WORDS, BEATS & LIFE Hip-Hop Festival, Nov 2016
Washington DC

Pepatián Bronx Hip-Hop Academy

The Bronx Hip-Hop Academy offers opportunities for teaching artists who make work in the Bronx to connect with youth via workshops, panels, career labs, video showings, and performances.

The Bronx Hip-Hop Academy provides a positive impact by:

- offering knowledge of local Hip-Hop history with participants gaining increased pride in the hip-hop culture in which many of them are already a part of;
- promoting possibilities of entrepreneurship through the arts and;
- gaining confidence through their involvement then helps participants create changes in their own lives and in the communities where they live.

PANEL HIGHLIGHTS
Insights from the Bronx-based Hip-Hop Academy

Tory Sammartino
Bronx-native, poet, teaching artist, and the Founder and Executive Director Emeritus of Voices UnBroken.

There is a pride of place. It’s been an intentional focus of the Hip-Hop Academy that young people understand that they’re growing up in the community that created this international phenomenon. We’re proud to be from the Bronx.

The entrepreneurship component been more formalized recently in the Hip-Hop Academy, but its always been there. This is a low income community, and kids what to know how to make money. Hip-Hop can be a road to that.

The Hip-Hop Academy collaborates with a community partner and finds out their budget, their time, and ask what they want to see come out of this. How many workshops and what kind suits their program. All workshops end in a culminating performance.

Erin K. Hylton
a cultural organizer, advocate, mentor, and writer who proudly hails from the Bronx, NY.
Hip-hop tells the story of your community and elevates opportunities.

Hip-Hop teaches that in your community you don’t have a depletion of resources, you have a wealth of resources.

**Shanika Blount**  
Program Coordinator, Adolescent Development Program at BronxWorks, Carolyn McLaughlin Community Center (Bronx, NY)

The beauty of the Hip-Hop Academy is that the students see something in themselves at the end of the academy that they might not have seen initially.

When there are artists coming in that look like our kids and come from the places they come from, it opens up a new world to them — it occurs to them that “maybe I can do this for a living, get paid to do my art, and give back.”

**Jane Gabriels, Ph.D.**  
Artistic and General Director of Pepatián, established the Bronx Hip-Hop Academy

Pepatian does not have its own space - we create projects through partnerships to share space and resources. Through these collaborations, we’re bringing local youth into contact with professional artists who live nearby and make their living as artists.

Poet Caridad De La Luz stated that “the whole world is full of possibility,” and this is the kind of message we want to bring to local youth through this grassroots Hip-Hop Academy.

Through the Hip-Hop Academy, the youth discover that this is part of their Bronx heritage now, and we want to know, where will you take it?

**WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS**

**Rokafella**  
multi-faceted Hip-hop artist and b-girl

Hip hop was one of the first times that people of color could show up and define themselves.
It was a way for people that were told they were nothing to define themselves. And show that there was a way possible.

Hip hop broke open the possibilities.

Dance is how we felt free and expressed at that moment.