



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

*Transforming Youth. Enhancing Communities.*

Dear Corps Family,

This week our country has been confronted again by a brutal act of gun violence. We mourn with the families and loved ones of those killed in Atlanta, and we condemn any acts of violence, bigotry or harassment against members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and against women here in Los Angeles and everywhere.

Last year, we made a commitment to you all to be better about using our voice to speak our truth, to share our values, to protect one another and to lift one another up. We promised to open our ears, our minds and hearts to the wonderful diversity here at the Corps and to recognize inequitable situations within our work and around us. Some of you have been participating on our Equity Team and having difficult but important conversations. You have helped to create a new Equity Statement to express our values and are working on an Equity Lens by which we will evaluate our decisions.

Today and always, we stand by our Asian American and Pacific Islander family members, friends, colleagues, neighbors and those we have yet to meet. We renew our commitment to speak out against racism and hate in all its forms, and to express our gratitude for each and every one of you. Our strength as an organization comes from the hard work that all of us do for all members of our community – Corpsmembers and staff – and our support of one another.

Our collective trauma of the last year and the personal traumas you may have experienced are heavy burdens and we are here to help you carry them if you need. As Corpsmember Dayy Thomas shared this weekend at our memorial tree planting, “The Corps is here with us. There is nothing about the Corps or anybody involved with the Corps that is not with us and doesn’t understand what we’re going through... I’m not by myself.”

We hope you all know and understand that, too. Continue to be open with us and be supportive, compassionate, and understanding of one another and we will rise above the hatred and find the hope.

In Service and Gratitude,

*Wendy Butts, CEO*

*Bo Savage, Deputy Director of Operations*

*Lloyd Wright, Chief Financial Officer*

*Elisa Nethercott, Chief Compliance Officer*

*Erica Blodgett, Director of Development & Communications*

*Tamara Muzac-Bravo, Ph.D., Director of Administration*