

To the Yale School of Architecture Community,

Following yesterday's verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd, I know that many of us are still reckoning with the grief and hurt of the past year. And though I am relieved that a perpetrator of racist violence has been held accountable, achieving justice will take a lot more work. I know that the definition of legal justice is not often thought of as an architect's work, but I believe we have a part to play in creating a built environment that helps shape equity rather than contributes to inequity.

At YSoA, we are continuing the important work of making our curriculum and our faculty more diverse, strengthening our emphasis on social justice in architecture, design and planning, and reducing the financial barriers to architectural education so our alumni can make an immediate difference in their communities after graduation.

More immediately, along with our colleagues across Campus, the School is co-sponsoring a series of teach-ins this week hosted by the Law School on police reform and the legal and societal implications of the Derek Chauvin trial for the past, present and future. The details are listed below. I hope you will consider attending.

I also write to remind you that our community has new resources to support mental health and well-being; please take advantage of them. And as always, my door is always open.

Sincerely

Deborah Berke, Dean