

## **Visual Arts Centre Condemns Act of Racist Graffiti, Reaffirms Commitment to Inclusion**

**May 15, 2025**

**Clarington, Ontario – The Visual Arts Centre of Clarington has issued the following statement condemning the anti-Black racist graffiti found on the facility**

### **Statement from the Executive Director of the Visual Arts Centre of Clarington**

As Executive Director of the Visual Arts Centre of Clarington, I was deeply disturbed and heartbroken to discover racist graffiti defacing our gallery. This act of hate is not just an attack on our building—it's an affront to everything we stand for as a creative space dedicated to dialogue, inclusion, and community connection.

The VAC exists to champion diverse voices and celebrate human expression through art. Racism and anti-Black hatred have no place here. We unequivocally condemn this act of vandalism and reaffirm our commitment to building a space where everyone—especially those most often marginalized—feels seen, safe, and valued.

I want to recognize and thank our staff, who responded swiftly and compassionately to remove the hateful imagery and ensure that the Centre continues to reflect the values we uphold.

To our community members who are directly impacted by this act of hate: we see you, we stand with you, and we will continue to work toward creating a space that uplifts and protects all voices. This act only strengthens our resolve to do the work—through exhibitions, programs, and partnerships—that brings people together and fosters understanding.

Art has the power to challenge, to heal, and to inspire change. In the face of hate, we will continue to create and share that power with our community.

Dionne Powlenzuk  
Executive Director