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5TH ANNUAL WINTER BLOCK PARTY FOR CHICAGO'S HIP HOP ARTS

21-and-up evening show featuring Sidewalk Chalk, Psalm One and ADD-2 anchors an all-ages free afternoon of dance battles, music videos, film and soulful stories, followed by a late-night afterparty featuring Vocalo DJs, Saturday, January 26, at Metro

CHICAGO (December 14, 2012) – WBEZ-Chicago and Vocalo.org (Chicago Public Media) continue their fifth annual *Off-Air Event Series* and kick off 2013 with the ever-popular **Winter Block Party for Chicago's Hip Hop Arts** at Metro, 3730 N. Clark Street, on Saturday, January 26 from noon – 1am.

Created to celebrate the present and future of Chicago's hip hop artists, the **Winter Block Party** draws an annual crowd of more than 2,000 people. First held in January 2009, this all-ages, all-city celebration of Chicago's new and emerging artists of the hip hop generation offers a chance for everybody to experience the breadth and style, multiple elements and forms of hip hop arts, which have long brought people together who've fought for social justice.

The 5th annual Winter Block Party again features all-day free programming curated by Chicago's own **Kevin Coval** including film, music videos, dance battles and a poetry/storytelling slam in addition to \$10 fade haircuts, a Hip Hop Art Gallery curated by Miguel Aguilar of Defiance Gallery, and a Hip Hop Boutique with vendors including Young Wonder, GoWhere HipHop, City of Win and others. The **B-Boy/B-Girl Dance Battle Prelims** begin at **12:15pm**, with a screening of the movie *Benji*, directed by Coodie and Chike, at **12:30pm**, **B-Boy/B-Girl Dance Battle Semis** at **1:45pm**, screenings of local **Hip Hop music videos** at **2:15pm**, the **B-Boy/B-Girl Dance Battle Finals** at **3:00pm** and a **Poetry/Story Slam** presented by Grown Folk Stories and The Public Square at **3:30pm**. Some of Chicago's best DJs provide the soundtrack all afternoon.

The evening event, **Winter Block Party for Chicago's Hip Hop Arts: An Evening of Music and Celebration**, begins at **8:00pm** (doors open at 7:30 pm). **Psalm One**, Vocalo's **Jesse Menendez** and **Kevin Coval** host the evening, with performances by eight-piece Chicago hip hop band **Sidewalk Chalk**, "fem-cee" **Psalm One**, rapper **ADD-2** and more.

Keep the party going downstairs at the Smart Bar with Vocalo's DJ collective led by Jesse De la Pena from 11pm - 1am. For a full event listing, go to www.wbez.org/air-events-5th-annual-winter-block-party-chicagos-hip-hop-arts-102171

The Winter Block Party is free and open to the public during the day. Tickets for the evening program are \$15/general admission, \$12/WBEZ members, and \$10/students (with valid ID) and can be purchased at the Metro store/box office or through www.wbez.org/events.

Founded in 2008, Chicago Public Media's *Off-Air Event Series* presents four unique experiences, from October through June, taking place throughout the Chicago region. Events cover a spectrum of topics from food and

music to politics and community. Last year's series attracted nearly 8,000 people, and since its launch Off-Air has reached more than 30,000 people.

"The *Off-Air Event Series* is an amazing opportunity to connect with people that goes beyond what's possible on the radio or web," says **Vanessa Harris**, Executive Producer of the series. "We aim to create live, meaningful experiences where people can discover new loves, have thought-provoking conversations and walk away feeling – Wow, that was really special."

Extending the listening experience, the ***Off-Air Event Series*** allows public radio listeners and others to come *see* what they've been *hearing* and celebrate Chicago! The series kicked off in October with an internationally flavored **Chef Battle Royale** where local chefs from diverse Chicago neighborhoods were challenged to create dishes using one of Goose Island's beers as an ingredient.

The 2012-2013 event series continues through June 2013 with:

6th Annual Global Activism Expo

Saturday, April 6, from noon-6 p.m.

UIC Forum, 725 West Roosevelt Road

Eat, drink, dance and learn at WBEZ's largest event of the year! Here, attendees will explore what activists are doing in Chicago to make an impact across the world, and have an opportunity to join in. In its sixth year, the event aims to be bigger, more interactive and provide more opportunities to positively change the world. Each week, *Worldview* host **Jerome McDonnell** introduces engaged, world-focused people on *Worldview*'s long-running series, "Global Activism." Here you can meet them while taking in performances and activities, including world music & dance, international food, circus arts and art displays gathered from across the globe. The day will also include lectures and panel discussions exploring issues of global justice and activism. Co-presented by the University of Illinois Chicago Social Justice Initiative. FREE, but RSVP is strongly encouraged.

