

Black Lives Matter

When this issue of *Cite* is published, a year will have passed since the murder of George Floyd. A few days after, Houstonians took to the streets to make their voices heard, as seen in the image at right. The sea of people—a rare image during the pandemic—gathered to contest that injustice and others, including the fates of too many Black Americans whose names we now know and those whose experiences we will never know.

We also remember and condemn the fatal shootings in Atlanta in March, which targeted Asian women. This act yet again laid bare the violent, racist legacies of our country's history.

Issues of inequality, of the right to protest, and of health and safety are serious concerns for our community, as is the ability to lead collective efforts that can combat today's rampant individualism.

It's an uncomfortable truth that the design of the built environment at times enables systemic racism, which is more broadly perpetuated by spatial practices and social behaviors. As thinkers, researchers, and professionals of many varieties, this hard issue requires our attention.

RDA stands with those in our community and beyond who are affected by the traumas of the past year. With renewed optimism and resolve, and grounded in the restorative power of knowledge, we are committed to using our voices to dismantle systems of oppression.

Cite promotes design that results in a more beautiful, inclusive, and just built environment. This shared goal will continue to guide RDA's programs and publications moving forward.

