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Out'n'about: NMSU Library, alumni recognize value in hip-hop education

Sun-News report

Posted: 11/04/2009 06:10:23 PM MST

At first glance, contemporary hip-hop culture and the collegiate library system do not have much in common. But a few educators and former students at NMSU are trying to bridge that invisible divide with a hip hop exhibit on display throughout November, national Hip Hop Month, at the university's Branson Library.

At the grand opening of the exhibit at 2 p.m. Saturday in the library's lobby, NMSU alumni Lee Rhyanes and Justin De Senso will introduce the Hip Hop Stacks book display. With Humanities Librarian Mardi Mahaffy, they will describe and discuss the history, importance and relevance of the Hip Hop Stacks, which are intended to build a comprehensive catalog of hip hop literature, scholarship, music and media. Rhyanes and De Senso will also talk about hip hop's connection to various academic disciplines, ranging from critical race theory to musicology, and will provide information on the academic power of hip hop studies.

Also on Saturday, there will be a 4 p.m. screening of the film "Inventos: Hip Hop Cubano" at the Creative Media Institute Theater in Milton Hall.

"Our goals are to continue to build upon this archive with input from students, faculty and visitors that are accessing this information through the World Wide Web and to host film screenings and other hip-hop-focused programming that will complement the hip-hop resources available at NMSU," reads a statement from Rhyanes and De Senso describing the

Hip Hop Stacks on their Web site, .

Taking a look at the NMSU Library catalog, there are hundreds of available books related to the culture and subcultures of hip-hop — Adam Mansbach's "Angry Black White Boy," Byron Hurt's "Beyond Beats and Rhymes" and Jay Z's "Blueprint 3" are just a few offerings. Hip-hop CDs are also ready to check out at the library, including "Illmatic," by Nas, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," by Lauryn Hill and "Beginnings: The Lost Tapes: 1988-1991," by Tupac Shakur. The full catalog is available at <http://nmsu.libguides.com/hiphop>.

A trendy topic for reality television shows, Hollywood films and talk shows, the culture of hip-hop has also fueled several academic theses, documentary films, ethnographic studies, community programs and television series.

NMSU is not the first to assemble and recognize hip-hop media. Other university programs include the Cornell

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<http://hiphopalumni.com>

University Hip Hop Collection, the hip-hop archives at Harvard and Stanford universities, and course studies at Bucknell University, the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown, North Carolina Central, Princeton and Purdue.

For information, contact Mahaffy at (575) 646-6925 or e-mail mmahaffy@lib.nmsu.edu.

If you go

What: Hip hop exhibit opening

When: 2 p.m. Saturday

Where: Lobby of Branson Library on the NMSU campus

How much: Free

Info: (575) 646-6925 or hiphopalumni.com

Homeboy Review editor and "homegirl" share work

Leslie Schwartz, editor of the Homeboy Review and "homegirl" Janae Padilla will share the work of their organization, Homeboy Industries, and read from the Homeboy Review in a Border Book Festival program from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at

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The NMSU Library system includes dozens of books related to hip hop culture, as... (Courtesy photo)

the Cultural Center of Mesilla, 2231 Calle De Parian.

Homeboy Industries, in downtown Los Angeles, is recognized as the largest gang intervention program in the county, and has become a national model offering jobs to youth, as well as other social services. The Homeboy Review serves as a voice for the poets and writers of Homeboy Industries, as well as a forum to publish both under-represented and established writers.

For information on Homeboy Industries, visit homeboy-industries.org. For information on Friday's program, call (575) 523-3988, e-mail bbf@borderbookfestival.com or visit borderbookfestival.org.

— Sun-News report

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