

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for joining us today. It is an honor to speak about a topic that is close to my heart: diversity and inclusion in arts and culture. Art is a mirror of society, and it should reflect the rich tapestry of human experiences that make up our world. Diversity in the arts means embracing different voices, perspectives, and stories. It means recognizing and celebrating the unique contributions of individuals from all backgrounds--regardless of race, gender, ability, or socio-economic status.

Inclusion goes hand in hand with diversity. It is about creating spaces where everyone feels welcome and valued. It involves actively breaking down barriers that prevent people from participating in and accessing the arts.

Our institutions have a responsibility to lead by example. This means not only showcasing diverse artists but also ensuring that decision-makers and leaders in the arts reflect the communities they serve.

We have made progress, but there is still much work to be done. Let us continue to push for change, ensuring that the arts truly belong to everyone.

Thank you.