

2/26/18

Task Force on Equity in Music and Entertainment

Core problem from resolution

Musicians and entertainers of color do not have equal access to performance opportunities in Madison. This is particularly true for performances at licensed, commercial venues and particularly true for Hip-Hop artists. This lack of equity leads to both artists and businesses losing money and citizens of color.

Symptoms/Causes identified on 12/18

1. Perception of Hip-Hop as dangerous
 - Inflammatory media coverage
2. For venues
 - Lack of
 - i. Variety
 - ii. Venues – not enough
 - iii. Locations
 - Economic factors
 - i. Need to fill venue, local artists often can't
 - ii. Not enough touring Hip-Hop artists to accommodate local artists as opening acts.
3. UW control vs. Community
4. Lack of understanding of Hip-Hop as a culture
 - Without this understanding, it's easier to write off
5. Racism

Draft Vision Statement (adapted from Toronto City Council Vision Statement on Access, Equity and Diversity, adopted April 2003 <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/accessibility-human-rights/equity-diversity-inclusion/>)

We believe all people have the right to **freedom of artistic expression** and **participation** and that there is great value in having an **equitable, well-rounded** cultural landscape in our increasingly **diverse** City. (What is the value in this?)

We recognize the right of all people to **create, appreciate, and celebrate** music and entertainment that speaks to their individual and collective identities.

We recognize the barriers that limit access to artists and audiences of **diverse** musical genres such as Hip Hop.

To address this, we believe the City must put structures and systems in place that ensure access to **safe** and **inclusive** environments. The City must call out systems, practices, and bias that perpetuate institutional, structural, and individual racism.

We believe Madison can be a music and entertainment hub, known for our **cultural vitality** that offers an enjoyable and welcoming environment for all our residents and guests of all ages.

