

00;00;15;22 – 00;00;40;15

Speaker 1

Greetings, everyone. I'm Dr. De Bill Williams. I'm the professional development director for Engage in Creative Minds. We are a nonprofit organization in Charleston, South Carolina, where we assist teachers and students in South Carolina, K-12 schools with arts, integrated teaching and learning. And today, I want to welcome you to our first segment of our session entitled Voices on Cloth.

00;00;40;37 – 00;00;58;16

Speaker 1

I have an amazing artist that I want to introduce you to today. Her name is Miss Peggy Hartwell. She's a quilting storyteller from Charleston, Summerville area. And she's going to tell you all about her background and the amazing start that she had with quilting. Miss Peggy, do you want to tell the audience who you are?

00;00;58;30 – 00;01;11;47

Speaker 2

Yes. I am a historic quilt artist and I use story quilts to teach children how to have their voice on cloth and how to create them using the colors as parts of speak.

00;01;12;45 – 00;01;29;33

Speaker 1

Awesome. So as we dove in, Miss Peggy, we want to first find out about the amazing work that you've done. But, you know, we know that before we see the final product, something has to start from somewhere. So tell us a little bit about how you got started with quilting.

00;01;30;00 – 00;01;51;48

Speaker 2

I was introduced to making through the women in my family. They all made quilts, but using remnants from clothing that were not good in their lot to wear. So they would take these strips and force them into pieces of triangles, and they would make quilts that way. They were not story quotes, but they were usable for the bed.

00;01;52;11 – 00;02;16;06

Speaker 1

Awesome. Awesome. And I have to say, Ms.. Peggy, that that reminds me of my upbringing because my grandmother was a quilter as well. And that's the exact same process that they use all scraps from clothing to make quilts. And, you know, it kept us warm. And so. Exactly. So how can teachers in the classroom like use quilting to increase student performance?

00;02;16;07 – 00;02;17;40

Speaker 1

What can they learn from quilting?

00;02;18;48 - 00;02;37;57

Speaker 2

Children have a very unique way of seeing colors that we don't see and cloth. And if given a piece of scraps or bag full of scraps, they have a way of arranging them and colors that we wouldn't even think to do for them. If a natural, I think it's a natural development for them.

00;02;38;15 - 00;02;59;55

Speaker 1

Awesome. I love that. And especially as we talk about development, you know that through the formative eight years of education like that, pre-K through third grade, you know, they're learning colors. They learn how to match colors, you know, what colors make sense or what they like. And so quilting is just so freeform that they're able to just flow and just their authentic creativity.

00;03;00;57 - 00;03;15;04

Speaker 1

With that being said, and you talked about children just having this imagination that we just don't think about as adults. Why do you think it's so important to give them an opportunity to learn about sharing stories through quilting?

00;03;15;54 - 00;03;40;54

Speaker 2

Because sometimes they will see various colors that they could use and a piece and they would use that depending upon how they feel. We would see it as just a piece of fabric, but children would see it as a connection because their connection to fabric was first and that blanket that they were in. So that that's the good start for them, that working with fabric.

00;03;40;56 - 00;04;03;16

Speaker 1

That is awesome. And your pieces are very unique. Ms.. Peggy because like you said, your origin started with, you know, seeing the women in your family use scraps from clothing, creating quilts. But your quilts are unique because they tell stories. How did you come up with this type of framework for making quilts that tell stories?

00;04;03;50 - 00;04;24;04

Speaker 2

Because I still wanted to be connected to my family through my art, and I wanted to pass that on into story quotes. If I were going to teach it to children or adults. And so that connection just it was a line that started way back before I even knew that I was going to quote. It started with my covering with the quote.

00;04;24;33 - 00;04;44;36

Speaker 1

Awesome. That's amazing. I love to hear stories. I love to hear people's background about how they got started with quilting and it's so perfect that, you know, you're taught we're talking about children because we don't only want to show them what to do, but also talk about the importance of why we should do it. So how can parents get their children involved with quilting?

00;04;44;36 – 00;04;45;22

Speaker 1

Even at home?

00;04;46;32 – 00;05;11;38

Speaker 2

They could look and see if there's a local quilting group in that neighborhood and inquire if they teach children. That's one way, or the child or the parent could be very adventurous and take it on as a child mother activity. And there are books, there are videos and it's quite doable, you know, that the children are not going to start sewing right away.

00;05;11;38 – 00;05;17;39

Speaker 2

So they would use paste or goose stick to form a picture. So that would be a good start.

00;05;17;54 – 00;05;37;33

Speaker 1

That is awesome. And teachers, as you are watching, quilting can be used in all content areas. And some of the examples that Ms.. Peggy just gave you can actually use in the classroom, whether it's on a sheet of paper or a poster board, whatever, just to get the students and parents getting your children interested in quilting and the importance of that work.

00;05;37;55 – 00;06;00;15

Speaker 1

Peggy, you talked about your family and that pretty much being like the basis of how you got started. That's your background, your foundation. You have this beautiful work of art here in the studio that you work on that tells a story about the storm and about remembering, you know, the history of your family. Can you share that piece with the audience and then tell us a little bit about that fabric?

00;06;00;15 – 00;06;04;27

Speaker 1

You can, you know, go and share and point out some of the particular pieces of the fabric.

00;06;05;08 – 00;06;30;53

Speaker 2

This piece is called Storm in the Hallway, because whenever there was a storm, my grandmother would gather us all up and we would go and sit in the hallway because it didn't have any windows. So I used this blue fabric because I didn't want to use black fabric. But we're all sitting here and we're singing in church songs, and that's why I have the angels in the background, because we were singing church songs and this figure represents my grandmother.

00;06;31;11 – 00;06;54;15

Speaker 2

And I always found solace in her and her lap because the thunder was so loud that the house would shake and you would see all the lightning from under the cracks of the wall and the floor. And so we're all sitting there singing, waiting out a storm that probably was no more than 3 hours, but it felt like three years because I was so afraid.

00;06;54;51 – 00;07;14;17

Speaker 2

But I found comfort there. And this is the outside representing the lightning. And you can't see that is swirling around representing the wind. And these lines come here represents the lightning and also the lightning here around here.

00;07;15;16 – 00;07;38;30

Speaker 1

Awesome. That is so amazing. This Peggy, that is a beautiful piece of work. Ladies and gentlemen, if you are watching this, you can see here that Miss Peggy is truly a quilting storyteller, as you see, as she shared about her family, her background, she not only talked about, you know, where she learned quilting, but also how you can utilize it at home and in the classroom.

00;07;38;44 – 00;08;02;54

Speaker 1

So for this segment of voices on cloth, it is important to know that these are not just opportunities that you're hearing about, but this is something that you can do as well. So we just want to share that with you. Again, this has been our segment, our first segment of Voices on Cloth. I'm Dr. Debo Williams, and I've enjoyed having a miss Peggy Hartwell, one of our engaging creative minds teaching artists here with us today.

00;08;03;01 – 00;08;06;35

Speaker 1

Thank you so very much for watching. And stay tuned for Session two.