

Houston Exponential Statement on George Floyd's Legacy

Houston Exponential shares the anger and pain felt by George Floyd's family, all citizens of his hometown here in Houston, and people throughout America and the world who have been outraged over the unjust treatment of people of color over many, many years. Racism and police brutality must end if we are to continue to claim that this is a nation founded on the premise that every citizen is created equal, with unalienable rights. That is not the reality today for many Americans, which is a tragedy for all of us.

Huge opportunity gaps exist in this country, including in Houston. HX holds diversity and inclusion as core values, as do the many organizations and entrepreneurs that make up our rapidly growing technology innovation ecosystem. Innovation quite literally depends on a broad range of perspective and creative processes to understand current and future broad market needs. We cannot successfully accomplish our mission to create a world class ecosystem without the diversity and inclusion necessary to close those opportunity gaps.

At HX, that imperative has driven a significant focus over the past year on broadening access to resources, mentorship, capital, and programming to diverse audiences – but we are just beginning. Houston's ability to attract and retain the progressive and diverse young people who will create our innovative future depends on our community's commitment to these principles.

This week's massive and peaceful protests here in George Floyd's hometown were a striking contrast to the violence in other cities--a tribute to his legacy we can all be proud of. Going forward, Houston can pay a far greater tribute by showing how justice and inclusion together can lead to a more prosperous and equitable future for all.