



AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF CHICAGO
AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER BOARD
3401 W. Ainslie St. | Chicago, IL
60625 773-275-5871 |
www.aicchicago.org

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The American Indian Center of Chicago offers its most sincere apology to anyone that has been harmed by the recent mural that we commissioned to be painted on the outside of our building. We acknowledge that in the social justice climate in the United States “All Life Matters,” a phrase that appeared on the mural, is closely related to “All Lives Matter,” a phrase that is used to silence the voices of Black People’s calls for liberation. We recognize the inexcusable impact such a statement has on our Afro-Indigenous community members and the Black community at-large. At the same time, we also express support for a Native Veteran and Elder, as we know Mr. Wapahi’s intentions were not murky or anti-Black and he has since repainted over the phrase.

We are watching as people in our Chicago Community stand up and make sure their voices are heard and their lives respected today by condemning oppressive practices and institutions. Today’s movement for justice and equality demands that we stand together for our marginalized and oppressed communities, always pushing for what is right and protecting those spirits who walk this earth, who are vulnerable, all while bringing the same passion and commitment to our Black brothers and sisters.

Many Indigenous-led organizations are expressing solidarity and are committing to the BLM movement, citing the ways in which Indigenous Sovereignty and Black Liberation go hand-in-hand. In this moment, we are choosing to be more intentional about ways we can lift up and center Black voices and the Black Lives Matter movement. This does not mean that police brutality inflicted upon Native communities is any less crucial to address. It does not mean that our struggles are any less important. In fact, standing in solidarity and supporting Black Lives Matter, addresses the root causes of that brutality - systemic racism and white supremacy. Dismantling these systems is the work we need to do together.

We as an organization are committed to making amends and building relationships with our Black and Brown brothers and sisters. We invite others to reach out to the Board of Directors and AIC Staff to voice their concerns, suggestions, and recommendations on moving forward.

-AIC Board of Directors