



UN-HABITAT



United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains - Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos
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Nairobi, 11 July 2005

Dear Partner,

Re: Messengers of Truth Summit and Concert, Johannesburg, 20-23 October 2005

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to participate in the African Global Hip-Hop Summit and Concert to be held in Johannesburg South Africa, from 20-23 October 2005. The events are organized by Native Rhythms Productions in partnership with UN-HABITAT with the support of the South African Ministry of Housing. The Summit and Concert represent the African follow up to the first Global Hip-Hop Summit, Encounter and Concert held in Barcelona, Spain last September. They will also serve as part of the global preparations for a second Global Hip-Hop Summit to be held in Vancouver in June 2006. These events form part of a global initiative called the "Messengers of Truth Project," coordinated by UN-HABITAT to bring together socially committed Hip-Hop artists, youth representatives, the media and the private sector to help raise youth awareness of the Millennium Development Goals, to support youth empowerment and local youth development initiatives.

Currently, Native Rhythms Productions is utilizing its vast network to coordinate the collection of rhymes or spoken word/slam poetry from youth living in slums. These will be published in a book entitled "*Urban Youth Speaks!*" Once completed and published, the book will travel throughout the continent for signing by young people and will eventually be handed to the Ministers present at the Hip-Hop Summit and Concert. Thereafter, the book will be endorsed, officially launched, and then handed to the African Union Parliament as a message to the African Presidents. Moreover, a Hip-Hop album using the rhymes/poetry submissions from the book will be recorded for release throughout the continent.

Because of your known commitment to highlighting social issues in your work, we would be delighted to have your input in South Africa. However, due to limited funding, I regret to inform you that we are not able to sponsor your participation, but would be very grateful if you could sponsor representatives of your organization directly or secure third party funding. Arrangements already exist with South African Airways and its alliance partners, to reduce airfares, for delegates attending the summit. UN-HABITAT is willing to provide a letter in support of your quest for third-party funding if necessary.

Thank you for being part of this process.

We look forward to meeting you in South Africa.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas You
Special Advisor for Strategic Planning
UN-HABITAT

Siphosithole
Executive Director
Native Rhythm Productions