

PROPOSAL

TO: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

FROM: MR. DAVALIN CHARLES BENNETT, #DX-9353

DATE: FEBRUARY 225, 2013

RE: HIP-HOP CURRICULUM?EVENT

INTRODUCTION

HIP-HOP IS A UNIVERSAL RECOGNIZED "ART FORM" PERFORMED BY ALL  
RACES, CULTURES, AND ETHNICITIES.

IT IS WELL OVER 40 YEARS OLD AND HAS EVEN BEEN EMBRACED WITH CERTAIN RELIGIONS (CHURCH) TO HELP EXPRESS THEIR WORSHIP THROUGH THIS SPECIFIC ART FORM.

ALTHOUGH DIFFERENT MEDIA OUTLETS VIEW HOW A PREDOMINATE YOUNG GENERATION PARTICIPATES IN THIS GENRE INTERTWINING IT WITH OTHER ENTITIES. SINCE SUCH A 'ATR' FORM IS MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF AGE; THEN IT AUTOMATICALLY INCLUDES INDIVIDUALS IN THE RIPE AGE OF 60 also.

THEREFORE, IT WILL ENDEAVOR TO MEET A DIVERSE AUDIENCE.

MOREOVER, AS HIP-HOP IS CONSIDERED A "ART" FORM THEN IT CLASSICALLY AND ACADEMICALLY DEFINES ITSELF AS A SECTION OF A COLLEGE.

COLLEGE: A SCHOOL OF HIGHER LEARNING THAT GRANTS THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN LIBERAL ARTS OR SCIENCE OR BOTH.

IN RIGHT, LAW AND A CULTURAL DESIRE TO NOT ONLY PRESERVE ONES WAY OF LIFE AND TO FURTHER ILLUMINATE OTHERS OF THIS PARTICULAR ART FORM IT IS MERELY NATURAL TO ESTABLISH A PREMISE TO TEACH HIP-HOP REGULARLY.

EDUCATION IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT PROTECTED BY THE 14th AMEND.  
OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, UNDER THE "EQUAL PROTECTION  
CLAUSE:

"Fundamental rights" generally refers to  
those constitutional rights as having  
value so essential to individual  
liberty that their infringement warrants  
"strict scrutiny" by the courts

SEE CITY OF CLEBURNE, 473 U.S. AT 440.

VIRTUALLY, HIP-HOP HAS FORGED ITS WAY INTO CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS AS A CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC OF THE CONTENTS IT CONTAINS. ANY ART FORM THAT DISCOVERS ITS WAY IN A UPPER ECHELON SETTING SHOULD CERTAINLY DEMAND CONTINUAL STUDY OF ITS DERIVATIVES AND ITS PLACES AND/OR PURPOSE IN SOCIETIES FORUMS.

NEVERTHELESS, EVEN OUR AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAS ASSERTED THAT HE HAS ONE OF THE "LEAD" RAP MUSIC ARTIST'S CDS WITHIN HIS CAR (JAY-Z) MOST NOTABLY NONE AS "SHAWN CARTER". THIS 'PROUD' STATEMENT WAS SAID DURING HIS CAMPAIGNING FOR THE "FIRST" PRESIDENTIAL TERM IN OFFICE.

THIS PLATFORM COULD BECOME NOT SOLELY A AVENUE OPENER, BUT ALSO A WAY TO BRIDGE THE GAPS BETWEEN 'YOUTH' AND 'ELDERS' SEEKING TO FURTHER EDUCATE THEM WHICH IN RESULT WOULD INEVITABLY CEASE A MEASURE OF THE VIOLENCE AT SCI HOUTZDALE.

#### INITIATIVE:

CREATE A CLASS, GROUP, PANEL FOR THOSE INTERESTED ARTIST TO DISCUSS THE INS AND OUTS OF HIP-HOP.

ALSO BRING TO LIGHT THE SKILL, PREPARATION AND ORGANIZED AND WELL THOUGHT-OUT WAYS BARS, HOOKS, CHOREOGRAPHY, BEATS, ETC. ARE LEGITIMATELY LAID-OUT. THIS CATEGORIZING IT AS A BONAFIDE AND SINCERE PHENOMENAL ART.

#### OBJECTIVE:

BRING AWARENESS TO OBLIVIOUS INDIVIDUALS ABOUT THE "CREATNESS" OF HIP-HOP AND MOVE IN PARALLEL TO OTHERS ITS HISTORY AND/OR FOUNDATION WITHIN THE INSTITUTION AND IF BENEFICIAL FOR THE FACILITY ALIGNED WITH THOSE INTRIGUING SECTS WITHIN SOCIETY.

