K-12 EDUCATOR HANDOUT

This Educator Handout is a resource to help students begin to learn more about Hip-Hop History using MoPOP's Online Hip-Hop Collection.

Educators, reading this handout, you will discover the background of our online collection and the work that went into its completion. We will also share a simple starter guide for navigating the online collection. Once you are comfortable finding your way through the collection, we have a handful of discussion-based activities you can utilize with your classrooms.

This handout is meant to introduce the collection and is a small start to all there is to learn about Hip-Hop. There are a lot of incredible Hip-Hop educator resources out there, and MoPOP encourages you to explore them! At the end of this handout is a list of resources our committee of scholars recommended for further research and engagement.

WHAT IS THE CLIR GRANT AND WHAT IS ONLINE HIP-HOP COLLECTION?

HOW DID THE ONLINE HIP-HOP COLLECTION HAPPEN?

In early 2021, MoPOP was awarded a Hidden Collections grant from the Council of Library and Information Resources (CLIR). This grant provides accessibility for the public, educators, and researchers to utilize and explore MoPOP's unique collection of early Hip-Hop materials.

Over 1,300 photographs, interviews, musical instruments, costumes, and other pop culture objects were digitized, cataloged, and uploaded to the MoPOP online portal via the eMuseum platform.

This two-year project encourages historical scholarship within Hip-Hop studies and history by giving researchers and the public access to previously inaccessible materials. This project will enable global access to materials documenting the origins of a musical and social movement that has defined modern culture and society.

WHY IS THE ONLINE HIP-HOP COLLECTION MEANINGFUL?
Written by Adeerya Johnson, MoPOP Associate Curator

Hip-Hop has had a significant cultural impact on music, fashion, dance, visual art, and social activism during the last century. Hip-Hop has always had a strong message of empowerment, social justice, and resiliency as a cultural movement originating from the experiences of Black and Latino communities. Through its various elements, including rapping, DJing, breaking, graffiti art, and knowledge, Hip-Hop has provided a platform for Black and Brown people to express their experiences and perspectives, share their stories, and resist social and political oppression.

Hip-Hop, which got its start in the South Bronx in the 1970s, spread to become an international phenomenon that still influences popular culture today. Given the immense influence and importance of Hip-Hop culture, it is critical that it be recognized and celebrated in museum spaces. Museums have the power to preserve and share cultural heritage, educate the public, and inspire creativity and innovation.

MoPOP
MUSEUM OF
POP CULTURE

The early Hip-Hop collection is a key component of MoPOP's permanent collection and represents an extensive history of Hip-Hop's beginning in the mid-1979s. As part of MoPOP's legacy as a hub for pop culture, inclusion, and education, it deserves to be showcased and celebrated in an accessible way across platforms. By bringing Hip-Hop into digital museum spaces, MoPOP creates opportunities for long-distance learning, dialogue, and understanding across cultures and generations.

In the end, this project's efforts help recognize Hip-Hop in museum spaces can help to challenge negative stereotypes and stigmas associated with Hip-Hop culture. Too often, Hip-Hop is unfairly criticized for promoting violence, misogyny, and materialism, when it is a complex and multifaceted movement that has always been about self-expression, community, and resistance. Therefore, the inclusion of Hip-Hop as it is uncovered in this online collection is an essential step towards recognizing the cultural and artistic contributions of Hip-Hop as a movement, educating the public, and promoting greater understanding and appreciation across cultures.

HOW TO ACCESS THE ONLINE HIP-HOP COLLECTION

CONTENT WARNING

Popular culture derives from the creative output of the human experience. There are artists and objects in MoPOP's permanent collection that may have problematic aspects and/or be considered offensive. In addition, there is material that emphasizes violence, nudity, sexuality, and drug use which may be inappropriate for some viewers. Instead of censoring, we have a responsibility to provide context, shine a light, and present opportunities for dialog, to take a critical, sensitive, and thoughtful approach to issues surrounding objects in our collection.

THERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO BROWSE THE ONLINE COLLECTION

- Visit **MoPOP.org/Hip-Hop-Collection**
- On the **Collections** page you can browse curated selections from our collection.
- On the Favorites page, you can browse user-created collections. You can add your own favorites to Community Favorites by registering on the site and creating sets that are marked "public".

