

Dear Art Department community,

We, the faculty of the Department of Art, write in support of the [Cops Off Campus Coalition](#)'s day of refusal on May 3, 2021. We are saddened and outraged at the ongoing police violence and murder of Black and Brown men, women, boys, and girls, including the recent murders of Daunte Wright, Adam Toledo, and Ma'Khia Bryant. [UC President Michael Drake](#) has called for the critical work of reimagining policing. However, we are disappointed by the insubstantial reformist measures proposed on the campus and system-wide level and the lack of concrete actions towards defunding and abolishing the UCPD and ending relationships with the LAPD and other policing and security agencies. In the face of incontrovertible evidence of the racialized harm perpetuated by policing practices, we call on the UCLA and UC administration to substantively respond to the calls for divestment from police and policing on our campus.

In solidarity with those mobilizing for abolition on all educational campuses, we support faculty, staff, and student decisions to join the nationwide call for a one-day work stoppage on May 3rd to end campus policing. We recognize that many of our Black, Brown, and Indigenous students have not only faced a global health pandemic, ongoing ecological crises, and much more in the past year, but also the continued threat of racialized police violence. We acknowledge that policing disproportionately violates Black, Brown, Indigenous, queer, trans, and poor peoples and immigrants and ultimately renders all members of campus and its surrounding communities unsafe. We recognize the long history of campus police violating students' civil rights. We are committed to a campus that advances racial justice by ending such forms of harm, and we support students, faculty, and staff working towards this vision.

The Department of Art will not retaliate against undergraduate or graduate students, faculty, or staff who join the abolition events happening nationwide on May 3 or beyond for exercising their first amendment rights. Further, we oppose any threat of retaliation that may come from the campus administration. We stand beside our students in the struggle for racial justice and a more livable university environment for all.

In solidarity/in community,  
Department of Art faculty

A few recommended links:

[https://linktr.ee/uc\\_ftp](https://linktr.ee/uc_ftp)  
<https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/abolition-repository>  
<https://copsoffcampuscoalition.com/>

And this January 31, 2021 op-ed by Angela Davis, Melina Abduhllah and Robin DG Kelley on why "California must lead the way in abolishing school and university campus police"

<https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/article248636275.html>