

The mission of Upward Light Community Cyphers is to provide support through hip-hop based educational related services and resources for the community.



Importance of Hip-Hop-Based Education for K-12 Students within the Community

By incorporating hip-hop into education, we create an environment where students feel seen, heard, and valued. Empowering the next generation through hip-hop-based education, we envision a vibrant community where every young person thrives academically, creatively, and emotionally. Our vision is a world where education is engaging, inclusive, and transformative, fostering a brighter future for all.

Recent Updates:



Entrepreneurship Week

ULCC hosted a community hip-hop, spoken word poetry cypher at the Crews Center for Entrepreneurship, at the University of Memphis on Friday, November 21st, 2025. The event celebrated innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurial growth within the community.



The Gentlemen's League Workshop

On Saturday, January 17th, 2026, a select group of middle and high school students from the Gentlemen's League participated in an ULCC Workshop at the University of Memphis. Participants enjoyed creative presentations, featuring poetry, drumming, art, and hip-hop.



Christmas Turkey Give-a-way

On Saturday, December 13, 2025, ULCC proudly volunteered with Girls Inc. to give back to the community. Together, we supported and empowered the next generation through service and collaboration.





ULCC Youth Summit

ULCC proudly hosted a Youth Summit at the Double Tree Conference Center in East Memphis, Tennessee, on September 22nd, 2025. The event empowered high school student leaders through learning, yoga sessions, spoken word poetry, drumming circles, and dialogue.

Upcoming Events

ULCC SPECIAL COMMUNITY CYPHER

DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

TIME: 2:00-5:00 PM

LOCATION: NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM
450 MULBERRY ST. MEMPHIS, TN

FEATURED CYPHERS:
HIP-HOP, POETRY, AND
AFRICAN DRUMMING CIRCLE

**DJ SUPERMAN, 107.1 FM MEMPHIS
ON THE 1'S AND 2'S**



UPWARD LIGHT
COMMUNITY CYPHER



ULCC INSTAGRAM: @ULCC.HIPHOP
[HTTPS://WWW.UPWARDLIGHTCOMMUNITYCYPHER.ORG/](https://www.upwardlightcommunitycypher.org/)

ULCC Special Community Cypher

ULCC Special Community Cypher will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 2:00-5:00 PM at the National Civil Rights Museum, 450 Mulberry St., Memphis, TN.

The event will feature DJ Superman of 107.1 FM Memphis on the 1's and 2's, along with dynamic cyphers, hip-hop, poetry, and an African drumming circle celebrating culture and community. There will be local non-profit organizations and businesses having informational tables that may include giveaways. There will also be a surprise performance from an internationally known blues artist and Memphis Jookin artist!

SATURDAY 3/14/26 **UPWARD LIGHT COMMUNITY CYPHER** **12PM-2PM**

Raleigh Library - 3452 Austin Peay Hwy 38128

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Ft. "The Residency" info session plus Artist Panel Discussion and MORE...

 AIREAL WILSON VOCALIST	 ROBIN KINDRICK MODERATOR	 WALTER PERSON PRODUCER/SONGWRITER
 TONYA DYSON RECORDING ARTIST	 D-SUPPA EMCEE	 BREA BREA SPOKEN WORD ARTIST

theresidency901 ulcc.hiphop

Artist Development Workshop

An Artist Development Workshop featuring The Residency info session, an artist panel discussion, and more.

Date: March 14, 2026

Time: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Place: Raleigh Library- 3452 Austin Peay Highway, 38128

Stay tuned for more information about the ULCC Summer Youth Conference that will take place on Tuesday, June 9th!



www.upwardlightcommunitycypher.org/



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513-227-8255

UPWARD LIGHT COMMUNITY CYPHER

2025 ULCC Brief Annual Report Snapshot

This report contains information from 3 ULCC Youth Conferences (Spring, Summer, and Fall); 4 Educator Webinars/1 Educator Workshop and 5 ULCC Community Cyphers

EVENTS

EDUCATOR VIRTUAL WORKSHOP EDUCATOR IN-PERSON WORKSHOP



98% 5 star rating from the participants

"Excellent presentation – very insightful."

"Timely, needed, and incredibly impactful."

"Great session from two strong perspectives."

YOUTH CONFERENCE



95% of attendees found our conferences impactful

"I can apply what I learned every day."

The conference made me proud of my history."

ULCC Youth Conference PARTICIPANTS

10 Local, Public and Charter High
Schools Participated



Feedback from ULCC Community Cyphers

Voices from the Cypher

"The Community Cyphers have been so entertaining and helped me connect with other emcees. I love that each session has unique instrumentals – themes like Black Liberation make it even more powerful."

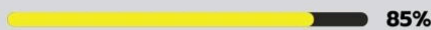
"Being part of ULCC has helped me grow as a performer and sharpen my skills. The cyphers give me the chance to showcase myself and connect with other artists."

"ULCC gives me space to perform, collaborate, and improve. A social media element for freestyles could even expand our audience."

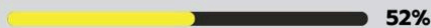
Educator Virtual & In-Person Workshops

TOP INSIGHTS

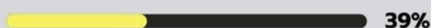
Engagement & Creative Instruction



Culturally Responsive & Inclusive Teaching



Hip-Hop History & Critical Reflection



Major Themes Taken Away from Workshops

ULCC Youth Conference ENGAGEMENT & SATISFACTION



95% of participants satisfied with Guest speaker presentation



Active Engagement of participants : 98%



Conference Sessions Approval Rating:
25/28



93% Personal/Professional Goals feedback

ULCC Youth Conference TOP INTERESTS



This information is gathered from conference questionnaires



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