RAISING THE VOLUME

with Elana Boyd-Pea

Elana Boyd-Pea describes founding Black Charleston Professionals.

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Sixth Grade and Up
Mastery of core subjects and twenty-first century themes is essential for all students in the twenty-first century. Core subjects include English, reading or language arts; world languages; arts; mathematics; economics; science; geography; history; and government and civics. In addition to these subjects, schools must move forward to include not only a focus on mastery of core subjects, but also an understanding of academic content at much higher levels by weaving twenty-first century interdisciplinary themes into core subjects.

**Global Awareness**
1. Use twenty-first century skills to understand and address global issues.
2. Learn from and work collaboratively with individuals representing diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles in a spirit of mutual respect and open dialogue in personal, work, and community contexts.

**Civic Literacy**
1. Participate effectively in civic life through knowing how to stay informed and understanding governmental processes.
2. Exercise the rights and obligations of citizenship at local, state, national, and global levels.
3. Understand the local and global implications of civic decisions.

**Work Creatively with Others**
1. Develop, implement, and communicate new ideas to others effectively.
2. Be open and responsive to new and diverse perspectives; incorporate group input and feedback into the work.
3. Demonstrate originality and inventiveness in work; understand the real world limits to adopting new ideas.
4. View failure as an opportunity to learn; understand that creativity and innovation is a long-term, cyclical process of small successes and frequent mistakes.
5. Implement innovations.
6. Act on creative ideas to make a tangible and useful contribution to the field in which the innovation will occur.
**OVERVIEW**

Everyone has a story. It’s our place to take a moment to listen. Once you listen, your eyes open. You can put yourself in someone else’s shoes and try to comprehend their experiences. You may be inspired, you may come away with more knowledge, or you may find a bit of yourself in someone else.

“Raising the Volume” is a series of Black stories. These are stories about Black entrepreneurs, judges, authors, artists, and leaders in our community. These are stories that need to be heard. Led by the Gaillard’s Artists-in-Residence Charlton Singleton and Marcus Amaker, “Raising the Volume” gives a platform to Black community members whose lives matter.

As you introduce this series to your students, follow the bullet points below for discussion. Your students will find that they are challenged to think about uncomfortable things. Those conversations are what will help us change our world. In the words of Judge McFarland, “To break down racial barriers, start where you are.” So, let’s start where we are and see what change we can bring to our community.

For each lesson, split your class into small groups for discussion or discuss as a whole. Choose the model that is the most comfortable for your students so they feel free to discuss opinions openly.

**Teachers, if you are interested in scheduling a cross-school discussion on Raising the Volume Episode XXVI, please email Sterling deVries at sdevries@gaillardcenter.org. Through cross-school Zoom calls, we can offer students from one school a different perspective on the video with students from a second school. We will schedule class-to-class meetings where whole groups can discuss various topics covered in Episode XXVI.**
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Episode XXVI: Elana Boyd-Pea describes founding Black Charleston Professionals.

(CLICK THE IMAGE TO WATCH EPISODE XXVI)
Elana Boyd-Pea comes from a long line of entrepreneurs and is a big supporter of her family-owned businesses. She is the Founder and President of Black Charleston Professionals and owner of Lana’s Locs. **Why do you think it is important to shop local? What do you know about chain companies and their affect on local businesses?**

The global pandemic has disproportionately affected African American communities in the United States. As a result, activists have been calling for consumers to purchase from Black-owned business in an attempt to contest the racial injustices suffered by the Black community. **Besides the pandemic, what other recent social events have resulted in racial injustices? How can you or your school help in assisting to combat current racial injustices?**

Marcus and Elana Boyd-Pea discuss vision boards and attaining a goal. Elana Boyd-Pea attributes her success to never being quite satisfied professionally and encourages everyone to always have a dream to strive for. **Create a vision board using the template on the next page. Is your vision board going to depict your goals for this current school year, or is your vision board going to depict the next ten years?**
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ABOUT ELANA BOYD-PEA, MBA, MHA, MHS

Founder | President of Black Charleston Professionals 501c3
Owner | Lanas Locs
Co-owner | Lanas Locs Organics
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Elana Pea is a proud wife, mother, sister, daughter, and believer. As the founder and President of Black Charleston Professionals 501c3, the organization's purpose is to provide a safe space for Black Professionals. Oftentimes African Americans in various industries feel overlooked and devalued. BCP was created to provide entrepreneurs and professional individuals with resources to grow, connect, and network.

Elana is a product of Entrepreneurs, her mother Ethel Boyd successfully owned and operated Ethel's Child Development Center (30 years). Her father Howard Boyd owns and operates Howard's Barber College (1st Black owned Barber school in South Carolina) and Howard’s Barber Shop (40 years and thriving).

She has a Masters of Health Care Administration, Masters in Business Administration, and Master Hair Care Licensure. Elana worked in healthcare for twelve years while providing haircare services on the weekends to loyal clients. Her last role in healthcare was the Human Resource Director for Harvest Health. Elana also owns Lanas Locs a beauty service provider and Lanas Locs Organics (Organic Hair and Body Product Line).

Elana always noticed the disparity with African Americans being devalued in the workplace. After reaching her goal in corporate America as a Director in leadership she still felt unfulfilled, and undervalued. While in that role she corrected the disparity of underpaid African American staff to meet the rate of their colleagues.

After realizing the flexibility entrepreneurship offered and with the support of her husband Deterick Pea, Elana decided to “leap” and leave Corporate America to use her knowledge, skills, and abilities she gained to pour into the family operated Barber School. She is fulfilled most when providing opportunities and resources to empower Black Leaders and Entrepreneurs. She gains joy in seeing others around her grow and become their best selves. Her favorite quote, “You have an exclusive invite to the table, where your seat is reserved”.

www.blackcharlestonpros.org
Instagram: @blk_charleston @lanaslocs
ABOUT MARCUS AMAKER

Marcus Amaker was named Charleston, SC’s first Poet Laureate in 2016. He’s also an award-winning graphic designer, an accomplished electronic musician, the creator of a poetry festival, and a mentor to hundreds of students. His poetry has been featured by PBS Newshour, SC Public Radio, Huffington Post, A&E Network, Charleston Magazine, and more. In 2019, he won a Governor’s Arts award. His poetry has been studied in classrooms across the country and has been interpreted for ballet, jazz, modern dance, opera, and theater. Marcus has recorded three albums with Grammy Award-winning drummer and producer, Quentin E. Baxter. His latest book is The Birth of All Things (Free Verse Press).  

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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