



[www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org)

*"We are the heirs to whatever is right or wrong. We did not erect the uneven pillars or joists, but they are ours to deal with now." — Isabel Wilkerson, Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*

137 Park Street  
Chelsea, MI 48118  
(734) 433-7782

Founder,  
Jeff Daniels

Managing Director,  
Katie Hubbard

Artistic Director,  
Guy Sanville

**Board of Directors**

Steven K. Hamp,  
Co-Chairman

Sheila Ford Hamp,  
Co-Chairman

David Ligotti,  
Treasurer

Maria Leonhauser,  
Secretary

Peter Brown

Charles Craves

Philip J. Curtis

Charles Eisendrath

Peter Feeney

David Larsen

John Mann

George Moses

John J. H. Schwarz, M.D.

Dear Patrons and Friends,

On May 25th, George Floyd's tragic death woke up the world.

All over America, people cried out for equal justice, more inclusion, more diversity and an end to dehumanization. Strong voices demanded change that has been overdue for centuries.

Looking back on our three decade history at The Purple Rose, I am proud of our diversity record. Since opening in 1991, thirty percent of our productions have featured a human being of color. Seven productions have featured a diverse character or community as its central story. Four of our productions have been written by a human being of color. These facts surpass the diversity record of many of our peers. But it's not enough. The American Theatre and The Purple Rose must do more. While sidelined by the pandemic, diversity and inclusion have become top priorities for our organization.

In late June, Guy Sanville and I finalized *The Purple Rose Diversity and Inclusion Plan* which we started to formulate in the Spring of 2019. With the help of our first Chief Diversity Enrichment Officer, Lynch Travis, the three of us are committed to taking actionable steps to increase opportunities for Michigan's marginalized playwrights, actors, directors and designers. This new program has a Board approved, three year budget.

While The Purple Rose has been closed, we have reached out to Michigan based BIPOC and Latinx writers, new and established. Currently, more than a dozen playwrights are writing plays. On October 17th, we held the first of several virtual readings of their work. As we develop these plays, pandemic willing, we hope to hold public readings in Chelsea and Detroit. Our goal is simple: produce their work at The Purple Rose. We will also champion these plays and, more importantly, these playwrights by making their work available to any theatre in the state and country.

From the beginning, all I wanted to do was bring home everything I'd ever learned and offer that knowledge and experience to anyone who wanted it. In particular, I wanted to give that twenty one year old kid I used to be the training and techniques that can only be found at the national level. Nothing would please me more than to take this moment in our country's history and do the same for human beings of color. I want to find their voice. I want to hear their voice. I want them to write what they want, how they want, and to use the power of art to communicate their truth. I am committed to using this horrific health and culture crisis as an opportunity to expand our diversity, to open our doors and to come out of this a better theatre.

As a leader in the Michigan Arts Community and as a nationally recognized theatre for new work, The Purple Rose can do more. And we are.

I hope you will support this important work. Your donation to The Purple Rose ensures that these new voices will be heard.

Sincerely,

Jeff Daniels  
Founder

**Your tax deductible donation can be made at [www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org) or by using the enclosed envelope.**