

00;00;14;28 - 00;00;44;14

Speaker 1

Greetings, everyone. I'm Dr. Bill Williams, professional development director for Engage in Creative Minds. And welcome to Session two of our segment of Voices on Cloth. I would like to introduce you to our amazing quilting storytelling artist, Ms.. Peggy Hartwell. And today's topic, we're going to talk about the quilt of consciousness. Miss Peggy, can you tell us about the quilt of consciousness project and your role?

00;00;44;14 - 00;01;17;12

Speaker 2

I Am the Crow of Conscience is a program that's dedicated to recording the lives of immigrants who have come to this country from another country. In this case, it's Sudanese young girls. And this is a quilt that reflects their plight from their country to Nebraska. We met and worked with high school children there and we taught them to quote and they made two blocks, one from where they came from.

00;01;17;12 - 00;01;46;14

Speaker 2

And this one is representing Sudan. And the other block was what they wanted to do from this country. So I use colors and to show the colors of their countries and the trees and the animals from that. And over here is a block that they made which really represents our country. And the alphabet here shows that all of the children wanted to come and get an education from this country.

00;01;47;04 - 00;02;07;21

Speaker 1

This is amazing. This is an amazing piece of work. The quilt of consciousness, I know is a work that just brings awareness to the importance of education and equity in education. And as you were working on this project, are there any other projects that you were working on and if so, what were the outcomes of those projects?

00;02;08;02 - 00;02;36;02

Speaker 2

It was really just this quote of conscience and my own work, which is bringing awareness to African American pioneers who have paved the way for us and just this one is also not a quote of conscience, but is this is Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who recently passed and this is in celebration of his life and what he has done for his country.

00;02;36;02 - 00;03;12;15

Speaker 2

This is a quilt of conscience. I met this little girl in South Africa as she was suffering from malnutrition and she had this swollen stomach and the copper here, which is an indication of lack of certain vitamins. And I made her in color because hunger is so blatant. It's

in your face, especially for young children. And everything else becomes black and white, because for a hungry show, the only thing that she is concerned about is food for her stomach and she can't see anything else, even though it might be colorful to her.

00;03;12;15 – 00;03;15;02

Speaker 2

For me, it would be only in black and white.

00;03;15;21 – 00;03;40;21

Speaker 1

That's amazing. As you all are listening to Miss Piggy, sharing these amazing experiences with the quote of consciousness and bringing awareness to sometimes a plight within our society, it is important for us to always be aware of what others are experiencing. And she has used her tool of quilting to reflect on some of the unfortunate ills in our society.

00;03;41;14 – 00;03;54;04

Speaker 1

Miss Peggy, tell us about how teachers can actually use the quote of consciousness like the framework and the thought process to teach social justice, equity and cultural appreciation in schools.

00;03;55;00 – 00;04;29;05

Speaker 2

From the newspapers and what they read in there. I should imagine. Social study books. You could take one subject. It could be child hunger or homelessness and focus on those two to create a quote of conscience program where they can just create a child or create a situation that reflects on that subject. And I find that children or even in middle school and high school, they are very aware of what's going on.

00;04;29;06 – 00;04;31;25

Speaker 2

They might not speak about it, but they are aware of it.

00;04;32;08 – 00;04;58;09

Speaker 1

Absolutely. And I think that now in our society that our children can't get away from knowing what's happening in the world, in the age of social media, you know, and you know, we were at home at one point in time during a global shutdown, trying to learn and trying to experience education through virtual formats. And so we are looking at so many different creative ways to have children's voices actually come to the table.

00;04;58;09 – 00;05;22;08

Speaker 1

And quilting is a great way to engage children and their ideas because as Miss Piggy shared in our first session there, they are enamored with the colors and what they can do with the colors, but they also are enamored and excited to share their own ideas. And that can be done through the quilting as well. Tell us about the featured piece that you had in The New York Times.

00;05;22;08 – 00;05;32;26

Speaker 1

That is an amazing piece. It was the George Floyd piece in The New York Times. Tell us, like how you came up with that. And then what would what was that experience like being featured in New York Times?

00;05;33;18 – 00;05;54;19

Speaker 2

I belong to a group called the Women of Color Quilters Network, and it was part of an exhibition that was given by the Kalamazoo Women. That was truly the hardest piece for me to do. And I found myself crying as I was making it and caressing her face. So that is also a quilt of conscience for this man.

00;05;54;24 – 00;06;21;23

Speaker 2

And I put his mother and the piece because he was calling his mother. She is within the branches of the part of the tree and he was speaking to her. So it was for me, how can I say it? But for me it was, I don't know, it was hard to explain that working on that and I don't know if I would have chosen to do it, but I wanted to do it and I had to do it.

00;06;21;23 – 00;06;37;09

Speaker 2

So I used a lot of black and white in that picture. Also, you have the black and white brick in the back and the black and white on the right side of the quilt where the air is, where you could not get the air is there in the trees.

00;06;38;11 – 00;06;59;11

Speaker 1

That is a phenomenal piece. You all should be able to see it on screen as we are watching. It is, of course, we know that it was a flash point in our country as it relates to you know, social injustices of being aware of what's happening in our society, in specific communities. And again, the quilt of conscious is an amazing framework.

00;06;59;11 – 00;07;24;26

Speaker 1

It's an amazing set of pieces that Ms.. Hartwell has worked on to show that there are different ways that we can approach teaching. The

lesson in the classroom. It does not always have to be of video or other parts of the arts, but quilting as a form of art can also be included as a teaching tool, even when it comes to tough subjects, such as dealing with some of the concerns in our society.

00;07;24;26 - 00;07;48;10

Speaker 1

And so she has shown you how to do that. And some of the emotional experiences that comes out of that as it relates to really getting in the mindset of connecting to our communities, all various aspects of our communities, and the importance of understand everyone's walk, no matter what background, no matter what race, religion, where they come from.

00;07;48;13 - 00;08;23;25

Speaker 1

The quilt of conscious gives us the ability to talk about being conscious of our fellow mankind, all of those that are around us, and also how can we serve and how can we help to be a safe space? How can we help to actually make our society better? So Ms.. Peggy, this has been an awesome session as you delve into the quilt of consciousness during this segment of voices on cloth and those of you who are watching, I hope that you're able to hear these voices that are coming from the cloth.

00;08;24;03 - 00;08;47;07

Speaker 1

As and as Peggy has detailed the amazing work with her quilt. Stay tuned as we prepare for Session three as Miss Peggy is going to come back and she's going to show you how she's been able to do these amazing pieces. You're going to actually be able to see her in action. Thank you so much for watching. Again, this has been session two of voices on cloth and we will see you next time.