

## A Statement from the Upcountry History Museum

History is *a guide to a better future* and demonstrates that we can become a better society – *but only if we collectively demand it from each other and from the institutions responsible for administering justice.*

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SMITHSONIAN SECRETARY LONNIE G. BUNCH

Affirming the statement from the American Association for State and Local History, the Upcountry History Museum undoubtedly recognizes that the past few weeks have provided reminders of how the nation still struggles with violence and racism born in the past and harbored in the present. We must confront these legacies of inequality and injustice, using our knowledge of the past to address the problems of today.

History recounts innumerable stories of inequality and injustice, and the Museum accepts its responsibility to address contemporary issues and offer examples of historical resilience along with the creativity of people rising to meet challenges in the past. We will continue to embrace our role as a member of this community and serve as a location for people to come together for conversations that can help overcome local and national division.

June 1, 2020