



## **YUMA CROSSING NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION STATEMENT:**

### ***ADVOCATES FOR EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL THROUGH COMPLETE & ACCURATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION***

We celebrate our nation's diverse heritage as part of an alliance of dozens of Heritage Areas from all across the country that are creating experiences that stimulate cultural equity.

Through inclusive, historically accurate and complete storytelling from the perspective of the actual protagonists themselves, we empower inclusive communities to tell their own, unvarnished stories.

The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. As a Congressionally designated National Heritage Area, we work collectively with the Yuma community to protect and promote the history of the diverse people and places that make up our unique story in an equitable and inclusive way.

We believe that our long-time stewardship of the historic contributions of black, brown, Asian, indigenous peoples and other groups who are part of the Yuma story, make us uniquely qualified to help bridge the divided conversation gap, leading to solutions for ending the virus of racial injustice still infecting this country.

We believe that it is critical for our children and grandchildren to know ALL of the history of this land, and that hiding some of the less flattering facts of their heritage as Americans has been an unfortunate practice of this country, and does them a gross disservice.

It is our duty as a National Heritage Area, to tell accurate and *inclusive* stories. In order to be honest brokers as part of a local and national dialogue, we also must examine ourselves and ensure we are *walking the talk* in our daily operations and actions.

We define *diversity* as meaningful representation of different groups in cultural heritage, including but not limited to, race, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical/mental ability, ethnicity, geography, and perspective.

We define *equity* as policies and practices that help communities gain access to the fair opportunities, networking, and resources that will aid all people in reaching their full cultural heritage development potential.

We define *inclusion* as authentic engagement of diverse groups in cultural heritage development, providing all community members with a genuine sense of belonging.

As part of an Alliance of National Heritage Areas, we are communicators of the heart & soul of America. We are the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area.