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MMI'S SUMMER BEAT INTRODUCES 8 NEW SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

(MEMPHIS, TN) – In a city where less than 5 percent of young people are engaged in programming outside of school, the introduction of a new summer youth program is good news. Memphis Music Initiative introduces eight this summer with **Summer Beat**, created to maximize the number of high-quality music summer experiences for Memphis youth through direct program implementation and grantmaking efforts.

Summer Beat was created in partnership with stakeholders across MMI's portfolio including youth, staff, grantee organizations and Music Engagement Teaching Fellows. Specifically, MMI engaged eight of its existing partner organizations in the visioning, planning, and implementation of direct services summer programming.

Olivet Baptist Church – Outpour Music Academy

Outpour Music Academy will expose students to different genres and types of musical expression culminating in a performance and recording of both music and dance performances.

Harmonic South Strings Orchestra

Harmonic South Strings Orchestra will provide a strings orchestra summer learning experience for underserved middle and high school students ranging from beginner to advanced. Students will learn, refine skills and perform on violins, violas, cellos and bass violins.

Streets Ministries – Streets Music Academy

Streets Music Academy will use hip hop to teach literacy skills, social consciousness and music production. SMA's content delivery touches on five different areas of the industry: songwriting, film, drama, graphic design, production.

Memphis Black Arts Alliance – S.P.A.R.K.

S.P.A.R.K. provides musical theater training on acting, singing, dancing and stage production. Campers will perform in two stage productions during the summer.

Visible Music College

Visible will present three opportunities for young people: a band camp led by Kirk Whalum, Memphis Drum Camp, and a choir/vocal session led by a gospel recording artist. MMI support will provide full scholarships to help Visible serve a more diverse community base, targeting students residing within the 240 loop and specifically in Frayser/Chelsea area.

Ridgeway High School

Ridgeway High School, an existing MMI partner school, will provide a two-week band camp to existing and entering high school band students. Led by MMI Fellow Samona Bryant, the camp hopes to address the performance and learning gap that occurs during the summer months. Interested students will also receive individualized instruction in preparation for auditions for college and university bands.

ABOUT MEMPHIS MUSIC INITIATIVE

The Memphis Music Initiative was started in 2014 with funding from a private Memphis foundation. The initiative was inspired by earlier work from various youth and music organizations throughout the city to use community engagement to develop arts-focused activities that build on existing resources and assets to drive youth and community outcomes. The initiative's strategic priorities and approach were defined through a five-month strategic development process which engaged low-income and communities of color throughout Memphis and local and national youth development and arts leaders to identify the assets, process, and activities important to carrying out this work successfully. The five-year, \$20 million strategy is expected to run through 2020. The initiative was designed to focus on three critical areas of work: in-school (sustain existing in-school music education and expand instruction through partnerships with local musicians); extended learning (expand high-quality out-of-school time programs to reach more youth and remove barriers to youth engagement and participation); and innovation spaces (develop places to spur innovation where youth can hear, learn and play music). Learn more at MemphisMusicInitiative.org.

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