



LA COUNTY
LGBTQ+
COMMISSION

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Acknowledgment of the Black Diaspora, Labor, and Inclusion Draft Statement

Voted and Approved to be read in all Commission Meetings on March 14, 2025

We begin by honoring the Black diaspora—the foundation of resilience, brilliance, and liberation movements. Black queer, trans, and nonbinary leaders have been at the forefront of every fight for justice, often without recognition.

Yet, we must also acknowledge an undeniable truth: the wealth of this nation—its industries, institutions, and economic power—was built on the unpaid labor and forced servitude of enslaved Africans. Black labor built this country, yet Black communities continue to face systemic oppression and exclusion. Some of us arrived here as settlers, some as migrants, and some were stolen and forced into servitude through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. This history is not just the past—it shapes the injustices of today.

As an LGBTQ+ Commission, we do more than acknowledge these truths—we commit to action. We amplify Black voices, demand racial and economic justice, and ensure our work is intersectional, accountable, and transformative. Black liberation is queer liberation. Black trans lives matter. And our solidarity is unwavering—today, tomorrow, and always.

In this time of increasing attacks on our most vulnerable communities—Black, Indigenous, immigrant, undocumented, trans, gender-expansive, disabled, and those at the intersections—we reaffirm our commitment to justice, equity, and radical inclusion.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) are not just ideals; they are necessary for survival and liberation. We uplift our trans, gender-expansive, and intersex (TGI) siblings and stand with immigrant communities, both documented and undocumented, in their fight for dignity and safety. We reject the forces that seek to divide us and instead choose solidarity as our strength.

Let this be our declaration: No one is disposable. Every voice matters. Every life is sacred. And together, we will not only resist oppression but build a future where all of us—without exception—can thrive.

Because, in the words of Fannie Lou Hamer, we are not free until all of us are free.

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