

**PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR JOURNEY**  
**EXPLORING DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**

At the end of 2019, the Board of Directors of Living History Farms adopted the following Diversity and Inclusion statement for the museum:

**Living History Farms**  
**Diversity and Inclusion Statement**  
(Board approved December 18, 2019)

History nurtures personal and collective identity in a diverse world. People discover their place in time through the stories of their families, communities and nation. These stories of freedom and equality, injustice and struggle, loss and achievement, and courage and triumph shape people's personal values that guide them through life.<sup>1</sup>

Living History Farms welcomes diverse opinions and voices with our interpretive experiences. We believe this culture of inclusion supports our mission to educate, entertain and enrich all our guests and better serve the community.

Like the beautifully woven historic quilts in our collection, Living History farms staff, volunteers, interns and guests are people from diverse backgrounds, upbringings and experiences, each of whom brings their uniqueness to our museum, making it the best visitor experience possible. We are truly greater than the sum of our parts, together.

In 2019, Living History Farms was accepted into an annual cohort of the Cultural Competence Learning Institute (CCLI) with 6 other museums from around the country. The cohort is "a process and a set of resources designed to help museums increase organizational capacity around diversity, inclusion, and culture." Living History Farms is the first museum in Iowa to participate in this program and the first outdoor history museum in the country to do so.

We are very enthusiastic about our participation because we have much to learn on these topics from one another. We understand that this is a very personal journey for all of us and one that never ends.

We strive to be a museum that is welcoming to all and that shares the many different stories of Midwest rural life experiences. We want to be a convener of community conversations about those stories. We hope you will join us on this journey by sharing your stories and listening to the stories of others.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Floyd family and all of the people in our community who have experienced inexcusable racism and violence. The social unrest resulting from the injustices we have recently witnessed is more than uncomfortable. It is also an ingredient in

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<sup>1</sup> Living History Farms' endorsement of the "Statement of Value of History"

provoking change. We recognize many of us at Living History Farms come from lives filled with privilege. Whether due to the color of our skin, our economic status, or our abilities, we often have little comprehension of the different circumstances many in our community live in each and every day.

Let's make it clear there is no place for racism in our present or in our future. Together, we can put racism in the past. Let's make (it) history.