

Facilitating a community meeting, 2005.

their voices, tell their stories, and claim their own histories.

Over the past three years, EPACA's main accomplishments include:

- Completing 200+ oral histories and acquiring several thousand artifacts that are accessible on our website.
- Developing social media tools, including a website, two documentaries, 3 mobile exhibits, and a variety of collaterals.
- Implementing programs in four key areas to engage and empower our community:
 1. Historical preservation (oral histories and artifacts)
 2. Reclaiming Our Narrative (social media messages/tools)
 3. Culture Keepers (youth development)
 4. Legacy to Destiny (collectively imagining and taking action to shape the future).
- Sponsoring numerous community events that both educate and connect community residents.
- Playing a leadership role in planning and implementing the annual birthday celebration of the City of East Palo Alto.
- Forming strong partnerships with local govern mental agencies, school districts, libraries, and nonprofit organizations.

TS:

What drives you and motivates you each day to do this work?

Dr. Omo: The two things that drive me are my guiding philosophy (institution-building) and my personal motto (honor the work).

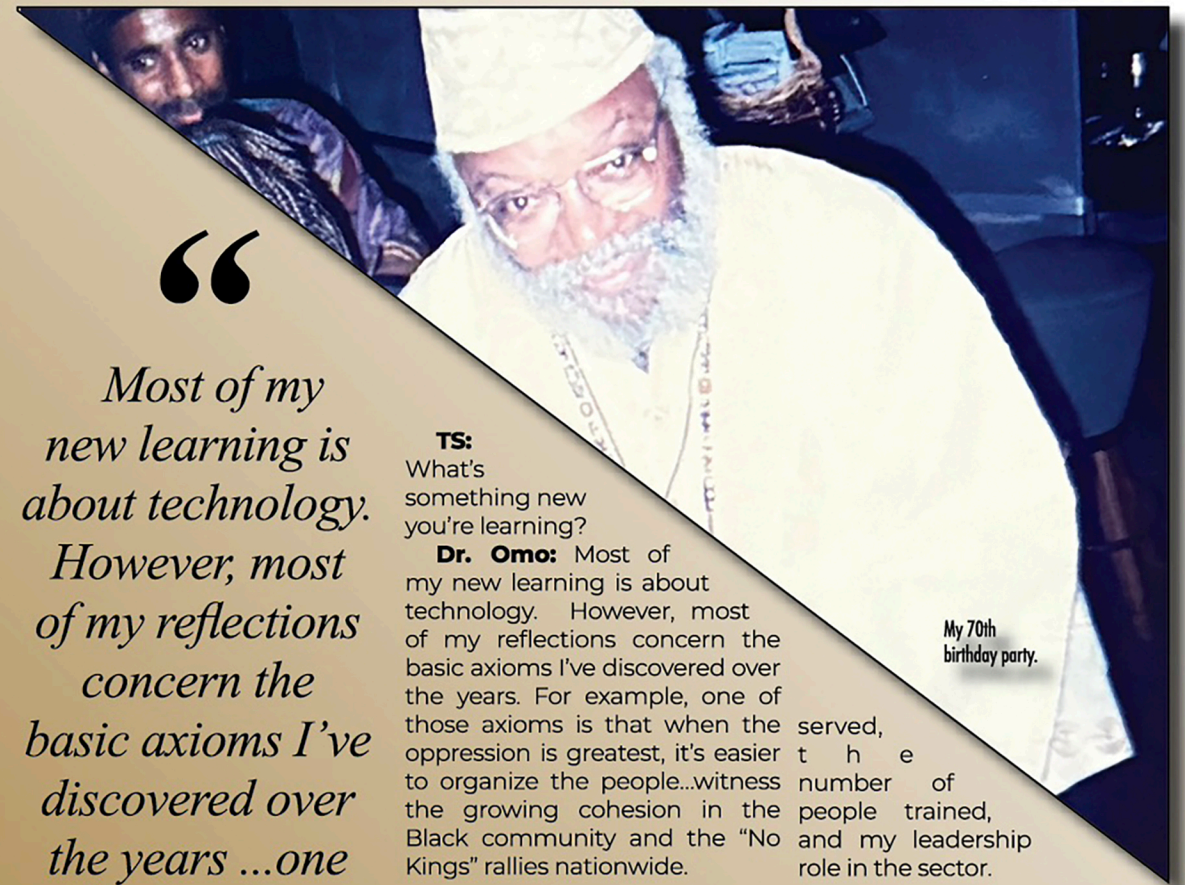
TS: What's a project you're currently working on?

Dr. Omo: I co-founded and now chair the Board of Directors of the East Palo Alto Community Archive (EPACA). EPACA's mission is to collect, share, promote, celebrate and preserve the unique history of the East Palo Alto Community for future generations.

A community archive is a heritage center where historical information about a community is collected, organized, displayed, and preserved by community members. Community archiving is an important way for communities of color to lift up

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During my career, I helped transform an elite university, created the inaugural Black Studies program at a renowned liberal arts college, founded (with others) a new city, served about 1300 community organizations in 120+ cities, and played a role in changing the nonprofit consulting field.”



My 70th birthday party.

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TS:

What's something new you're learning?

Dr. Omo: Most of my new learning is about technology. However, most of my reflections concern the basic axioms I've discovered over the years. For example, one of those axioms is that when the oppression is greatest, it's easier to organize the people...witness the growing cohesion in the Black community and the "No Kings" rallies nationwide.

TS: What are your short and long-term goals?

Dr. Omo: My short-term goal is to develop a network of Afrocentric community spaces that serve Black children and youth (which is the vision of the Nairobi Renaissance Community Education Program).

My long-term goal is to re-empower the Black community in East Palo Alto, whose population has decreased from 70% to about 12% today.

TS: What has surprised you about life? In other words, what happened that you didn't expect?

Dr. Omo: I didn't expect to do the things that I accomplished in the non-profit consulting field... the number of organizations

served, the number of people trained, and my leadership role in the sector.

TS: If money were no object, what would you be doing professionally?

Dr. Omo: I would work as a nonprofit consultant in communities of color and "honor the work" along the way... in other words, no major change in what I would do or how I would do it.

TS: What does having SOUL mean to you?

Dr. Omo: Being of, by, and for Black people... of the people (reflecting the soul of the people)...by the people (walking arm in arm with the people) and for the people (advancing the cause of the people)

On behalf of The SoulTown Tribe, we thank Dr. Omowale Satterwhite for having SOUL! 🙏