

SNCA Values Statement September 2020

Before the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association had a Values Statement, we have long had a Mission Statement, which is to “value and nurture individual creativity and the cultural, historic, and environmental resources of the Sautee and Nacoochee Valleys and the surrounding areas.” This mission has shaped our facilities, including the Cultural Center, African American Heritage Site, and Native Peace Garden. Within these structures SNCA is a living, evolving institution that responds to the changing needs and challenges of our immediate community and broader humanity.

Today SNCA is responding to demonstrations for racial justice sweeping the world. We know that working toward Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is important to all communities in Northeast Georgia and beyond. SNCA strives for this in our performing arts events, visual arts displays and programs, and in the exhibits and educational programs associated with the folk pottery and regional history museums.

Historical events cast long shadows into the present. We are concerned, and we reflect our community’s concern, about the ongoing effects of Native American genocide, black enslavement and the erasure of much of this history from school curriculum. Our vision sees these wounds healing, by keeping our history alive, discussing and sharing how it affects us all today, and welcoming all people as we promote diversity, equity and inclusion in our region. This approach can provide greater understanding of and appreciation for the artistic expression that grows out of the unique experiences of Native and African Americans.

“If we don’t keep this history alive and save what’s left, our children and grandchildren will never know the history and hardship of our ancestors.”

-Lena Bell Dorsey

Below is our Values Statement, which outlines our commitment to building a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient nonprofit that both reflects and serves our diverse community.

- **We value** diversity in all of its aspects.
- **We value** the visible and invisible qualities that make every community distinctive.
- **We welcome** the unique perspective and experience that every person at SNCA brings to
- advance our mission to nurture and value creativity.
- **We believe** that each SNCA community member, donor, volunteer, advocate and employee must have a voice, access to resources and participation in solving problems and improving our community.
- **We commit** to these values and practices as we work with our staff, members, students, families, visitors and businesses in our communities.

We invite everyone to come and sit on our front porch. Please use this safe and welcoming environment to enjoy our events, programs and community.

Together. We Change People's Lives!