



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Approved
Hip Hop Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the
Madison Arts Commission

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Wednesday April 17, 2013

2:30 p.m.

215 Martin Luther King Blvd Rm LL-130
(Madison Municipal Building)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS**

Present: Chris Taylor, Patty Elson, Kia Karlen, Anthony Brown Jr., Barb Schrank

Absent: Danez Taylor

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary O'Donnell is a City Staff from the Community Development Division. She spoke about CDD funds that go to neighborhood centers and afterschool programming through Centro Hispano, Urban League, and Freedom Inc. Most of those programs offer space or instruction for some aspect of the hip hop arts. B&G Club, Goodman, and Lussier all have recording studios. Goodman hosts hip hop artists for youth. They have been part of a number of dialogs about graffiti art and have helped support murals and permission walls. By Youth For Youth (United Way, City, Oscar Meyer & County put money in – 18 years). CDD has a youth board that allocates funding – murals and hip hop. They also offer a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Service Day & Youth Leadership Conference.

Karen Reece introduced herself in connection to the Madison Hip Hop Awards and the Urban Arts Community Network. She defined Hip Hop as an art. Hip Hop arts have struggled to gain a foothold. She advised the committee that although the vision for the subcommittee mentioned public safety being outside the scope of MAC, this subcommittee will need to address the public safety issue/perception if they will be successful in getting Hip-Hop accepted as an art form. Organize educational events for children and youth and adults.

F.Stone spoke in support of ensuring there are enough locations for Hip Hop that DJ's to be able to work in their field. F.Stone stated that he has held 20 parties with no incidents. He spoke of hosting one such party recently with 200 guests, performers in the middle of the crowd, and the guests enjoying themselves. The landlord had no complaint. He defined Hip Hop as a culture. It is a way of being.

Bob Wynn spoke in support of creating conditions in Madison where Hip Hop artists can make a living. He said that "this young man" (speaking of F.Stone) articulated why he is glad to see the committee formed. Hip Hop has been omitted in the main stream arts culture. It is a very real and substantial art form. Don't burry the term "hip hop" with "urban arts". Cross education and fusion are very important. We need to have a constructive conversation. "People are trying to generate revenue through their art. I would like to see Madison become a community where hip hop artists can make a living."

Also in attendance: **Rachel Lepak**, **ALRC** member and UW student government representative

4. Discussion – Goals and Intentions of the Hip-Hop Ad Hoc-Committee – Community Involvement – Who do we connect with in the community to partner with the Hip Hop Ad Hoc-Committee

The committee began a discussion of short term goals that will lead to their long term goal of encouraging and supporting the art of Hip Hop in Madison.

- 1) Conducting an assessment of current issues and concerns in Madison's Hip Hop Scene. What is the situation in Madison's hip hop scene right now. (Members of the committee and citizens in attendance identified several people they felt should be consulted in making this assessment: Mark Evans, Karen Reece; Wyatt Agard; Greg Doby; Joey Banks of the B&G Club; McCall Baily, DJ Pane; Maurice Peckly – Dr. B : MKE – Owned his own business for 30 years; Devon Det is Q's manager; Tony Reece; Opal Ellyse (Opal Unchained); Rebecca Barber; Kwabena Nixon
 - o What is the definition of Hip Hop (A culture of urban arts including: Break Dancing, graffiti, DJ. We definitely need to take a look at rap music in particular.)
 - o Who is part of the Hip Hop scene
 - o What venues host Hip Hop, particularly rap music
 - o What do the artists identify as issues to be addressed
 - o What ideas do artists have for addressing those issues
 - o Gather information from other cities who have dealt with similar issues (Chris Taylor will invite Milwaukee artists to address the sub-committee).
- 2) Supporting Hip Hop programs that are educational or offer an incentive for groups to collaborate or create fusion programming (ie. a string quartet featuring a DJ, or ballet with break dancing) through MAC grant program.
- 3) Communicating and publicizing grant resources to organizations that utilize hip hop
- 4) Advocating for the establishment a mayoral appointed commission comprised of a variety of stakeholders including educators, venue owners, promoters, police, etc.
- 5) Delivering a formal request to the Mayor's office to implement plan of MAC's Hip-Hop sub-committee.

5. Closing – Next Meeting Date/Time, Process for submitted future agenda items

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 4:30

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Schrant, seconded by Elson, to Adjourn at 3:45 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote/other.