



CalPolyPomona

College of Education
and Integrative Studies

Afrofuturism Lightning Talk Presentation

Jazz and the Pomona Youth

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Landscape Architecture, 2024

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Problem

- Jazz is one of the most important parts of Black history and culture in America and has led to the creation of many other forms of music, such as rock and roll (McAlpine, 2018).
- However, over the years, jazz has decreased in popularity in society broadly and in the Black community (Blake, 2016; Helseth, 2011).
- With many alternative forms of music in African American culture, it can be hard to compete with popular music, such as hip-hop or rap.
- A decline in music education programs has also contributed to decreasing popularity and understanding of jazz music (Music for All Foundation, 2004).

Solution

- By exploring jazz with high schoolers during small rehearsals and performances, I hope to instill the importance and value of jazz among fellow students.
- I plan to create a place that is welcoming to Black students and jazz in the city of Pomona.
- I hope to expand young people's understanding of the importance of jazz music to the initial growth and success of the Black community.

Process in Solving the Problem

- Jazz has always been a part of who I am, and it is the reason why I chose to become a saxophonist in the first place. I have been playing the saxophone for over 10 years.
- I have been playing jazz music with high school students within the community to foster a feeling of jazz appreciation within them.
- By working with my fellow adult leaders, I have been practicing with a band off campus to help inspire the future Black musicians of tomorrow.

Gratitude and Next Steps

- I would like to thank all the musicians who have encouraged me to play the saxophone. This includes the very first jazz musician I ever met- Mr. Von.
- I would like to thank Mr. Roscoe for all his help setting up the group.
- I would also like to thank Mr. Luer for motivating me to continue playing jazz in college to better myself as a saxophonist.
- My plans for the fall are to continue what I am doing musically and to build upon the program that I have created with new members.

Problem

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- However, over the years jazz has declined in popularity in society broadly and in the Black community (Blake, 2016; Helseth, 2011).
- With many alternative forms of music in African American culture it can be hard to compete with more popular music, such as hip-hop or rap.
- A decline in music education programs has also contributed to decreasing popularity and understanding (Music for All



Solution

- By exploring jazz with high schoolers during small rehearsals and performances, I hope to instill the importance and value of jazz among fellow youth.
- I plan to create a place that is welcoming to Black students interested in jazz in Pomona.
- I hope to expand upon the idea of how important jazz is to the initial growth and success of the Black community.

Gratitude and Next Steps

- I would like to thank all of the musicians who have encouraged me to play the saxophone. This includes the very first jazz musician I ever met- Mr. Von.
- I would like to thank Mr. Roscoe for all of his help setting up the youth group.
- I would also like to thank Mr. Luer for motivating me to continue playing jazz in college and to better myself as a saxophonist.
- My plans for the fall are to continue what I am doing musically and to build upon the program which I have created by engaging additional youth to join.

Process in Solving the Problem

- Jazz has always been a part of who I am, and it is the reason why I chose to become a saxophonist in the first place.
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