#### GOAL:

APPROVE FOR THE INTERESTED INMATES A CLASSROOM IN THE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING TO STUDY HIP-HOP MORE IN DEPTH AS A CURRICULUM. THIS WOULD ESTABLISH ITS ACADEMIC TITLE, BREAKING THE CLASSES DOWN TO 90 DAY SEMESTERS.

GRANTING ONCE A YEAR A EVENT WHERE HIP-HOP COULD BE EXPRESSED IN THE GYMNASIUM. PRACTICALLY MOLDING ITS "SOUNDNESS" INTO THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT. DURING THIS EVENT, FUNDED BY IGWF, REFRESHMENTS AND/OR SNACKS WILL BE ISSUED OR SERVED TO THE OVERALL ATTENDANCE.

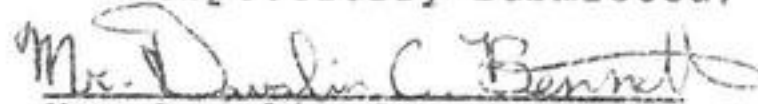
#### CONCLUSION:

WITH APPROVAL OF THIS SAID PROPOSAL; IT WOULD HELP TO FURTHER THE AGENDA OF THIS FACILITY AND THE DOC IN GENERAL OF ITS GOAL OF "REHABILITATION" AND EDUCATION, PREPARING INMATES TO BE PRODUCTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE FORCES WHILE ENTERING BACK INTO SOCIETY.

I HOPE AND PRAY THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS "GRANTED" BY THE 'HIGHER'

AUTHORITIES IN CHARGE IN CHARGE.

Respectfully Submitted,



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CC: File

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# THE 50 GREATEST HIP-HOP SONGS OF ALL TIME



**MESSAGE**  
Grandmaster Flash  
(front) and the  
Furious Five (Melle  
Mel, center)

## **1** The Message Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five

*The Message, 1982*

**T**he Message' was a total knock out of the park," says Chuck D. "It was the first dominant rap group with the most dominant MC saying something that meant something." It was also the first song to tell, with hip-hop's rhythmic and vocal force, the truth about modern inner-city life in America — you can hear its effect loud and clear on classic records by Jay-Z, Lil Wayne, N.W.A, the Notorious B.I.G. and even Rage Against the



2

# Rapper's Delight Sugarhill Gang

Non-album single, 1979

It took three guys from New Jersey to put hip-hop, a still-underground New York club phenomenon, on Top 40 radio for the first time. Three years before "The Message," Sylvia Robinson's Sugar Hill Records was facing bankruptcy when she made a discovery in a Harlem club. "She saw a DJ talking and the crowd responding," remembered her son Joey. "She said, 'Joey, wouldn't this be a great idea to make a rap record?'"

Robinson (who passed away in 2011) assembled the Sugarhill Gang - Joey discovered Henry "Big Bank Hank" Jackson working at a pizzeria, listening to an early hip-hop tape, and asked him if he knew how to rap. The original 12-inch single, "Rapper's Delight," was 15 minutes of undeniable urban-playboy bragging - some of it "borrowed" from Grandmaster Caz of the Cold Crush Brothers - over a rhythm track that blatantly quoted the bass line in Chic's 1979 hit "Good Times." Bassist Chip Shearin had to play that lick for a quarter-hour. "We were sweating bullets because that's a long



**NOT A TEST**  
Wonder Mike,  
Big Bank Hank  
and Master  
Gee (from left)  
in 1980

time," he said. (Shearin, then 17, was paid \$70. Chic's Nile Rodgers and Bernard Edwards did much better, getting writer credits after legal action.)

"Rapper's Delight" was edited down to six and a half minutes and reached Number 36

on the pop charts, and suddenly rap was a viable genre for recorded music. Bronx hip-hop pioneers like Grandmaster Flash were shocked: When he first heard it on the air, he asked, "The Sugarhill who? Who are these people?"