To search the collection, enter keywords or names in the search box (Quick Search) to find objects or other records in our collection. To search on specific criteria, you can use advanced search to search within certain data fields. You can search using multiple criteria, such as the term "portrait" in the title + a date range of "1980-1990". If you are not getting any results with advanced search, try broadening your search by removing criteria.

To learn more sweet tricks about our online collection visit: **MoPOP.org/About-Online-Collection**

ONLINE HIP-HOP COLLECTION LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The best way to get to know the Online Hip-Hop Collection with youth is to use it! Here are some simple discussion-based activities to help youth explore the collection and learn more about the artifacts in this incredible catalog.

The following activities require the use of the Online Hip-Hop Collection. MoPOP recommends using individual computers or a shared screen for a classroom setting. Pen and paper are recommended for note taking, idea sharing, and reflection after each activity.

ACTIVITY ONE: VINYL ANALYSIS

Hip-Hop artists use their songs to bring communities together and the design of their albums to build hype for their music. Before there were digital album releases and music video drops, artists used vinyl and album artwork to curate how they wanted their music to live on forever. Because of that, vinyl has played (and still does) a critical role in capturing Hip-Hop history.

Using the Online Hip-Hop Collection to find a vinyl (or CD Cover), here are some examples: **Smooth B. Girls Live & Kicking** and **Dance For Me / Inside Out** and **They Said It Couldn't Be Done**. Once you have an artifact look at the vinyl and reflect on the questions below:

- What do you notice about the vinyl itself and the album cover?
- Does the imagery of the vinyl make you feel a certain way? Why?
- What does the fashion the artist is wearing on the vinyl tell you about the artist?
- What does the design of the vinyl sleeve tell you about the music recorded on the vinyl?
- If the vinyl cover is a photo of the artist performing, why do you think the photographer documented that moment of the artist?
- If the vinyl cover is a photograph portrait of a Hip-Hop artist, what more is there to notice about the moment the photographer and artist captured together? Why do you think they chose this photograph for the vinyl cover?
- What else do you notice about the vinyl?

ACTIVITY TWO: GET TO KNOW AN ARTIFACT

The work that went into our Online Hip-Hop Collection took a lot of distinct kinds of experts. From a digital archivist working with online formats like jpegs or mp3s to physical archivists taking photographs and preserving history. The following questions will help you learn the life of an artifact through the lens of a museum professional.

Using the Online Hip-Hop Collection, pick an artifact that you want to learn more about. As a starting point to get to know the artifact use, the questions below. Not all objects that get added to a collection have the same kind of information so not all questions will have answers:

- What era (date) of Hip-Hop is this artifact from?
- What are the materials it is made of?
- Who is the artist?
- What is the title of the artifact?
- What do you notice about how the artifact is represented in the collection?
- What subcollection is this artifact housed in, for example, poster, photograph, 3D objects, etc.?
- What other artifacts could you also explore to learn more about the one you picked?

ACTIVITY THREE: FLYER ANALYSIS

Like Vinyl's the history of Hip-Hop can also be tracked through the concert and party flyers that celebrated its music. Flyers for shows and musicians are the anchor of Hip-Hop, their ability to be easily reproduced and shared by word of mouth was how this genre was established. Not only did they spread the word, but they acted as mouth pieces to influence what the Hip-Hop style looked and felt like via the designs and photos used on the flyers.
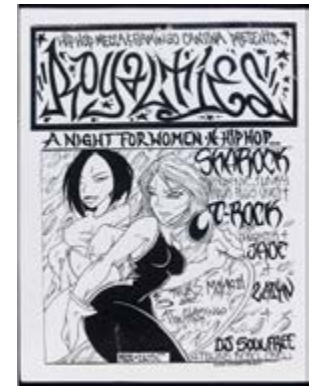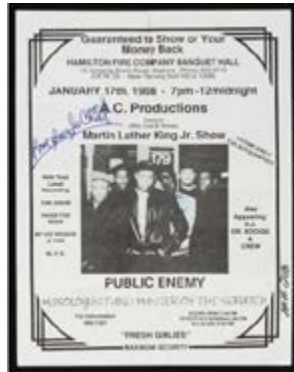
Using the Online Hip-Hop Collection find a flyer, here are some examples: Martin Luther King Jr. Show: with Public Enemy, and D.J. Dr. Boogie & Crew, You've Gotta Bring Your Rockbody to The TV Party, and A Night for Women-N-Hip-Hop. Once you have an artifact, look at the flyer and reflect on the questions below:

- What do you notice about the flyer?
- Based on what you notice about the flyer, what would this event look like now vs. then?
- What do the photographs on the flyer tell you about the dress code for the shows?
- What does the design of the flyer tell you about the show?
- Do you see things you recognize on the flyer that you have seen in Hip-Hop? Do you see anything different?
- If the flyer is a photo, what do you notice about the fashion the people are wearing?
- Do you see any celebrities you might recognize from today?
- What else do you notice about the flyer?

