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ABOUT ART FOR JUSTICE FUND

Art for Justice was founded in 2017 by Agnes Gund to end mass incarceration in the United States and the racism that drives it. This six year catalytic fund has already made close to \$100 M in grants to over 200 artists, advocates and organizations that are transforming the criminal legal system and creating a future of shared safety for all.

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10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT RETURNING CITIZENS (PEOPLE WHO ARE FORMERLY INCARCERATED)

- 1** Hire individuals who are formerly incarcerated at your workplace / urge your employer to commit to “ban the box” (job applications that require disclosure of justice system involvement) and become a fair chance employer.

- 2** Understand that those closest to the problems of mass incarceration are also closest to the solutions. People whose lives have been impacted by the justice system have the lived experience to be change agents in creating public safety.

- 3** Donate to community-based organizations that provide legal, advocacy and supportive services to returning citizens.

- 4** View art, read books and attend performances by artists who are impacted by the justice system to better understand their experiences and perspective.

- 5** Volunteer your time! Get involved in an organization near you that empowers returning citizens to live happy and successful lives free of stigma.

- 6** Learn about the links between racism and the over-incarceration of Black and Brown people. Books like Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow* and films such as Ava DuVernay’s *13th* document how prejudice fuels mass incarceration on a systemic level and provide the needed remedies.

- 7** Support local businesses of people who are formerly incarcerated. Engage with returning citizens in your community who provide the goods and services you need.

- 8** Advocate to end mass incarceration and transform the criminal legal system, including securing policies and practices that ban discrimination against returning citizens and restore their rights.

- 9** When someone uses words like “prisoner”, “inmate” and “felon,” point out that such terms are stigmatizing. It’s preferable to say “people impacted by the justice system” or “people who are formerly incarcerated” because personhood is centered over carceral status.

- 10** Educate yourself and others about the challenges faced by returning citizens and find ways to bring about needed change.

Together, we can create safe and healthy communities.