



Impact Statement

Samantha Robles, Grade 11

The Doctor of Justice, 2026

Marker, pen on paper, 22 x 16 inches

La Salle College Preparatory, Pasadena, CA

Unsung Hero: Dr. Charles Drew

The Unsung Hero I was inspired to choose is Dr. Charles Drew. I have decided to base my project on him because of his strong passion for medical innovation and progress, and for being politically active and caring with compassion for his African American community. Essentially, Dr. Charles Drew's relentless zeal for racial equality greatly catalyzed his push for the inclusion of Black Americans in the war effort of World War II to donate blood plasma across nations and to allied countries.

Dr Charles Drew lived during a time before the civil rights movement, thus he and his African American community faced discrimination and segregation as an African Americans. The major issue that Dr Charles Drew addressed during that time was the prohibition of African Americans from participating in the war effort to donate blood across the globe during World War II. Dr. Charles Drew was a pioneering African American surgeon and medical researcher who revolutionized medicine by developing effective techniques for storing and exporting blood plasma during the war effort. In addition, he worked with the NAACP to fight against the racist policies of the Red Cross that prohibited African Americans from donating blood. Eventually, his push for equality led to the allowance of African Americans to donate blood, however their blood donations were segregated from white blood donors.

Through my artwork, I highlighted his essential role as a revolutionary hero who fought for the inclusion of people of color into the war effort to help save lives across the nation by donating their blood plasma. To present his role as a heroic figure, I decided to picture him in the center of the artwork with his fist up next to the red cross symbol. I used ink and alcohol markers to bring the artwork out to pop. I did this to bring out the mood of social justice and accomplishment, while additionally creating a sense of unity throughout the artwork. I incorporated this by having each person in the artwork raise up their fist to symbolize justice and equality, while blood is being drawn from them to recognize Dr. Charles Drew's revolutionary blood plasma donation, and his push for racial inclusion within the medical war effort. Additionally, I added an American flag to represent his contribution to the nation medically, and socially.

Through my creative work and art, I intend to illuminate the vital, historical contributions that people of color have made to medical science, shedding light on narratives that have been largely obscured. My goal is to use this art to educate, challenge prejudices, and ignite a spark in others to become active advocates for social progress. By merging my passion for clinical

excellence with the spirit of activism, I hope to inspire the next generation to be relentless innovators who prioritize both health and justice, ensuring that every life receives the care and dignity it deserves.