



FACILITATOR BIOS

Misha Abarbanel & Reza Hassanirad

Misha **Abarbanel** is a secondary teacher and English/Literacy A/CL in the TDSB, and a Master of Arts student in Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning at OISE/UT. He hopes to begin his PhD in holistic and contemplative education at OISE in September, 2015.

Reza **Hassanirad** has taught at the secondary and undergraduate level and has worked as a policy analyst in the Ministry of Education. His ultimate aim as an educator is to help students generate insights and apply them for the betterment of themselves, their families and society. The only thing that separates him from the Wu Tang Clan's Rza is an e.

Edmund Adjapong & Chris Emdin (Teachers College, Columbia University, NY)

Edmund Adjapong, a native of the Bronx, NY, is science educator and a graduate student at Teachers College, Columbia University. Edmund is a middle school science pedagogue at a New York City public school in The Bronx. He is also currently the administrator for the Science Genius Program, a program that engages urban students in the sciences through Hip-Hop, and the director of The Science Genius Academy, a program that encourages and prepares students to pursue STEM careers while providing mentoring and support.

Kayode Brown

Kayode Brown, founder of Just BGRAPHIC - A youth Arts and Education Program. As a former resident of the Jane and Finch Community and Kayode's roots grow deep in its foundation. He has played a vibrant role in the progress of Jane and Finch maintaining a safe and respected community.

Philip Campbell & Jim Wells

Phil **Campbell** is an Instructor in the Education Specialists Department at Cabrini College. His research interests include using hip hop as a vehicle for critical interrogation of social justice issues.

Jim **Wells** is the coordinator of Blackboard Labs, a Philadelphia non-profit organization, that encourages youth to initiate social change through innovative creative arts programming rooted in hip hop culture.

Classic Roots aka Joshua DePerry

Joshua DePerry; Born and raised in Thunder Bay, Ontario and currently residing in Toronto, Ontario to pursue his career ambitions. Joshua has followed his cultural heritage since he was born and has danced since he was 8 years of age. Joshua has inspired others to take part in an alternative lifestyle that promotes healthy minds and activity. Teaching essential Disc Jockey skills, fitness, dance and promoting sober and clean living is a huge part of what makes Joshua a pioneer in this field.



James Cordiner

James teaches Computer Science, Engineering and Tech Design at the TDSB. I am currently exploring the world of sound and electronic music through Arduino based MIDI controllers and synths. I also love to teach game design and building using Python and Processing.

Cecil Dwyer

Cecil Dwyer, an educator with the TDSB, is a lifelong lover and student of hip hop culture. He is an advocate of Hip Hop as a Critical Pedagogy and is excited to see the expansion of this area in education.

Joseph J-Rebel Hersco & Mahlkah Aweri (Red Slam Collective, Right To Play Canada, Zulu Nation North, Supernaturalz Crew)

A B-Boy, teacher and mentor, **J Rebel** is a member of the world-renowned breakdancing crew, Supernaturalz, J-Rebel has taught classes and worked in school boards as a community educator and youth worker. His program, called Don't Believe the Hype, engages youth who are typically labeled "disengaged" or "at risk" in critical thinking by addressing complex social issues through the art and culture of Hip Hop.

Mahlikah **Awe:ri**, Enml'ga't-Saqama'sgw, Walking Woman, is a First Nations (Haudenosaunee Kanien'kéha and Mi'kmaw) drumtalk-poetic-rapologist; musician; hip hop MC; arts educator; radio show host; activist, and curator, based in Toronto, with Nova Scotia Roots. Her live music and poetry have been performed across Turtle Island and Internationally in places such as Ireland, Trinidad & Tobago and New Mexico. Mahlikah is also a founding member of Red Slam Collective Indigenous Hip Hop Movement, 2013 nominees of the inaugural TD Diversity Arts Award. In 2011, Awe:ri released the spoken word EP *Serpent's Skin*; currently published in four literary anthologies, she was nominated for the KM Hunter OAC Literary Arts Award in 2013.

