



WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS
We make it happen

“Tomorrow, We See”

January 7, 2021

Yesterday, the entire world witnessed a low point in American history here in our beloved home city of Washington, D.C., the nation’s capital. Today, our community is still reeling from the sights and sounds of this act of domestic terror, the desecration of the U.S. Capitol by white-supremacist thugs, inflamed by the words of our own president.

That this seditious mob was not more forcibly and speedily expelled is surely a manifestation of systemic racism in our country. As evidence of this white privilege in action, we need only look back a few months at how peaceful Black and brown protesters and allies were treated at Lafayette Square and Black Lives Matter Plaza (both a short walk from our own offices), including assaults with rubber bullets and chemical gas.

We at Washington Performing Arts condemn yesterday’s riot and the systemic racism and bigotry underpinning it.

Beyond condemnation, we want to take action. As our organizational mission states, **we champion the arts as a unifying force**. While we, our home community, and the entire nation grapple with the trauma of yesterday, Washington Performing Arts will focus on the special role that the arts can play in fostering unity and healing. Ever mindful of deep-seated inequities past and present, and disgusted by the events of yesterday, we invite you to join with us both today and in the run-up to the Inauguration as we share messages of unity, healing, and hope.

We can think of no better place to begin than with [“Tomorrow, I See” \[video link\]](#) by D.C.-based poet and hip-hop artist Konshens The MC, a work we commissioned last fall. Konshens’s words are especially resonant at this moment:

*We rise like a phoenix from ashes, learning
from our past
Unity in masses, it’s a new day
Exchanging smiles when we pass and
lending a helping hand, it’s the new way
Being the change we want to see, reflecting
light like still lakes
We break down hate with love and use truth
as a vaccine to cure the infection of lies
Resewing the slit ties that bond*

