Raising the Volume
Episode XVI
Osei Chandler describes discovering your Kuumba.

Sixth Grade and Up
CORE SUBJECTS AND 21ST CENTURY THEMES

Mastery of core subjects and 21st century themes is essential for all students in the 21st 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 21st century interdisciplinary themes into core subjects.

Global Awareness
1. Use 21st 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, and 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. Stories about Black entrepreneurs, judges, authors, artists, and leaders in our community. Stories that need to be heard. Led by the Gaillard Center’s Artists-in-Residence, Charlton Singleton and Marcus Amaker, Raising the Volume gives a platform to Black community members and opens us all up to honest discussion.

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.” 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 XVI, 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 XVI.
EPISODE XVI

CONTENT WARNING: This video and lesson plan include a racial slur that can be triggering.
LESSONS

Osei Chandler recalls life as a young man, when his uncles would take the time to pull him aside to discuss current events. They valued his opinion; he feels this was important in his upbringing.

Do you have an adult in your life that values your opinion? Someone that wants to know your thoughts on the state of the world today? What types of things do you discuss and do you agree with Osei Chandler, that having that interest in your opinion is important?

Osei Chandler attended MacMurray College in Illinois. He was 1 of 13 African Americans out of 1000. He states, “Someone wanted to touch your skin and see if it rubbed off.”

Put yourself in the shoes of Mr. Chandler. How would it have felt to be surrounded by others that don’t look like you and are so intrigued by the color of your skin they needed to touch you to see if the black rubbed off?

As a college student, Osei Chandler founded the Black Student Organization. He partnered with the Boys and Girls Club and the Democratic Society at his school. As a group, they participated in a march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Cicero, Illinois.

Osei Chandler states, “We all marched with Dr. King in Cicero, Illinois which was a very frightful thing to be vilified by six year-olds calling you niggers and stuff...that was scary.”

As a young college student, Osei Chandler was witness to unjustly reactions from children. Discuss with your group the feeling during that march and the words expressed from small children. How did these young children learn to express these racial slurs? Where did that hate come from?

Osei Chandler believes in the sixth principle of Kwanzaa, Kuumba. This principle states, “Always do as much as you can in any way that you can to make your community more beneficial than when you inherited it.”

What is your commitment to being creative in your community? What can you do to benefit the community?

Osei Chandler describes coaching youth soccer. At one point he went to the Parks and Recreation Department and was told Black kids don’t want to play soccer. So, he took it in his own hands and established “Lil Peles”, read more here:
“In the summer of 1981 with the spirit of harambe, the Ebony City Soccer Club, Lil’ Pele’s Soccer team was established to provide a vehicle structured activities that would help channel the energy of the area youth in a positive direction by using the world’s game of Futbol but also know as soccer. The club was named after Brazil’s famous player Edson Arante Do Nacimento A.K.A - PELE. The Lil’ Pele’s was established in 1981 in Downtown Charleston South Carolina (Robert Mills Manor) and was founded by Osei Chandler, Cito Lindsay, Leatha Mae Simmons, and Jerome Smalls who paved the way for minorities to be able to not only play the game of soccer but become productive successful citizens of the community. Ebony City Soccer Club has produced winners of multiple tournaments and state championships over the years. The tradition continues today.”

Mr. Chandler took a leadership role in developing a soccer team for Black youth in Charleston, SC. The team went on to win the state championship and expose hundreds of kids to soccer. How can one person’s initiative lead to change in the community as a whole?

Charlton Singleton and Osei Chandler discuss the Charleston Middle Passage Remembrance Program every second Saturday in June. The group visits the location on the beaches of Sullivan’s Island where the African slaves were unloaded and put into pest houses before they were sent downtown to be sold.

Why is it important to remember this date and those souls lost on the journey from the West Coast of Africa to our own South Carolina shores?

To learn more about Osei Chandler, listen to his broadcast on ETV.
Osei Terry Chandler is the widowed father of three adult offspring. A retired educator, he was the Director of the Educational Opportunity Center at Trident Technical College.

Osei continues to vountarily produce and host the Roots Musik Karmau for South Carolina Public Radio. This Caribbean oriented music program has been broadcasting since April, 1979... almost 40 years. Chandler was recently inducted into the Lowcountry Music Hall of Fame. Chandler’s voice can be heard on the “Weekend Jazz” segment of the widely syndicated “Jazz Works” programs.

Because of his various involvements and commitments Osei has been called a “community activist”. Osei’s family, (along with four or five other families), was among the first to practice Kwanzaa publically in Charleston in 1978. He co-founded the still active Ebony City Soccer Club - “The Li’l Peles”; he is co- founder of the Charleston Remembrance Program (an annual commemoration to the African ancestors who perished during the Middle Passage); Osei has served as President of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History & Culture and as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Avery Research Center.

Chandler has hosted a good number of concerts; he has facilitated and participated in a variety of presentations and panels relative to the enlightenment and upliftment of his family and his community.

Osei Terry Chandler holds a bachelor of Arts degree from MacMurray College and Master’s Degree from Webster University.
ABOUT CHARLTON SINGLETON

A native of Awendaw, SC, Charlton Singleton began his musical studies at the age of three on the piano. He would then go on to study the organ, violin, cello, and the trumpet throughout elementary, middle and high school. In 1994, he received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance from South Carolina State University. Since that time, he has taught music at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as being an adjunct faculty member at the College of Charleston. In 2008 he co-founded and became the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Charleston Jazz Orchestra: an 18-piece jazz ensemble of some of the finest professional musicians in the Southeast and the resident big band in Charleston, SC. Mr. Singleton is also the organist and choir director at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Charleston, SC. In November of 2016 he was named the inaugural Artist-in-Residence at the recently renovated Gaillard Center in downtown Charleston. He remained in this position until July 2019; at that point he was named Artist-in-Residence Emeritus. In this position he continues to lead the Summer Youth Jazz Orchestra Camp as well as lead the “Jazz Through the Ages” assembly, which attracts a capacity crowd of students at the Gaillard Center.

As a performer, Charlton leads his own ensembles that vary in size and style. He has performed in France, Great Britain, Scotland, Spain, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Norway, Canada, the Netherlands, as well as many great cities throughout the United States. He is a founding member of a new ensemble called Ranky Tanky. The group is a quintet that interprets the sounds of Gullah from the Southeast Coast of the United States. In 2017 Ranky Tanky reached the top of the Billboard, iTunes, and Amazon Contemporary Jazz charts with their self-titled debut recording. In 2019 they accomplished the same feat with the release of their sophomore effort, “Good Time”, which recently won the 2020 Grammy Award for “Best Regional Roots Music Album”.

In addition to performing, he is in demand as a speaker, clinician, composer, and arranger. He has also shared the stage with and/or worked with some of most talented entertainers in the world, including Bobby McFerrin, Jimmy Heath, Slide Hampton, Houston Person, Darius Rucker, Fred Wesley, and Cyrus Chestnut to name a few. Outside of music and entertainment, he and his wife, MaryJo, are the proud parents of Shalamar and D'Marcus, as well as their pets...Sassy, Jango, Mojo, Kota Bear, Pumpkin, and Ginger.
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CITATIONS

- https://www.ebonycitysoccerclub.com/