

THE VICE PRESIDENT

September 30, 2022

I am honored to extend my greetings and congratulations to the leaders, supporters, and distinguished guests of the Denyce Graves Foundation as you convene at Howard University for the launch of Shared Voices.

We stand on the shoulders of the incredible leaders and artists who came before us, and we must tell their stories to paint a true picture of our Nation's history and inspire young people to be all that they can be. The Denyce Graves Foundation plays an integral role in this cause by championing hidden musical figures and diversifying the classical vocal arts landscape.

The Shared Voices initiative will increase this impact by fostering valuable collaboration between Historically Black Colleges and Universities and conservatories across the Nation. As a proud graduate of an HBCU, I am grateful that Shared Voices is embarking on this important and necessary work that will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

Today, we take time to honor and thank you for your continued efforts to increase equity and inclusion across the musical spectrum. Doug and I send our best wishes for a bright future ahead.