## Planet Rock Afrika Bambaataa & the Soul Sonic Force

Non-album single, 1982

**3** "One of the most influential songs of everything," says Rick Rubin. "It changed the world." Helmed by 25-year-old Kevin "Afrika Bambaataa" Donovan, a reformed South Bronx gang-member-turned-punk-mystic-community-leader/DJ - with help from superstar producer-in-the-making Arthur Baker and keyboardist John Robie - this atom bomb interpolated parts of Kraftwerk's "Trans-Europe Express" and "Numbers," mating synth stabs with robotic MC chants ("Rock rock to the planet rock/Don't stop!") into a jam that got the world break-dancing. It introduced Roland 808 beats to hip-hop, for which acts from the Beasties to Kanye would be grateful. Even more important, it



Bambaataa  
in 1982

## HOW WE MADE THIS LIST

The editors of ROLLING STONE polled the following blue-ribbon panel of artists, record producers, industry professionals and music journalists.

### ARTISTS/ PRODUCERS

Busta Rhymes  
Big Boi *Outkast*  
Luther Campbell  
Chuck D  
*Public Enemy*  
Mike Diamond  
*Beastie Boys*  
Jermaine Dupri  
Adam Horovitz  
*Beastie Boys*

### Kurupt

Talib Kweli  
MC Lyte  
Tom Morello  
Q-Tip  
Questlove  
*The Roots*  
Nas  
Vernon Reid  
Boots Riley  
*The Coup*

### Pete Rock Rick Rubin

### JOURNALISTS/ MUSIC EXECUTIVES

James Bernard  
*former editor,*  
*"The Source"*  
Nathan Brackett  
*ROLLING STONE*  
Cortez Bryant  
*Bryant*  
*Management*

### Reginald Dennis *former* *editor, "The Source"*

Jon Dolan  
*ROLLING STONE*  
Will Hermes  
*ROLLING STONE*  
Christian Hoard  
*ROLLING STONE*  
Craig Kallman  
*Atlantic Records*  
Alan Light  
*journalist*

### Monica Herrera ROLLING STONE

Jonathan Ringen  
*ROLLING STONE*  
Jody Rosen  
*ROLLING STONE*  
Dante Ross  
*Warner Bros.*  
Rob Sheffield  
*ROLLING STONE*  
Simon Vozick-  
Levinson  
*ROLLING STONE*

coined the sonic language of electro, Detroit techno, free-style R&B, Miami bass, Brazilian favela funk - i.e., much of modern dance music. "At the time we barely considered it a rap record," says Rubin. "It was more about this new sound." Chuck D adds crunk music to the list of genres that "Rock" inspired: "It's as important as Willie Mitchell or Booker T. were to the Memphis scene. There hasn't been a song like it in hip-hop since."

# Arts and culture flame set to light up Chicago!

**G**et ready for a weekend of music, dance, culinary art, theatre, poetry, literature, visual art and more! The Ministry of Arts and Culture for the Nation of Islam is hosting its first national conference June 24-26 in Chicago. Themed "Current and NEW Artistic Trends," the conference will bring together creative hearts and minds from around the country for a weekend of cultural expression.

The three-day event will include a series of clinics, workshops, exhibitions, performances, networking events and evening engagements. The goal is to present new artistic and cultural development inspired by or in harmony with the teachings of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad under the direction of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan with activities for both adults and children, organizers say.

Khayriyah Muhammad and Farrad Muhammad, student co-coordinators for the Ministry of Arts and Culture at Mosque Maryam, headquarters for the Nation of Islam, are working with coordinators nationwide. What makes this conference unique is not solely

because it is the first one held by the ministry, they said.

"This is an opportunity for people to see something new and different, you know unlike attracts," says Farrad Muhammad. The conference will also serve as an opportunity to share the beauty of various genres within arts and culture, says Khayriyah Muhammad. "It's an opportunity for those who are young to see this is something that 'I can do' and it can be tasteful and it should not be something they believe they would have to give up," she adds.

Rapper Jasiri X, singer/songwriter Naimbi Muhammad, founder of Ray of Hope Center of the Arts Victoria Brady, Muhammad School of Music and United Schools of Survival are just a few artists scheduled to participate in weekend festivities, which include a culinary arts survival cooking competition pitting the F.O.I. against the M.G.T. in righteous competition.



R & B group Kindred The Family Soul, performing live, Sat. June 25th.

A performance by contemporary R&B, neo-soul, award-winning recording duo Kindred The Family Soul will highlight the Muhammad University of Islam banquet fundraiser, Sat., June 25.

All events take place at Muhammad University of Islam, 7351 South Stony Island Ave., Chicago, IL 60649. Registration fee for the conference is \$30 for those 18 and up. Tickets for Saturday's concert featuring Kindred The Family Soul are \$50 in advance, \$65 at the door. For more information on registration, tickets and hotels, visit [www.ministryofart-andculture.com](http://www.ministryofart-andculture.com) or call 1-866-363-9985.