DISCUSSION PROMPTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR MORE LEARNING

After sharing the Online Hip-Hop Collection with students, here are some additional questions and activities that can launch deeper learning about Hip-Hop and its impact on pop culture:

- Why is it important for artifacts like these to be uploaded online?
- Is there a difference between listening to music on a platform like Spotify versus hearing the music at a concert, or listening to it at home in your room? Why is it different for you?
- How are Hip-Hop lyrics like poetry?
- Discuss current Hip-Hop culture, what does it look like, or sound like?
- Do a song analysis and compare a Hip-Hop song from the 70's 80's 90's and a Hip-Hop song from this year. Ask students what is similar about them or what is different. Look at the composition of the two songs and ask, does the beat sound the same or are they different? What is the difference between them (instruments, pace, electronic or live recordings)?
- Do a lyrical analysis using a Hip-Hop song from the 70's 80's or 90's and a current Hip-Hop Song. Think about what lyrics stand out when listening to the songs. Ask students what messages do you hear in both songs and how are they different or the same?

Explore the oral histories that are a part of Online Hip-Hop Collection as introductions to the collectio and artifacts in them. Pick an oral history of an artist who has multiple artifacts in the collection. Before listening to an oral history have students do one of the analysis activities above. After, have students listen to the oral history and compare their object analyses to the artist's interview and description of their music and work.

OTHER ONLINE HIP-HOP ARCHIVES

The Universal Hip-Hop, visit their resource library: **https://uhhm.org/education/resource-library/**

BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music): **https://www.bam.org/programs**

Cornell University, Digital Hip-Hop Archive: **https://rmc.library.cornell.edu/hiphop/**

The Hip-Hop Archive and Research Institute: **http://hiphoparchive.org/projects/classic-crates**

Murray Forman Collection of Hip-Hop Magazines, 1978-2007: **https://archives.iu.edu/catalog/VAE0758**

Massachusetts Hip-Hop Archive: **https://openarchives.umb.edu/digital/collection/p15774coll30**

Hip-Hop and Rap Across the Smithsonian: **https://www.si.edu/spotlight/Hip-Hop-rap**

Seattle Hip-Hop Archive: **https://guides.lib.uw.edu/hiphop206**

The Hip-Hop Radio Archive: **https://hiphopradioarchive.org/**

OTHER WAYS TO ENGAGE IN LEARNING ABOUT HIP-HOP

Read an overview of the culture of Hip-Hop written by The Kennedy Center **https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/Hip-Hop/Hip-Hop-a-culture-of-vision-and-voice/**

Seattle based South End Stories is a program that grew from grants initiatives focused on improving trauma-informed practices in public schools and developing new and innovative trauma-informed arts curricula and support for educators in serving their students. Since those grants, they have continued to grow and are continuing to encourage the Seattle community to share their stories through film, dance, writing, visual art, and performance. Visit their website to learn about programs for your classroom and your own professional development. **https://www.southendstories-artsed.com/programs**

South End Stories also offers an educator resource known as South End Stories' Liberatory Questions. These questions are distributed to community partners as an expectation for how our students' voices must be valued, nurtured, and incorporated during programs, field trips, and projects both inside and outside of the school building. **https://www.southendstories-artsed.com/educatorresources**

206 Universal is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing accessible spaces while serving communities through the upliftment, preservation, and celebration of Hip-Hop culture. Learn more about their community work, programs, and events at **https://www.206zulu.org/**

The Residency is a Seattle based nonprofit that seeks to build a powerful community of young Hip-Hop artists equipped with the artistic and leadership skills, business acumen, and mentorship necessary to become professional artists and cultural change makers. Through their participation in The
Residency, young artists from low-income families in the Seattle area acquire tangible artistic and professional skills while also gaining confidence, teamwork, and a deepened understanding of their own identity and power. Visit their website to learn more about their work and programs. **https://www.theresidencyseattle.org/**