

APOLLO

Women

PERFORMANCE



ACTIVISM

CELEBRATING THE LIVES  
OF MUSICAL FOREMOTHERS

• Abimbola  
Cole Kai-Lewis, Ph.D.

• DJ LiKWUd

“ I’m a phenomenal woman,

I’m a woman phenomenally,

Phenomenal woman, that’s me.” ~ MAYA ANGELOU

“ Kitchen tables were a place to partake in meals and achieve coiffed hairstyles ”

# A SEAT AT THE TABLE

## COMING TOGETHER

A BLACK TRADITION  
AT THE KITCHEN TABLE  
THE BLACK GIRLS LITERACY COLLECTIVE



CELEBRATING THE LIVES  
OF

### LaBelle

Patti Labelle, Nona Hendrix + Sarah Dash

AND  
Nina Simone

PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

VIRTUAL KITCHEN TABLE

engage in timely discussions

A PLACE OF  
**empowerment**  
**HEALING**  
**liberation**

**Blues =**  
RADICAL  
POSSIBILITIES

# REIMAGINE

# OUR WORK

LESSONS

UNITS

## Strength

IN  
**intersectionality**

CURRICULA



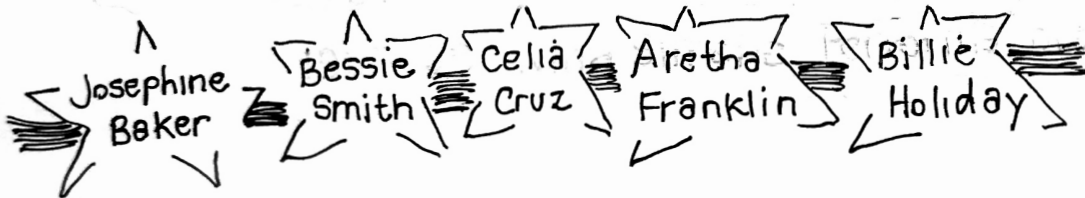
A CATALYST  
FOR THE  
civil rights  
MOVEMENT

THE ROLE OF THE

# - APOLLO -

A STAGE FOR

## CULTURE + POLITICS

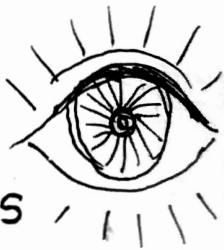


**LABELLE** - politics, revolution, liberation

**NINA SIMONE** - civil rights, vietnam, race relations

### Artivism

— OFFERING —  
an alternative  
corrective lens



THE  
INTERSECTION  
OF  
ACTIVISM  
+ PERFORMANCE  
AS IT RELATES  
TO RACE  
+ GENDER

**DOCUMENTS**

**ASSERTS**

**EMPOWERS**

Reflecting  
the  
times

IS THE DEFINITION  
OF AN ARTIST

~ Nina Simone

# — EXAMINING THE MUSIC —

## SYSTEM

LABELLE

A CALL TO SAY YOU CAN'T  
LEGISLATE HUMAN BEHAVIOR

WRITTEN IN 1976, REMAINED  
UNRELEASED UNTIL 2008

“AND THIS SYSTEM IS KILLING ME”

linking together origin

Talking  
about what is ugly

**POWERFUL**

TO RISKY FOR THE RECORD COMPANY IN THE 70'S

## YOUNG, GIFTED + BLACK

- 1969 -

- young + gifted was overlooked  
because a student is black

NINA SIMONE  
raises up the affirmation

like a mantra

WHAT  
CAN WE  
LEARN

FROM THEIR SONGS?

?

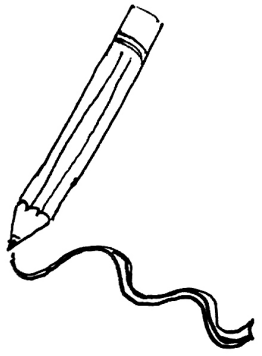
“TO BE YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK IS WHERE IT'S AT”

# AFFIRMATION

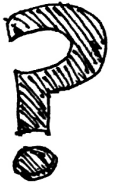


# HOW

TO INCORPORATE INTO THE CLASSROOM



- ☀ create a timeline leading up to lyrics
- ☀ WHAT LED TO THESE LYRICS?
- ☀ connecting politics → pop culture



# WHEN

- focus around protests or political movements

## QUESTIONS FOR STUDENT:

- ▶ How do I fit into this picture?
- ▶ How can I use my privilege to communicate it?

# FIND THE WHY

THE THEME  
 -----  
 YOUR WHY  
 -----  
 MEANING  
 -----

- Personal Timeline
  - Four words
  - Poem as a letter
  - Poem as content share
- share it with city leadership  
 create infographics to post on social media

# REFLECT

WHAT MADE THE ARTIST IMPORTANT?  
HOW DID THEIR MUSIC RESONATE?

# IMAGES

# MUSIC + LYRICS



HOW TO BRIDGE  
THE GENERATION

GAP: RECOGNIZING  
THE PIONEERING  
ARTISTS FROM  
THE PAST



Who is the artist like today?

CREATE THE LINK  
BETWEEN PAST + PRESENT

How are they connected?

make connections

ARTISTS AS STORY TELLERS

trail blazers

~ INCORPORATE ~

scope of generations

A LONG LINE  
OF  
GREATNESS

AVOID  
ERASURE

