

## **Hip Hop Day** **August 11, 2023**

WHEREAS today marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first recognized Hip Hop party, which took place in the Bronx, New York in 1973, using two turntables to create a high-energy mix.

Hip Hop soon became a powerful underground movement that captured the imagination of young people and has since evolved to represent an entire culture. As a nexus of diversity, Toronto has played a key role in the growth of Hip Hop, with vital contributions from iconic Toronto artists.

Early innovators like Mr Q, DJ Ron Nelson, and DJ crews including Sunshine Sound, TKO Sound, and Maceo and Kilowatt Sound helped lay the groundwork for homegrown stars such as Michie Mee, Maestro Fresh Wes, and Dream Warriors, who in turn gave rise to household names including Saukrates, Kardinal Offishall, Ghetto Concept, K'naan, and Drake.

The local Hip Hop community continues to flourish. In addition to music, the influence of Hip Hop on daily life is ubiquitous in our city today, infusing elements of art, fashion, and dance. Today, Hip Hop at 50 is a multi-billion dollar global industry with ties to film, television, advertising, athletics, literature and beyond.

The City of Toronto recognizes the vital role Hip Hop has had in shaping and promoting Toronto's unique musical fabric. The City also recognizes the contributions of many organizations, individuals and groups to the rich cultural fabric of our city, and is committed to making Toronto a place where arts and culture thrive. Toronto invests in programs to ensure all residents have access to and the opportunity for cultural participation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Olivia Chow, on behalf of Toronto City Council, do hereby proclaim **August 11, 2023** as "**Hip Hop Day**" in the City of Toronto.



Olivia Chow  
Mayor of Toronto