



## JEDI Statement

Updated: September 2023

SkirtsAfire is an organization focused on innovation within a culture of kindness and respect. We are open and collaborative, uplifting diverse voices in our community. We strive to be accountable and in a state of learning and evolution.

SkirtsAfire is committed to creating safer spaces for underrepresented voices in theatre and all art forms. As an organization, SkirtsAfire was created to confront the gender inequity we recognized in our industry. Within our mission to create more opportunities for women, we have also learned about the inequities that disproportionately affect people with intersecting identities. We recognize the ongoing work that must be done to remove barriers for artists and audiences of different cultures, religions, abilities, bodies, and experiences. We are passionate about fostering an inclusive culture that celebrates diversity, and we are committed to continuing to improve our practices to welcome all voices.

We acknowledge that systemic change needs to occur in order to dismantle the oppressive systems upon which theatre practice has been built upon on Turtle Island. We are invested in the journey of developing a practice and space that is grounded in anti-racist, anti-oppression and intersectional learnings. We are constantly working towards more IBPOC representation on our board, our staff and within our festival, to better reflect the mosaic of diverse lived experiences in ᐃᓂᑦᗵᑎᑦᕐᕋᑦ, Amiskwacîwâskahikan.

We respectfully acknowledge that we are telling stories on the traditional and ancestral homeland of diverse Indigenous peoples including Nehiyawak (Cree), Métis, Inuit, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux and Nakota Sioux, who have lived and traveled through this place for thousands of years before us. We are all treaty people and as settlers to Treaty 6 Territory, which is also home to Métis Settlements and the Métis Nation of Alberta, we are striving to do better, listen, and learn from the Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing. We respect and celebrate the languages, history and culture of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose presence continues to enrich this vibrant community here in ᐃᓂᑦᓴᓄᑦᓴᓄᑦᓴᓄᑦ, Amiskwacîwâskahikan.