



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Public Library**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Youth Hip Hop Therapy Program Begins at Library
and Parks and Recreation Facilities**

Oakland, CA – The Oakland Public Library (OPL) and Oakland Parks and Recreation Department (OPR) have partnered with Oakland-based nonprofit, [Beats Rhymes and Life, Inc.](#) (BRL) to offer a series of Hip Hop Therapy programs and community workshops to youth in East and West Oakland. Youth enrolled in the program share their stories and experiences with peers through hip hop writing, dialogue, and team-building exercises while receiving positive skill-development support from OPL, OPR, and BRL staff. Over a period of twenty weeks in the fall, youth will work with music production artists, mental health clinicians, youth mentors and peers to create a collective album based on their experiences living in East and West Oakland and perform their work in local community showcases. Youth will also graduate from the program with a resume and online portfolio, as well as career and employment services and resources provided by the Library's staff and collections.

Young men between the ages of 12–19 are invited to apply for the fall program at <http://brl-inc.org/fall2014>. All applications must be received by October 15. Weekly sessions will be held from October to January on Tuesdays from 4:30–6:30 pm at the 81st Avenue Library, located at 1021 81st Avenue and on Fridays from 4:30–6:30pm at Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center, 7701 Krause Ave.

This project is was made possible in part through the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

For further questions, please contact Lana Adlawan, Supervising Librarian for Teen Services at Oakland Public Library, at (510) 238-7613 or ladlawan@oaklandlibrary.org.

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