

FELLOWSHIP GRANT RECOMMENDATION MEMO



FELLOW
JASIRI X

jasirixbooking@gmail.com
PITTSBURGH, PA

VOICE, CREATIVITY AND CULTURE - ARTS AND CULTURE

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$200,000

EVALUATOR: Faith Bynoe

PROVOCATIVE PROPOSITION:

We need a space to train artists to become public advocates for social justice.

APPLICANT

INFORMATION

- Mr. X has won several awards for his work at the intersection of Hip Hop and social justice including: the Ronald H. Brown Community Leadership Award, The Black man Can Award (for excellence in entertainment) the key to the city of Louisville, Kentucky and the Pittsburgh Hip Hop Award (single of the year).
- Mr. X has been acknowledged by Harry Belafonte, Angela Davis and Chuck D as being at the vanguard of a new movement for social change.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- Mr. X will develop the 1Hood Artist Academy that will foster an army of artists/activists who stand as the first artistic response to matters negatively impacting social justice--through the universal language of Hip Hop. 1Hood Artist Academy takes the time needed to cultivate both the artist and the activist. The artists at the academy will produce songs, videos, discussions, products and concerts related to the social justice issues of our time. A yearlong artistic activism development program, 1Hood Artist Academy will mentor artists who have a track record of activism, display extraordinary skill in the art of Hip Hop mc-ing, and desire entrepreneurial independence. After an application and interview selection process, each socially conscious artist/activist will be invited to take in the program's rigorous curriculum.
- The Academy's courses will be directed in a conversational manner to inspire critical thinking and an understanding of the variety of ways to strongly challenge the unethical manifestations of racism, xenophobia, misogyny, patriarchy, etc. A few topics covered will include: Understanding racism's impact on self and society; Entering, exiting and respecting communities; Intergenerational unity; Cultivating leadership in self and others; Knowing individual and collective rights; Community service and; Organizing. The Academy will also teach professional arts courses including courses on: defining self ad personal success; financing your gift; songwriting and contract.