



**PO Box 2768, Oakland CA 94602 ~ [www.fojmp.org](http://www.fojmp.org)**

## **FoJMP Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

The one-year mark of the murder of George Floyd, the centenary of the destruction of Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the rise in anti-Asian American violence, and the mounting wave of voter suppression bills aimed at people of color, serve as continual reminders of the history and the continual struggle against white supremacy.

The Friends of Joaquin Miller Park (FoJMP) board members have been taking time to reflect on systemic racism, and how it manifests in all of our institutions, including our parks, all across the country, and here in Oakland as well.

The FoJMP board emphatically affirms that Black Lives Matter.

The number of visitors to Joaquin Miller Park (JMP) has increased fourfold during the pandemic, and we embrace the fact that the diversity of park-goers has also broadened to better reflect the residents of Oakland.

Joaquin Miller Park is a unique Oakland treasure that should be welcoming to all Oaklanders. The FoJMP board is committed to increasing outreach and engagement with Black, Brown, Asian, and Indigenous youth and community members who have not historically had access to, nor felt safe in the parks and green spaces of Oakland. We care deeply for the world and environment around us, and we know that the health of our park is intimately connected to the health and wellbeing of our community members. We cannot care for one without the other.

As part of this outreach, board members are in discussion to address the pressing need to increase the racial and socioeconomic diversity of our organization. We want to ensure that all Oaklanders have a voice in maintaining and improving the park for all to enjoy in the coming years. We aim to bring a variety of ideas and perspectives to FoJMP to ensure that everyone feels welcome to come and enjoy the park. If you would like to become involved, please contact us.

We recognize the rich history of the land where JMP is located. The previous inhabitants included not only the 19th Century poet and environmentalist Joaquin Miller who the park was named after, but also the Lisjan Ohlone people who lived on and loved this land in times past.

We want to encourage conversation and support each other and all Oakland residents in sustained reflection and action.

FoJMP Board of Directors

2021