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For Immediate Release

## **San Diego REP to Host Live Online Salon Discussing the Experiences of Black Theatre Artists in San Diego**

**San Diego, CA – June 9, 2020 – San Diego Repertory Theatre** (San Diego REP) announced today the details of a live online salon aimed at discussing the experiences of black theatre artists in San Diego, called “We Are Listening.” The panel, hosted by San Diego REP’s Development Coordinator and San Diego radio personality **Ahmed Dents**, will take place live on Zoom, **Friday, June 19 at 7PM**. The live event will feature some of San Diego’s Black theatre artists discussing their careers in theatre and their experiences as Black Americans in the industry, followed by a brief question and answer session where viewers can ask questions of the panel.

Joining Dents will be founding Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre and San Diego favorite director **Delicia Turner Sonnenberg**, Old Globe board member and *Theatre Corner* founder **Michael Taylor**, San Diego Arts & Culture Commissioner, CEO of Urban Warriors and founder of Kuumba Fest **Dajahn Blevins**, La Jolla Playhouse Artistic Programs Manager & Local Casting Director **Jacole Kitchen**, Common Ground Theatre Guest Artistic Director **Yolanda Franklin** and San Diego favorite actor **Antonio “TJ” Johnson**.

Viewing details will be announced soon.

San Diego REP recently released the following statement in response to the protests happening across the country:

“We at San Diego REP cannot and will not tolerate the systemic racism that continues to plague our country.

We are crushed by the senseless and tragic deaths of George Floyd, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery—and of the far too many black lives that have systemically been cut short over centuries, before them.

Our mission has long been to nourish progressive political and social values, and implicit in that is the responsibility to stand up for marginalized communities. We vow to examine and dismantle the structures of racism within theatre, within society, and within the deepest part of our own selves.

We stand in unity with our Black brothers and sisters.

Black Lives Matter.

We ask you to join us in taking action today. Together let us lift our voices and galvanize our collective privilege, creativity and financial capacity—to work relentlessly towards finally delivering the promise of that arc towards justice for all. Once and for all.

Suggested resources as to how you can make an impact: Black Lives Matter; Black Visions Collective; Reclaim the Block; Campaign Zero; Communities United Against Police Brutality; Unicorn Riot; National Bailout Fund; NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Anti Police-Terror Project; Showing Up for Racial Justice; Racial Justice Coalition of San Diego; Activist San Diego”

### **About San Diego Repertory Theatre**

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, provocative and inclusive theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Repertory Theatre is downtown San Diego’s resident theatre, promoting an interconnected community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts over 550 events and performances year-round on its three stages at the Lyceum Theatre. Since moving to the Lyceum, The REP has produced 54 main stage productions by Latino playwrights, and more than 45 world premieres. The company has received more than 200 awards for artistic excellence from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patté Theatre Awards, NAACP, Backstage West, Dramalogue and StageSceneLA. In 2005, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented The REP with the Craig Noel Award “For 30 Years of Artistic Dedication to Downtown and Diversity.” San Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul. To learn more about San Diego Repertory Theatre, to purchase tickets, or make a donation, visit [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org). Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@SanDiegoREP).

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