WBEZ's Day of Service

Saturday, June 1, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., including lunch. Evening concert at 8 p.m.

Throughout Chicago and region

WBEZ is teaming up with Chicago Cares and local organizations to give back to our community beyond the radio. Join us for a **Day of Service** around our community bureaus and the west suburbs. We'll be cleaning up, painting and building a better Chicago. *The Afternoon Shift* will host a reflection of our work after and then a celebrated Chicago musician will play a concert in the evening. FREE for Daytime service; RSVPs are required. Evening concert is FREE for day participants or \$15, \$12 for WBEZ Members, or \$10 for students with valid ID. RSVPs will open and tickets will go on sale for this event in spring 2013.

For tickets and a complete listing of all four events go to: www.wbez.org/events

Winter Block Party for Chicago's Hip Hop Arts: An Evening of Music and Celebration Artists

The goal of **Sidewalk Chalk** is to be heard by the world and inspire its inhabitants. With an eclectic variety of ages and experiences, the Chicago band is a force to be reckoned with. Comprising an emcee, singer, keys, bass, drums, horn section and tap-dancer, Sidewalk Chalk is the evolution of hip hop, soul and jazz superbly packaged into their own unique sound. Their debut full-length album, *Corner Store* (co-produced with Greg Magers of Lupe Fiasco's *The Cool*), satisfies the cravings of music lovers hungry for something different. Sidewalk Chalk was named "Best Hip Hop Act in Chicago of 2010" by the *Chicago Reader*. The group's Emcee, Rico Sisney, represented Chicago at the 2012 World Expo in Shanghai, China. They've been featured on CBS News Online, 2dopeboyz and Guest of a Guest Los Angeles. Sidewalk Chalk has shared the stage with De La Soul, Company of Thieves, J*Davey, ?uestlove of The Roots and Action Bronson. Individually, members of the

group have acted as musical director for Brother Ali, toured with Jazzanova and played behind Buddy Guy and Talib Kweli.

“Fem-cee” **Psalm One**, consistently named one of the nation's "Best Hip Hop Artists," made her national television debut on MTV's Emmy-winning series, *MADE*. She has toured the US, Canada and Europe and shared the stage with the best in the business, including Wu Tang Clan, MF Doom, Atmosphere and 50 Cent. She released her debut CD, *Bio:Chemistry*, while studying chemistry at the University of Illinois and became the only woman signed to the prestigious, fiercely independent record label Rhymesayers Entertainment when she released her commercial debut, *The Death of Frequent Flyer*. A Chicago native, Psalm One supports her community through Charm Lab, a music mentoring program she started to help bridge the gap between music and education. She also works regularly with the ASCAP Songwriter Residency Program on a national level in New York, San Francisco, Denver, Chicago, Atlanta, Washington DC, Boston, Milwaukee and Seattle. This year Psalm One released *Child Support*, a collection of songs made with elementary students nationwide through the ASCAP Songwriter Residency. The album boasts collaborations with more than 200 students from underserved areas in the nation, as well as Grammy-winning artists and producers. Through her music mentoring programs, she hopes to balance some of the negative impacts of mainstream music on the community. Using the great medium of hip hop, Psalm is able to speak to children in a language they understand, offering balanced perspective, safe spaces and alternative forms of self-expression. The programs also encourage teamwork, creative problem-solving and critical thinking. Her efforts are ongoing and ever-widening, and Psalm One is eager to continue on a musical path of education and entertainment.

Rapper **ADD-2**, stage name of Andre DiJuan Daniels, first gained popularity after the release of his second mixtape, *A Tale of Two's City: Volume 2*. In 2009, his single "Luxury" – from his third mixtape, "Tale of Two's City Vol. 3: The Rise & Fall – was featured on MTV and VH1. ADD-2 has worked with Grammy Award-winning music producer 9th Wonder, Kendrick Lamar, The Roots and Gerald Walker.

About Chicago Public Media

Chicago Public Media is an institution that creates award-winning content for people seeking to learn more about the issues and ideas that affect our community, our nation and our world. Chicago Public Media produces programs such as *This American Life*, *Sound Opinions*, *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!* (a co-production with NPR), *The Morning Shift with Tony Sarabia*, *Worldview*, and *Radio M*. It operates WBEZ 91.5 FM, one of the country's premier public radio stations, and Vocalo 89.5 FM, an experimental web/radio service that seeks to expand the reach of public media. For more information, please visit www.chicagopublicmedia.org.

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