America's cities, we believe these words, on this historic street, constitute a work of public art that should be cherished and protected by our City. As we confront the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the painting of the phrase on this street at this time is of significant artistic and historic significance.

Because the mission of the Arts Commission of the City of Tulsa is to stimulate superior aesthetic quality throughout the City and to emphasize positive measures for the pursuit of beauty, we recommend the retention of the mural where it stands today. The inscription provides an aesthetically pleasing, positive message in an area that has experienced unimaginable adversity.

Further, because the Commission is made up of experts in contemporary art, arts education, community engagement, architecture, design, music, theater, and humanities, we as a collective body believe the mural is a piece of history and culture, marking an important moment for Tulsa in an important time.

We urge you to protect the Black Lives Matter mural on Greenwood Avenue, as it is a point of reflection, discussion, and reconciliation for our community.

We thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Holly Becker

Holly Becker
Chair, Tulsa Arts Commission
Executive Director, ahha Tulsa