Hip Hop’s Next 50, on November 15th, is open to Texas State faculty, staff, students, and guests.

The purpose of the day is to celebrate Hip Hop culture’s 50th anniversary and to raise awareness about the innovative and meaningful ways that Hip Hop culture has contributed to health, education, and wellness at TXST, in Central TX, within the United States, and around the world. It is also meant to shed light on Hip Hop and music-related student opportunities on campus (i.e., classes, organizations, and the CREATE Lab studio and makerspace), and existing faculty-led research in these areas. Practitioners, researchers, and artists from around the state, the country, and the globe will lead hands-on workshops, demonstrations, panels, and lectures to help us all learn, grow, and express ourselves. The day will wrap-up in Encino Hall from 6:30-9:30pm with a beat battle, a pop-up museum of interactive activities grounded in celebrating Hip Hop’s past, present, and future, and a reception and Open House for the CREATE Lab music studio and makerspace. Contact: rtravis@txstate.edu
Conference Keynote Speakers: Charles Clark III (University Lecturers Series) and Nathan Geering

Charles Clark III
Charles Clark III, our guest University Lecturer, applies a methodology informed by material cultural approaches to exhibition making in order to celebrate and advance the work of artists expanding the boundaries of conventional artistic production. His upsetting of established paradigms in museological, arts, and technological spaces explores and questions themes of ethnocultural erasure by surfacing submerged narratives in American history. The resulting practice shed light on the conversations yet to exist and which are inaccessible within our historical register. With the knowledge that the language he employs is not only not his own, but extends as a point of departure from Senegal, Africa's "gate of no return," he reconnects the African diaspora across traditional and contemporary media. A major piece from Charles is “The Birth of Country Rap Tunes” which is a thematic multimedia presentation about Chad L. Butler Sr. (also known as “Pimp C” of the group UGK). The presentation explores themes of transfiguration to reveal the cultural roots of Butler’s creative personas. Butler’s life gives testimony to the frailty of blind commitment to superficial ideals and the capacity for humans to change. Post-incarceration, the artist Pimp C challenges viewers and critics alike to ask themselves, “How does one become the person they are supposed to be before they die?” Charles will also talk about the connection between this work, these themes, and community change, and how fields like Social Work and Criminal Justice specifically intersect with needed community change efforts.

Nathan Geering
Nathan uses elements of Hip Hop culture like breakin’ and beatboxing among other innovative strategies in pursuit of prevention, health, and well-being efforts. Nathan’s expertise in accessibility innovation is extensive and is internationally known for unique approaches and methodologies that achieve world class results. His unique Rationale Method is multi-award winning and has changed the lives of people with disabilities throughout the world. The Rationale Method has worked in collaboration with major organisations such as Marvel, Women’s Euros, Special Olympics, The RNIB, New Constellations, The Royal Opera House and many more. Nathan uses elements of Hip Hop culture like breakin’ and beatboxing among other innovative strategies in pursuit of prevention, health, and well-being efforts.

Nathan has also sat on Commissions and provided consultancy for government and placemaking organisations such as the British Council, Commission for Culture and Local Government, Wakefield Council, Castlegate Partnership, Sheffield Race Equality Commission and written an industry leading Accessibility Policy for the Arts. Nathan continues to implement his work both nationally and internationally to help push the boundaries of accessibility innovation to bring about meaningful change for disabled and non-disabled people on a global scale.
HIP HOP’S NEXT 50 @ TXST (All Events are Wednesday, November 15, 2023)

9-10: Welcome & Introduction - *Where are We Going? Where Have We Been?*
9 – 10am | LBJ Student Center (LBJ) 3-14.1
Raphael Travis and Elliot Gann

10-11: Keynote I: Charles Clark III ------ *The Birth of Country Rap Tunes*
10 – 11am | LBJ Student Center (LBJ) 3-14.1
Charles Clark III

11-12: Panel ------ *Where are We Going? Where Have We Been? Part II*
11am – 12pm | LBJ Student Center (LBJ) 3-14.1
Elliot Gann, Nathan Geering, Charles Clark III, Chris Jeter, Bavu Blakes, Scott Bowman

12-1: BEATS FOR LUNCH – DJ AND BEAT SETS
*Hip Hop and Technology: Past and Present Uses of Music Technology*
12 – 1pm | LBJ Student Center (LBJ) 3-14.1
Elliot Gann + Hip Hop Congress

1-2: Charles Clark III ---- “I Gotta Thang: Cocaine Dreams and Penitentiary Nightmares” – *A Video Essay and Oral History with Chad Butler, Sr. – AKA “Pimp C”*
1 – 2pm | LBJ Student Center (LBJ) 3-14.1
Charles Clark III

2-3: Keynote II: Nathan Geering --- Hip Hop & Accessibility; Hip Hop Rehabilitation; PTSD
2 – 3pm | LBJ Student Center (LBJ) 3-14.1
Nathan Geering

3-4:30: Saul Paul, Bavu Blakes, Chris Jeter --- Hip Hop Performances
3 – 4:30pm | LBJ Student Center (LBJ) 3-14.1
Saul Paul, Bavu Blakes, Chris Jeter

4:30-5: FILM SCREENINGS AND BREAK
*Still A Slave: Nathan Geering*
*Mott Haven: JC Hall*
*Eyes Open: Chris Jeter*
4:30 - 5pm | LBJ Student Center (LBJ) 3-14.1

5-6: Reception (+ Film Q & A)
*Where are We Going? Where Have We Been? Part III*
5 – 6pm | LBJ Student Center (LBJ) 3-14.1

6:30-9:30: *Live Beat Battle*
6:30 – 9:30pm | Encino 104
Today’s Future Sound, Hip Hop Congress, and More

*Hip Hop’s Next 50 Pop-Up Museum + Studio Open House*
6:30pm – 9:30pm | Encino 118A/B
C.R.E.A.T.E. Lab Studio and Makerspace