

Dear RU community and friends,

As NYC continues phase one of reopening, and protests hit day 17, here are just a few of the amazing accomplishments achieved through people's actions:

The Supreme Court ruled that the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits sex discrimination, applies to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;

New York repealed Section Title 50-A, passed in the 1970s to shield law enforcement from accountability by preventing access to personnel files;

Breonna's Law was passed in Kentucky, banning "no-knock" warrants, a procedure of police force used in the killing of Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black emergency medical technician;

New York banned the use of chokeholds, defying police unions;

Minneapolis committed to dismantle its police department;

A database has been set up to record police brutality at the protests;

Confederate monuments have toppled across the country!

As RU is looking hard at the ways in which we can collectively work towards greater diversity and inclusion, our immediate plans of action are to hand over our social media platforms to Black alumni and to dedicate the 2021 **NYC Artist Residency Program** to Black artists. We have a lot of work to do, and we look forward to what this work will bring!

Thank you for all that you do. Please keep at it and be safe.

The RU Team

RU Community News

This Friday, June 19, [Tide Rising Art Projects](#) takes over RU's Instagram to celebrate Afro-Caribbean visual artists, writers and poets whose work has a particular relevance at this time. An artist-led initiative coming out of Kingston, Jamaica, Tide Rising Art Projects is the brainchild of artist and lecturer [Oneika Russell](#) (resident artist, 2018) that aims to document and promote the practices of local and regional contemporary artists and initiate engagement opportunities for Caribbean contemporary artists within the region and internationally.

Next week (Mon, Jun 22 - Fri, Jun 26) [The Center for Afrofuturist Studies](#) takes over RU's social media to share films and documentaries centered on Black love, history, and their relationship to our conversations around systemic racism. The Center for Afrofuturist Studies (CAS) is an initiative to reimagine the futures of marginalized peoples by generating dynamic workspaces for artists of color. Curated by [Anaïs Duplan](#) (resident curator, 2016) CAS hosts artists-in-residence and produces lectures, workshops, public forums and exhibitions in collaboration with artists on the intersections of race, technology and the diaspora.

[Donate](#)

RU Recommends

From fringe idea to law of the land: a look inside the creativity fueling the struggle to defund the police. Nadine Bloch and Folabi Olagbaju, *Waging Nonviolence* (June 15, 2020). [Read here.](#)

Listen to *1619*, an audio series on how slavery has undoubtedly transformed America, connecting past and present through the oldest form of storytelling. *New York Times* (Jan 23 / Updated June 10). [Listen here.](#)

Podcast: *The Institute of Black Imagination* hosted by artist, writer and brand consultant Dario Calmese. Each week Calmese brings conversations from *The Pool of Black Genius*: a collection of iconoclasts at the leading edge of cultural thought and innovation (2020). [Listen here.](#)

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