

At the Caldwell Center, youth living in and around the Caldwell Housing Development participate in various programs. We strive to help our youth reach new heights through positive opportunities such as Scouting, parent based programs such as resume writing, healthy cooking and financial literacy as well as Bible study. Caldwell offers a safe place for over **400 youth each year** Monday through Friday as well as special programs on Saturday.

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## FINDING THEIR OWN BEAT

Last summer was exciting at our Caldwell Community Outreach Center. Last year, we collaborated with the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library (EVPL) to debut a new experience for youth by offering a week of Hip Hop Architecture Camp.

Hip Hop Architecture explores the intersection of Hip Hop culture and the built environment through three interconnected realms:

- » media
- » professional practice
- » academia

The goal of Hip Hop Architecture camp is to increase the number of underrepresented populations in the practice of architecture while also creating a new approach to architecture and design based on the Hip Hop's founding elements (DJ, Emcee, Graffiti and B-Boy/ B-Girl).

Hip Hop Architecture is an instance of the widely accepted fifth element of Hip Hop, "Knowledge of Self."

Highlights of the camp included building physical community models with legos and 3D printing technology.

Kids also produced a track that was recorded at a local studio and a video that was recorded by professional videographers.

During camp, youth were mentored and motivated by local hip hop artists, and each youth was responsible for coming up with 16 bars (known as a verse) that described how they felt about their community.

The kids held nothing back, feeling comfortable expressing themselves and sharing their thoughts. Some of the lines they came up with included:

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***"I thought my country was already great. Why are we trying to separate?"***

***"I'm just waiting for a better day, a little change means everything."***

***"I wish people would do what I do and pick up a bible instead of a rifle."***

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In its first year, the Hip Hop Architecture Camp was a huge success. Youth were completely engaged and focused throughout the week and learned how to express themselves in more than one creative way.

The 4C's: Creativity, Collaboration, Communication and Critical Thinking, which were all instilled in our youth during the camp will certainly impact

their future and our community.

Thanks to funds raised during the Annual Campaign, the Y engaged 26 youth ranging from the ages 10-14 with this special one-week camp, and all youth were provided breakfast, lunch, snacks and transportation at no cost to them or their families.

