



## A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings 4DL Community,

We find ourselves here again, not shocked by the recent decision of the Supreme Court to strike down affirmative action policies in higher education, but trying to tend to the constantly reopening wound for which the nation needs true healing. Race-conscious policies were designed to offset the genocide of First Nation Peoples and centuries of free slave labor that segued into years of Jim Crow laws that attempted to halt the progress of Black people and ensnare other communities of color since the inception of this American experiment. It is worth reminding those in denial that the way in which this country began is **not** the far-gone past; rather our present is merely a reminder of what can easily be our reality again, either by insurrection, or by the legislature's pen.

- **Muscle memory is a thing.**
- **Elections have consequences.**
- **Voting matters.**

The work we do at 4DL isn't some attempt to provide luxury learning or individual therapy; our work puts a stake in the ground around what it means to know how societies come to be, who they serve, and who they intentionally leave behind when they go unchecked. I urge you to eschew fear, to embrace the pain of our collective reality, and to the tune of both individual and collective action.

All my best,

Angela Perry