



TREASURE ISLAND SAILING CENTER
Launching Point for New Horizons

Statement of Solidarity from the Treasure Island Sailing Center

The Treasure Island Sailing Center (TISC) was founded to increase accessibility and equity in the sport of sailing. We believed that creating opportunities would help change the course of a child's life, whether by learning new skills in a new environment or choosing to excel in a sport that provides life changing opportunities that extend beyond sailing such as college admittance, first jobs and careers. We thought that opportunity would, in time, close the race gap that exists in our sport. However, recent events have provided the stark realization that providing opportunity will never be enough to adequately address the systemic racial inequity in either our society or our sport.

It has been 20 years since TISC began and yet we still do not see the changes in our sport or society that we envisioned. As we come to grips with the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, we realize that we must do more. We have failed to listen, to understand and to stand with our community of color to proactively dismantle racism in our sport. We can and will do better.

Therefore, we are pausing to reflect on how we can be more vocal leaders and instruments for change at and beyond our organization. Some concrete actions that are underway include:

- Providing additional funding to support black and brown teens to return as Junior Instructors and inspirational examples for younger children; our staff should reflect the diversity of our children
- Incorporating curricular lessons on diversity, empathy, implicit bias and racial equity, so that all of our children, white, black and brown, understand their responsibility for social justice and racial equity
- Connecting with black and brown sailors around the world who can be role models for our children so they see people like them thriving in our sport
- Creating a Diversity & Inclusion Committee to discuss ways that we can educate our community and empower our children of color on and off the water
- Extending the influence of TISC to support facilitators and remove barriers for sailors of color when participating with other sailing groups (e.g., yacht clubs, high school/ college sailing teams, fleets) and events such as regattas and clinics

Our actions need to extend beyond our own organization; therefore, we ask our long-time friends, peers, constituents and extended sailing community to join us. For too long, we have all compartmentalized social and racial inequities in sailing by making diversity and access the primary responsibility of community sailing centers. Yet, social and racial equity will not come without intentional responses by the entire sailing community. Children of color will only get so far in a society that provides asymmetric challenges, barriers and threats to safety because of their skin color. We want our sport to reckon with the part that we are playing in this.

So, we ask the entire sailing community to also take this time to reflect and determine how each of us can use our individual and collective privilege to dismantle the racial inequity in sailing and in our day to day world. As Venus Williams recently stated, "Just as sexism is not only a 'women's issue', racism is not only a 'black issue'."



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Our privilege comes with the power to empower others in meaningful ways to bring about change. Doing anything less is being silent, complacent and contributing to the systemic racial inequities that has been the Achilles heel of our society and our sport.

We reject silence.

We embrace a better future.

In Solidarity,

Members of the Treasure Island Sailing Center Board of Directors, Community Sailing Programs (CSP) Committee, Facility for Advanced Sailing & Technology (FAST) Committee & Staff

Carisa Harris Adamson
William Hoehler
Paul Heineken
Bill Kreysler
Douglas Smith

Chris Churchill
Melinda Erkelens
JJ Fetter
Dave Guinther
Pamela Healy
Ted Huang
Rolf Kaiser
Kimball Livingston
Katie Pettibone
Adam Spiegel

Travis Lund
Laura DeFelice
Cazzie Cutting
Chris Davis
Joshua Leihe
Miles Raneri
Hana Kim Rupnow
Luxine Smith
Ry Ulmer-Strack
Riley Timken

Mission of the Treasure Island Sailing Center

*Our mission is to create opportunities for people to learn and grow through sailing by providing facilities, sailing instruction, and access to the water for people of all socio-economic backgrounds, abilities and skill levels from the novice to the Olympian.
www.tisailing.org*