PotLuck Griots
Visual Arts
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Potluck Griots is a small group of teachers, historians, and artists who share a collective belief that our schools and communities are being short-changed when it comes to the history of this great nation and the impact that art has on our neighborhoods, communities, cities, and state. Potluck Griot is dedicated to constructing a bridge between people and history through meaningful discourse and thoughtful examination of our history through storytelling and the arts. The stories come from the participants as they investigate and share their personal histories. Potluck Griots know that the arts supply a safe vehicle to a destination of greater understanding.

Gene Hughes leads PotLuck Griots. He is a self-taught portrait artist and illustrator. He works to use art to expose the truths about diversity and equity in America. He was selected as the official artist of the Middle Passage Voyage of 1999, producing murals in Senegal about the route the ships took in the slave trade traveling from Africa to America. Hughes has been teaching art since 1975 and is currently working with veterans at VA Sierra Nevada Health Care Systems.

Tina Drakulich taught art in public schools and communities for 27 years. During her career, she has taught printmaking, papermaking, and origami. She maintains a continual, personal art practice with the mediums of fiber, graphic design, and community arts collaborations that bring light to current issues such as social justice, equity, mental health, and violence prevention. Drakulich guides her body of work with the belief that “Art is my native language. Art is where I go in times of need, and it is what I must share with my community.”

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