



Las Fotos Project Statement on Equity & Inclusion

We recognize that systemic racism has created deep-rooted racial, gender and economic inequities in communities of color. We also recognize that these inequalities are intersectional and so combating them must be intersectional as well. We look to Kimberlé Crenshaw's definition of intersectionality as "a prism for seeing the way in which various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other." And further also align ourselves with her statement that "We tend to talk about race inequality as separate from inequality based on gender, class, sexuality or immigrant status. What's often missing is how some people are subject to all of these, and the experience is not just the sum of its parts."

As such, Las Fotos Project's mission to elevate the voices of teenage girls from communities of color through photography and mentoring is one actionable way to ensure that all youth - regardless of race, age, gender-identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, immigrant status, religion, disability - are able to access the arts and channel their creativity for the benefit of themselves, their community, and their future careers.

We believe that the arts can generate creative and social capital to counteract these intersectional inequities. We believe that mentorship, along with art-making can also counteract the traumas of marginalization that many of our youth from communities of color endure. The Las Fotos Project model is built to remove barriers for young emerging artists to harness their creative skills, access professional networks, and successfully engage in the creative economy. We do this by ensuring our staff are representative of the communities we serve and that our students are connected to mentors, educators and professional networks with diverse identities that are also representative of the communities we serve.

Las Fotos Project's core values of exploration, inclusivity & representation, social justice, equity and community are interwoven throughout our programs and public activities. Programming is developed under the framework of "Participatory Photography", a creative modality that asks participants to analyze their personal and social landscapes through the lens of photography. This process of self-exploration is designed to validate and empower the participants' perspective, while also providing an avenue for self-guided reflection, reconciliation, and group dialogue. Our program model further reinforces photography's inherent ability to spark introspection, evoke deeper meaning, and serve as a catalyst for change by placing students at the heart of social justice efforts in their respective communities.