

What is S.O.C.A.?

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Our mission is to educate our community about the culture, values, heritage, and experiences of students of color.



Mekhi and Naomi here, coming to you “live” from Westtown! We are here to share some of the work of S.O.C.A. and why our organization matters.

S.O.C.A. (Students of Color Association) is a student-run organization for students of color (as well as others in the community) who are interested in and want to learn about the issues of people of color in the nation or in the world. Our mission is to educate our community about the culture, values, heritage, and experiences of students of color. We hold discussions which reflect current event topics within and outside of the school setting. The club also hosts and plans events around various ethnic celebrations and observances. These include Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month. S.O.C.A. also organizes smaller events, such as dances and fundraisers.

Westtown is a school that is very diverse compared to many areas of life as a whole, but there is an evident lack of color in the community. As a result, the students of color tend to cluster together in an effort to become included and a part of the community. This in itself is a challenge, but our presence is certainly welcomed, and Westtown’s community is much more welcoming than prior schools each of us has attended. The sense of unity is a big part of our day-to-day lives here; this is not found in many other places. Because of the small size of the school, students are able to interact with more people and develop intimate relationships.

As a Quaker community, Westtown does provide a safe place for self-expression. We are encouraged to be ourselves and get outside of our comfort zone. Just like any other school or community,

there is naiveté to certain concepts, but Westtown does its best to educate its students and faculty about concepts that affect us all, such as race, gender, and religion.

Diversity is important in education because with diversity come various ideas and opinions. A diverse classroom provides more information for each student to consider. Discussions become a melting pot of various ideas, out of which solutions can arise. Throughout the years, following current events, there have been instances in which classes are devoted to discussions that revolve around race and culture. These classes are often in the English and history departments, but other teachers have done so as well.

As students at Westtown, we learn many, many things. Peace & Justice is a history course, unique to Westtown, which not only encompasses history but also acts as an introduction to Westtown. A number of important lessons and topics can be derived from this class. Specifically, we have been able to learn about privilege beyond our own experience. This part of our lives has existed throughout history and continues to exist, and being able to learn about this at Westtown has helped broaden our horizons to the world outside of Westtown.

Members of S.O.C.A. hold meetings, send out surveys, and host presentations and speakers from outside of school who bring different perspectives about issues of race and identity to the community. This allows minorities to come together and uniformly present themselves and associate with each other in a community that is not of their majority. Students involved are encouraged to work towards change. 

