ARTISTS’ STATEMENT: REGROUP AND REMEMBER

In March 2015, footage of a racist chant by University of Oklahoma students went viral and received national media coverage. The institution’s leadership responded swiftly by denouncing the behavior and holding the participating students accountable.

Acts of hate and racism leave lasting marks on communities. Self-reflection is critical as a community struggles to move forward while honestly recognizing the causes of hatred and ignorance.

The artists have created (and then de-constructed) a mosaic containing the words that harmed and scared so many both within the OU community and across the country. Through the physical action of rebuilding the mosaic, we ask participants to “regroup and remember” the ongoing struggle of racism rather than underestimate the challenge ahead.

The project was designed by Alfred University’s Art Force Five and created as community-fueled art by attendees at the 2015 National Conference on Race and Ethnicity. The mosaic will be presented as a gift to our colleagues and NCORE’s coordinators at the Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies at the University of Oklahoma.