Mustefa Jo'shen, Rusul Alrubail

I am an Educator-in-Residence at Design Cofounders, where I help with with development and facilitation of Education pathways in Design & Entrepreneurship communities in Toronto. I also teach composition and literature. I am passionate about teaching & learning, student voice, professional development, writing and literature. Writing gives students a voice. When students are empowered and inspired their voice translates into meaningful words that have the power to change the world.

Danielle Koehler

Danielle Koehler is a secondary teacher within TDSB who was a co-author of *Rhymes to Re-Education*. Her Masters of Education thesis focused on youth marginalization and how hip hop can be used to engage youth in contemporary Canadian classrooms. Danielle also works as a community worker in St. Jamestown.



Tesfai Mengesha

Tesfai **Mengesha** is a community worker and educator. He currently works as the Academic and Social Co-ordinator at Success Beyond Limits (SBL).

Northbuck Canada Krump, Simply Swagg Dance Studio (Amadeus Marquez, Jamari Whittaker, Jordan Mullins, Monica Fernandes, Leanne McGuirk)

MightyUplift is an afterschool/in-class workshop series that connects educators in the TDSB with members of Northbuck, a professional dance crew based in Toronto specializing in KRUMP. Since its inception, MightyUplift's focus has been on getting at-risk youth off of the streets by providing a positive environment in which they can provide mentorship, tutoring, and instruction on the history, foundation and basics of KRUMP to its participants.

Coming from different backgrounds and having all experienced their own individual hardships, MightyUplift's instructors turned to KRUMP; it became a creative outlet for them and a positive influence in each of their lives. This collection of dancers and educators continuously work hard to remain at the top of their craft and remain in connection with their roots and communities. Their innovative and distinct style has captured the attention of local and international dance communities, event organizers, industry professionals, musicians, and educators alike.

Michael Partis

Michael Partis (<https://medium.com/@chewitblingon>) is an applied anthropologist and instructor in the Center for Ethnic Studies at CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College. He's an executive board member of Young Movement Inc., working on community-based economic development. Michael is the founder of the Hip-Hop Thought Project (<http://smartpawns.tumblr.com/>).

The Real Sun - Voice of Purpose

The Real Sun is an artist and educator with a deep dedication to social justice and healing. She has been teaching for 9 years combining arts based education, in particular spoken word poetry, with explorations of identity, social constructs, and critical analysis. The Real Sun is trained in the field of integrated healing practices including psychotherapy, bio-energetic therapy, and energy healing. As a poet, singer/songwriter, and musician she expresses her creativity through spoken word, rap, and acoustic soul music. The Real Sun is a resident of the Jane-Finch community in Toronto, and was originally born in Anyang, Korea.

Jordon Veira, David Delisca + (Spoke N' Heard)

Jordon 'JV' **Veira** was born in Toronto Ontario, in April of 1993, to an African Canadian mother and Jamaican immigrant father. He is an entrepreneur, spoken word poet, motivational speaker and the Founder/Director of Spoke N' Heard. Through the power of storytelling, JV hopes to empower communities and individuals to self-actualize and follow their intrinsic purposes. JV began writing and performing spoken word in 2007, and has been blessed to grace stages in Toronto, New York and most recently Italy.



Spoke N' Heard is an arts-based social enterprise that works to support young artists with "ARTrepreneurial" development, equipping them with the tools to create art that de-stigmatizes mental health and promotes resiliency and resistance against oppression.

Braxton Wignall

Braxton **Wignall** is an experiential artist promoting self-care, self-confidence, and story telling. At 19 years old Braxton has been a Hip Hop Community Based Educator since grade 10 and is advancing his knowledge by cross-examining schools of thought and their relationship to Hip Hop. By the end of his life Braxton wants to be able to see the torch he past on still burning in the hearts and souls of the youth.