

EDUCATION
WORKSHOP

RAISING THE VOLUME

with Dr. William Melvin Brown

Raising the
Volume

Episode XX

*Dr. Brown discusses
gentrification,
equality advocacy,
and community
outreach.*

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Sixth Grade and Up



CORE SUBJECTS AND 21ST CENTURY THEMES

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.

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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 XX, 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 XX.

Raising the Volume

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EPISODE XX



(CLICK THE IMAGE TO WATCH EPISODE XX)

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LESSONS

Dr. William Brown discusses how he was born and raised in Hampton Park Terrace, also known as the Historic Westside Charleston, and how different it is now compared to when he was a child. He mentions the word ***gentrification***. Gentrification is “the process whereby the character of a poor urban area is changed by wealthier people moving in, improving housing, and attracting new businesses, typically displacing current inhabitants in the process.”¹ **Let’s discuss the definition of gentrification. In your opinion, how does this impact neighborhoods?**

Racial discrimination against African Americans dates back to the early 1600s. Even after 400+ years and many laws later, there is still unfortunately acts of racial discrimination — even in Charleston. Dr. William Brown articulates about the time he applied to become a member of the Charleston Rifle Club and was denied based on his race. Unbelievably, African Americans still suffer from racial discrimination in the twenty-first century. [Read the New York Times article here.](#)

Dr. William Brown and his friend, Dr. Andrew Savage, spoke out about the incident and made the news widespread. Both men talked about experiences with racism and the need for change, not only in a professional setting, but in all of Charleston. Dr. William Brown also mentions the lack of minorities and women in higher elected positions. **Have you or a friend ever experienced discrimination? What could you do to advocate for equality in your school and community?**

There are multiple community projects you can be involved in. Currently, Dr. Brown is participating in Troy McClain’s Brothers and Blazers initiative and Kimberlyn Davis’ proposed memorial for the Emanuel Nine. **With a partner, research some current community programs or singular outreach that you could participate in. Is there a community project that you want to initiate?**

[Click here to view the Troy T. McClain Gallery.](#)

[Click here for the *Post and Courier* article about the Emanuel Nine Memorial.](#)

1. Oxford English Dictionary, 3rd ed., s.v. “gentrification (n.)” last modified March 2021, <https://www.oed.com/view/Entry/77696?redirectedFrom=gentrification#eid>.

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ABOUT DR. WILLIAM MELVIN BROWN



Dr. Brown, a native Charlestonian, was elected to the MUSC Board of Trustees in 2018 as the medical profession representative from the Sixth Congressional District.

Dr. Brown is a 1991 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and after years of service and two sea tours in the Navy, he returned to Charleston to teach Naval Science at The Citadel. While at The Citadel, he earned a master's degree in Education and Biology and then went on to graduate from the MUSC College of Medicine in 2002. After graduation, he returned to full active duty in the U.S. Navy as a physician. During his twenty years of service, Dr. Brown received the Navy Commendation Medal six times, the Navy Achievement Medal twice, a Presidential Citation, and two Battle Efficiency ribbons. Dr. Brown holds staff privileges at Trident Medical Center and the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston as well as the Lexington Medical Center in

Columbia. He is an active member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and the Owls Whist Club. He sits on the executive boards of the Star Gospel Mission and YESCarolina. Dr. Brown and his wife, Deborah, have two children, Gabriel and Lillian.

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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 an 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 2019 Grammy Award for "Best Regional Roots Album". Ranky Tanky was also recognized and honored with a resolution by the South Carolina House of Representatives for their achievements in the music industry. In 2021, Charlton was the recipient of the SC Governor's Award, which honors arts organizations, patrons, artists, members of the business community, and government entities who maximize their roles as innovators, supporters, and advocates for the arts. It is the highest individual honor for the arts in the state of South Carolina.

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 the most talented entertainers in the world, including Bobby McFerrin, Ruby Dee, 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, D'Marcus, and K'Leb, as well as their pets...Sassy, Jango, Mojo, Pumpkin, and Ginger.

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