

Sustainability & that hip-hop beat

What do hip-hop and sustainability have in common? More than you might think.

A free, interactive expo this Saturday at Ohio University's Baker Center will blend the ideas of hip-hop and sustainability to find ways to improve urban and rural communities. The event will run 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"We wanted to do something positive using the activist and progressive elements of the hip-hop culture," assistant professor of African-American Studies Akil Houston, one of the expo's organizers, said in a news release. "So many times you hear the negative aspects of hip-hop. Instead of focusing on what hip-hop is not, we wanted to show what it is."

The expo will feature three sets of concurrent workshops addressing topics such as greening your life, poetry writing and performance, and hip-hop's relationship with the media. A student-led discussion about sustainability in Athens is also on the agenda.

Majora Carter, an award-winning environmental justice activist, will deliver the keynote address. She is a co-host on Sundance Channel's "The Green" and host of a public radio show titled "The Promised Land."

Carter has gained national prominence for the work of her non-profit environmental organization, Sustainable South Bronx. Under her leadership, it has developed green-collar job training and placement systems in eco-

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nomically depressed U.S. cities. -

Invincible, a female rapper, will discuss the displacement and gentrification occurring in her hometown of Detroit and close the expo with a rap performance. She released her debut album, "ShapeShifters," in June.

Affrilachian Poets members Mitchell L.H. Douglas, Ricardo Nazario y Colón, Bianca Springs-Floyd and Frank X Walker will conduct workshops on written and performance poetry. The group, which has been featured on HBO's Def Poetry Jam, also will conduct a poetry reading of their own works.

OU's Building Education Through the Arts and Transforming Society (B.E.A.T.S.) is hosting the event.

The expo, which is part of the Department of African-American Studies 40th anniversary, is being sponsored by Arts for Ohio, African American Studies, the colleges of Education and Arts and Sciences, Hip Hop Congress, Office of Sustainability, Student Activities Commission, Upward Bound and United Campus Ministries.

Although the expo is free and open to the public, registration is required because seating is limited.

For more information or to register, visit www.ohio.edu/aas/hiphop.