



Breakthrough Pittsburgh is centered in the work of advancing justice and equity every day as we guide our students from middle school through highschool graduation- a vision to break the cycle of poverty forever which disproportionately impacts communities of color. **As such, it is in the very fabric of who we are as Breakthrough Pittsburgh to stand in solidarity with the African American and Black communities, and join the many voices around the nation calling for meaningful change in the face of the killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and countless other lives.**

Our shared history of injustices, inequities, and institutionalized racism have culminated in this moment of justifiable despair, sorrow, and anger. This moment is further shaped by the recent pandemic and economic crisis that has disproportionately impacted communities of color.

Breakthrough Pittsburgh believes in equity, justice, inclusion, community, and love. We believe that education is power and changes lives and that all students, regardless of their background, should have equitable access to pursue their education. We exist because of the limited access and opportunity for some students, especially for students of color, and as a result their underrepresentation in higher education. We exist to disrupt and overcome those injustices and inequities, every single day.

Lastly, we also believe in growth and learning. We consistently strive to deepen our own understanding and learnings in our efforts towards racial justice and equity. One piece of moving forward is to listen and learn. Below is a list of resources that we support to inform our perspectives and engage in this work more deeply.

This is a moment of collective grief and a time to mandate to change. While heart-breaking, there is hope that we will continue to move forward. And, most importantly, to move forward is to embark on these efforts together.

With our Greatest Appreciation and BTPgh Spirit,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carrie Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "M".

Carrie Miller

Executive Director, Breakthrough Pittsburgh

Articles to read:

- [“The Death of George Floyd, In Context,” by Jelani Cobb of The New Yorker \(May 28, 2020\)](#)
- [“Bryan Stevenson on the Frustration Behind the George Floyd Protests” By Isaac Chotiner of The New Yorker \(June 1, 2020\)](#)
- [The 1619 Project \(all the articles\) | The New York Times Magazine](#)
- [“Who Gets to Be Afraid in America?” by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi | Atlantic \(May 12, 2020\)](#)

Podcasts to subscribe to:

- [1619 \(New York Times\)](#)
- [Code Switch \(NPR\)](#)

Books to read:

- [How To Be An Antiracist](#) by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi
- [Biased](#) by Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt
- [Just Mercy](#) by Bryan Stevenson
- [So You Want to Talk About Race](#) by Ijeoma Oluo
- [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#) by Michelle Alexander

Films and TV series to watch:

- 13th (Ava DuVernay) – Netflix
- Fruitvale Station (Ryan Coogler) – Available to rent
- Just Mercy (Destin Daniel Cretton) – Available to rent
- Selma (Ava DuVernay) – Available to rent
- The Hate U Give (George Tillman Jr.) – Hulu with Cinemax
- When They See Us (Ava DuVernay) – Netflix

Organizations to follow on social media:

- Antiracism Center: [Twitter](#)
- Equal Justice Initiative (EJI): [Twitter](#)
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ): [Twitter](#)

