Colleagues,

BIPOC artists have been talking, often behind closed doors and in private conversations, about when and why #WeLeaveTheRoom.

We recognize the following:

1. There are numerous valid reasons to walk away from a project or a moment in the process.

2. A fear of repercussion perpetuates silence.

3. We empower each other by speaking openly.

4. Isolation within an experience makes it easier for that experience to be minimized.

5. BIPOC artists are seizing agency over how we are represented and engaged.

6. We all have different limits, but we all have a limit.

7. There is an undercurrent of discourse that needs to be tidal.

We invite BIPOC artists to DM us your reasons for leaving the room (or wanting to), so that we can amplify without attribution.

#WeLeaveTheRoom

"When people are not held accountable for their actions, #WeLeaveTheRoom."

"When our vulnerability is met with indifference, #WeLeaveTheRoom."

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when we are asked to play a parody of ourselves."

"When organizational face is prioritized over individual impact, #WeLeaveTheRoom."

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when the safety (cultural or otherwise) of artists is being compromised."

"When a production is telling a story without engaging people with lived experiences, #WeLeaveTheRoom."

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when there is resistance to alleviate perpetuating harm through vocabulary or actions."

"When the presence of one community is weaponized to justify the exclusion of others, #WeLeaveTheRoom."

"When gratitude for previous work is leveraged to excuse current offense #WeLeaveTheRoom."

"When we are made to feel small, or elevated at the expense of others #WeLeaveTheRoom."

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when protocols embedded in the artistic process are not represented in the outward face of the production."

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when we are compelled to play teacher (i.e. explain, unpack, illuminate the basics of equity

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when accessibility isn't considered, which is illegal in a workplace."

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when trans-antagonism is considered the norm, rather than a colonial lie."

"When the prominence of our credit does not reflect the impact of our input #WeLeaveTheRoom."

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when we are asked to be grateful for even being included. Like we didn't belong in the first place."

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when our participation enables or perpetuates harm."

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when told, "You don't look disabled"."

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when our representation is pared down, superficial or commodified."

"When it becomes clear that communicating your failed intention is more important than hearing about your actual impact, #WeLeaveTheRoom."

"When anxiety about toxic spaces starts to manifest physical symptoms, #WeLeaveTheRoom."

"#WeLeaveTheRoom when it costs too much to stay."

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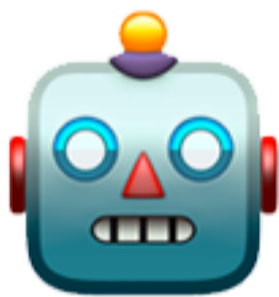
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Apr 20th 2020

So many orgs have pivoted to digital existence in this socially distant time, rapidly acquiring new competencies. (<--- silver lining) A quick PSA about how we can continue to look for those excluded from our work for various reasons, and plan with barriers in mind.

Not everyone has reliable wifi (or electricity), so swathes of our community are omitted from digital gatherings and professional development opportunities. Choose platforms that generate a meeting phone number, allowing folx to call

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