

## **Market Community Safer Space Commitment**

Within this beautiful handmade and hand-curated market community that the local event organizers, vendors, artists and makers have worked to cultivate in the Niagara Region, guided by a commitment to create safer opportunities and spaces for first-time and experienced vendors, artists and makers, who come from a wide range of mediums, experiences, and backgrounds.

A commitment to safer spaces means more than just an aspiration or an event statement - it's a commitment that requires action. A commitment to safer spaces means more than just an aspiration or an event statement - it's a commitment that requires action. In this increasingly dangerous and complex world, we must be taking steps to improve equity and tangible safety measures for vendors who face discrimination and exclusion due to ongoing systems of power that perpetuate colonization, imperialism, racism, xenophobia, sexism, misogyny, homophobia, bi-phobia, transphobia, ableism, sanism, ageism, and classism, as well as the many complex and layered forms of discrimination that occur between these larger structures.

A commitment to this work does not mean that equity or safety will be achieved all at once, but rather through ongoing efforts to self-educate, building structures of communication and follow through, and taking action when bigotry, fearmongering, hate speech, discrimination, and harassment take place (online or in-person). These types of actions do not contribute to the equity and safety we aim to build in our market spaces, and rather facilitate and perpetuate harm.

As such, we commit that to the practice that vendors, organizers and customers who actively participate in these forms of harm, we feel do not contribute to the safety of our events, and will be asked to leave, and will not be offered future opportunities within this community.

We also commit to sharing information amongst market organizers when appropriate about equity and safety concerns that have been brought forward as a means of learning from past situations and preventing future undue harm.

We also understand that MLM's (Multi-Level Marketing) or direct sales companies are predatory in nature and prey on vulnerable people. We understand that these companies are known to actively target people with limited employment options. We do not condone the actions of these companies and refuse to subject our community, vendors, organizers and customers alike, to their deceptive recruiting practices.

We welcome opportunities to unlearn, learn, grow, and do better for ourselves and all the vendors we work with, and will engage in dialogues where possible and safe for our teams. However, we believe that in making these commitments to equity and safety, we can foster this growth without sacrificing our commitment to improving equity and supporting people's mental, emotional, or physical safety.

This commitment is no small undertaking or something that can be claimed we have proudly welcomed diversity, culture and so much creativity. We have created safe spaces for all artists, makers and collectors whether they are experienced or first-time market vendors.

I understand that as an organizer and vendor, that it is my responsibility to provide safe events and spaces for BIPOC and 2SLGBTQQIA+ folks in our community, and that I will not stand for any racism, violence, harassment or discrimination at any in-person events or online.

I commit to creating safe, anti-racist and inclusive spaces, and supporting the journeys of the BIPOC and 2SLGBTQQIA+ artists and makers in our market family.

Vendors and customers who do not contribute to the safety of our events, will be asked to leave, and will not be offered future opportunities within this community.