

Hip Hop Report- Colombia and Massachusetts

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From: **ruth henry** <oasishiphop@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Jan 31, 2015 at 11:39 AM

Subject: Re: We have a Chapter meeting tomorrow

To: John Schoch <chazschoch@gmail.com>

Cc: Sekajipo Music <sekajipomusic@gmail.com>

Wow, Seka, sounds like great stuff is afoot! On my end I have been working as a Spanish teacher at the Watertown Middle School and have begun setting up Skype exchanges (leading up to having actual 1:1 Skype pals as a spinoff on the old penpal idea) between my students and Spanish speaking students in other countries; we are working with Partners in Medellin on some of these exchanges and would love to do more with Eduardo Umana and other colegios in Bogota as well, as technology permits.

Also we have begun exploring the Kingian Nonviolence curriculum at the school; am enclosing a power point of some mixed media murals the students created around King's six principles which we showcased at the town's annual Unity breakfast. Students have begun communicating via Skype with some of the graduates of our Kingian institute in Colombia, who are full steam ahead offering nonviolence workshops and courses in their cities and organizing more nonviolence festivals as well. The Gynza festival in Facativa (just outside Bogota) which I sent you a flyer for last year has had its second version and is gearing off for the third, also graduates in Cali and medellin are taking it up as a model to organize similar festivals in their cities... basically the idea is that all artists who perform at the festival first go through the 16 hour introductory Kingian Nonviolence course. Anotehr bogota graduate, Marcela Garzon, has also brought the curriculum full force into the Alberto Lleras school ether.

As for La Lengua de mi Barrio, we had a great exchange this summer with Hip Hop anthropologist Johrman Giraldo of Cultura y Libertad in Medellin and two amazing emcees from Cali, Junior of Dosis de Rap and Canibal of Hijos de la Calle... plus Mary Hellen came back on her own from Medellin and accompanied us. Two firsts from this summer's exchange: hosting Boston's first international Hip Hop en Espanol festival as our kickoff event, with performers from Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, etc. and also bringing our community workshops to a university setting at Emerson College. Also our first art exhibit: Johrman's photography of Medellin's Hip Hop movement was showcased ta the Arsenal Center for the Arts.

Also, WE FINALLY RELEASED OUR ALBUM!!! Seven years of binational tracks, available for free download now at:

https://www.mediafire.com/folder/adaej9aie226n/yo_hablo_i_speak_hiphop

General La Lengua promo video and music video from this past exchange also coming later this month. Album release party coming up this Wednesday, 2/4.

That's a little recap, much love to y'all down there and hoping we can do some more collaborating again soon. 2015 will probably be just a southbound exchange, but we are aiming for summer 2016 to do a first international exchange with artists from Colombia and one or two other countries, and would love Florida to be one of our partnering chapters, food for thought :)

Ruth