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Summer Hip Hop workshops at MacEwan University

Edmonton - In a first for MacEwan University, the upcoming Urban Kulture summer workshop will engage youth with local hip hop professionals to explore the history and roots of hip hop. The Urban Kulture workshop is based on the potential for hip hop to act as a medium to positively engage youth and help them give expression to their issues.

“The hip hop culture we are talking about has been used by all our instructors in their struggle to overcome obstacles and to become the people they are,” says Dr. Michael MacDonald, assistant professor in the Music program at MacEwan University. “What most people know about hip hop comes from gangsta rap and doesn't represent the hip hop culture that I am discussing,” said MacDonald. “To me, hip hop represents a struggle for equity, to have a world where different cultures could function at the same time and where none would be subservient or dominant.”

“The unique spelling of ‘Kulture’ in the workshop signifies a commitment to cultural equity,” added MacDonald. “My academic work involves an interest in the concept of culture, what it means, how it is learned and the academics who explore it.”

Looking past the summer workshop, MacDonald envisions a long-term future for the Urban Kulture program, one that breaks down barriers to entry into post-secondary education. Faculty is working with Boyle Street Community Services to develop a similar program called Underground City. It’s a program that has the potential to provide a bridge into the Urban Kulture program for youth who may have no experience with post-secondary education.

The Urban Kulture workshop is offered throughout July and August for youth aged 13 and up. Through the courses, students will develop a final piece that will be performed for their peers and the public.

There are a wide variety of options, and for the full listing of course offerings, please go to:

[http://www.macewan.ca/web/services/arts_outreach/services/DetailsPage.cfm?id=7515#mchh](http://www.macewan.ca/web/services/arts_outreach/services/DetailsPage.cfm?id=7515#mchh)

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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