

RECONSIDERED GOODS

CREATIVE REUSE CENTER of the PIEDMONT TRIAD

STATEMENT ON CULTURAL EQUITY

To support a full, creative life for all, Reconsidered Goods commits to championing policies and practices of cultural equity that empower a just, inclusive, equitable society. Reconsidered Goods, as a community convener around shared values and principles of environmental justice and creative reuse, is committed to using art as a force for positive change in the world.

LONG TERM CULTURAL EQUITY VISION

Reconsidered Goods (RG) will continue to review and adjust our practices to reflect our organizational values and, together with our reuse and arts community, will create a meaningful culture, structure, and embedded vision for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility at our organization. We are committed to honoring and sharing our community's collective history and experiences through leadership, funding, programming, and engagement.

RG MISSION: to promote environmental awareness, community engagement, and creative expression through reuse, education, and the arts.

RG VISION: We imagine a world where nothing is used once nor thrown away but instead reused again and again.

DEFINITION OF CULTURAL EQUITY

Cultural equity embodies the values, policies, and practices that ensure that all people—including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented based on race/ethnicity, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion—are represented in the development of arts policy; the support of artists; the nurturing of accessible, thriving venues for expression; and the fair distribution of programmatic, financial, and informational resources.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & AFFIRMATION

- In the United States, there are systems of power that grant privilege and access unequally such that inequity and injustice result, and that must be continuously addressed and challenged.
- Cultural equity is critical to the long-term viability of the arts sector.
- We must all hold ourselves accountable because acknowledging and challenging our inequities and working in partnership is how we will make change happen.
- Everyone deserves equal access to a full, vibrant creative life, which is essential to a healthy and democratic society.
- The prominent presence of artists challenges inequities and encourages alternatives.
- Creative reuse disrupts the cycles of overconsumption, conspicuous consumerism, and resource depletion, which in turn fosters a more sustainable, mindful, and inclusive community.

MODELING THROUGH ACTION

To provide informed, authentic leadership for cultural equity, we strive to...

- Pursue cultural consciousness, equity, and humility throughout our organization through substantive learning and formal, transparent policies for staff and board members.
- Acknowledge and dismantle any inequities within our policies, systems, programs, and services, and report organization progress.
- Commit time and resources to expand more diverse leadership within our board, professional staff, and volunteer community.
- Ensure that resources are accessible to everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, identity, or background. Our programs and initiatives are designed to break down barriers and provide a welcoming environment for all to explore and express their creativity.

FUELING FIELD PROGRESS

To pursue needed systemic change related to equity, we strive to...

- Encourage substantive learning to build cultural consciousness and proliferate pro-equity policies and practices by all of our constituencies and audiences.
- Improve the cultural leadership pipeline by creating and supporting programs and policies that foster leadership that reflects the diversity of our local community and society at large.
- Leverage the influence of the arts to advocate for policy changes that address environmental inequalities and promote sustainable practices at local, regional, and global levels.

PROMOTING CREATIVE REUSE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

To leverage the arts and creative enterprise to advocate for environmental justice, we strive to...

- Raise awareness by using the power of art created from found and donated objects to convey compelling messages that raise awareness about environmental issues, illustrating the urgency and importance of addressing environmental justice.
- Amplify voices by providing a platform for marginalized communities and artists, makers and creators from those communities, enabling them to share their stories and experiences
- Develop projects that educate and inform the public about the interconnectedness of environmental issues and the arts, emphasizing the social and economic impacts on communities.
- Facilitate collaboration with a goal of creating interdisciplinary initiatives that tackle environmental justice challenges holistically and through the lens of the creative disciplines.
- Promote sustainable practices and lead by example within the creative arts industries by adopting and promoting sustainable practices and minimizing the environmental impact of artistic programs, installations, and events.

CENTERING OUR ORGANIZATION, OUR COMMUNITY, AND THE WORLD

To ensure that our values lead the way, we strive to...

- Build partnerships and deepen collaboration to actively engage with organizations, artists, and communities that reflect the breadth of cultural diversity. By fostering these connections, we aim to co-create a space that respects, values, and integrates a multitude of cultures and identities.
- Strengthen our position as community convener around the arts, our mission, our values, commitment to creative reuse, and a culture of equity. We believe that the arts serve as a bridge between communities, fostering connections and understanding across diverse cultures, backgrounds, and identities.
- Affirm the practices of Community Centric Fundraising, which is a fundraising model that is grounded in equity and social justice. We prioritize the entire community over individual organizations, foster a sense of belonging and interdependence, present our work not as individual transactions but holistically, and encourage mutual support between nonprofits.

RECONSIDERED GOODS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the land we are gathered on was once home to the Keyauwee and Saura indigenous tribes.

Additionally, other tribes, including the Cheraw, Catawba, Occaneechi, Sissipahaw, Eno and Shakori, have inhabited this land and the members and descendants of these and many other indigenous tribes still live in this area.

We honor and respect the indigenous people on whose land we gather today, and their traditions, culture, and connection to this land - past, present, and future.