



MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact Dr. Kim Socha

Cell 651-272-8982

Email kimberlyannsocha@gmail.com

Website <http://savethekidsgroup.org/?p=5616>

#HipHopActivismConference2015

FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL HIP HOP ACTIVISM CONFERENCE

Minneapolis, MN, February 20-21, 2015 / 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Feb 20: 7pm to 10pm - Common Table, 2001 Riverside Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN

Feb 21: 8:30am to 6pm - Augsburg College, Christensen Center Bldg., 2211 Riverside Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN

Minneapolis, MN - On February 21, 2015, Hip Hop activists from around the world (i.e. Uganda, Zimbabwe, Oregon, Michigan, New York, Illinois, and California) will gather to discuss social justice and Hip Hop culture in wake of the anti-police brutality movement spreading throughout the United States.

Taking place on February 21 in observance Malcolm X's 1965 assassination, this conference is dedicated to the history, research, practice, and theory of Hip Hop activism. The conference—a mix of workshops, roundtables, teach-ins, panels, and lectures—will blend political analysis and practical street-line skill building. Topics include police brutality, the war on drugs, mass incarceration, racism, poverty, education, and the criminalization of Hip Hop culture.

This is a free event that will end with a screening of *Nas: Time Is Illmatic* and a rally against police brutality.

"America loves 'minority' culture but has no understanding of the politics or everyday life. Hip Hop in its truest form does and always will shed light on those issues in an undeniably direct way, yet it also cuts through culture, caste, color, and economic lines while creating bridges, facilitating communication, and bending borders." — LesleyAnne Crosby, spoken word artist, Twin Cities Save the Kids Regional Director

"This conference brings together social justice educators and activists with Hip Hop artists and activists to address issues of racism, police brutality, and youth justice." — Dr. Anthony Nocella, Save the Kids National Co-director

"Hip Hop conferences such as this one are a key component in preserving the Hip Hop culture and its true meaning/intention." — Reies Romero, Save the Kids National Co-director

"The event is vital because it celebrates the spirit of Hip Hop through invigorating spaces with much-needed dialogue among everyday people and true lovers of the culture who will continue to create an even stronger impact after the conference." — Joe Davis, spoken word artist and coordinator with Save the Kids