



The HIP Soul Festival Workshop

Welcome to the HIP Soul Festival Workshop, an inspiring journey designed to foster personal growth, artistic expression, and meaningful collaboration. This 8-week program offers a transformative experience, blending hands-on learning with creative mentorship to empower young artists—particularly those from foster care—as they step into the spotlight.

Our curriculum prioritizes accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring participants and supporters alike can be part of this extraordinary initiative. At the heart of the program is the legacy of D'Wayne Wiggins, a visionary artist, philanthropist, and founding member of the iconic R&B group Tony! Toni! Toné!. His unwavering support for young creatives continues to inspire us, and we are proud to honor his contributions through this workshop.

For 2025, the HIP Soul Festival Workshop centers on musical collaboration and the formation of The Coffy Shop Band. This exciting creative challenge brings participants together to craft harmonies, rhythms, and performances that embody the spirit of unity and resilience. Whether you are a student discovering your artistic potential or a supporter eager to invest in the future of creativity, this program is an invitation to be part of something truly extraordinary.

HIP Soul Festival Workshop Curriculum

Welcome & Vision Alignment Theme: *Discovering Purpose through Art*

Session Overview: Participants will embark on an exciting journey in the HIP Soul Festival Workshop, where creativity meets collaboration. This opening session introduces the workshop's goals, the thrilling challenge of forming The Coffy Shop Band, and the mission to uplift young artists through mentorship and innovation. Together, we honor the artistic and community legacy of the late great D'Wayne Wiggins, whose life and vision continue to inspire a generation of creators.

Key Topics:

- Overview of the 8-Week Curriculum and Vision: A roadmap of personal growth, artistic development, and the importance of collaboration.
- Honoring D'Wayne Wiggins: A tribute to a gifted artist, visionary leader, and selfless supporter of youth and creativity. As a founding member of Tony! Toni! Toné!, his contributions to music and dedication to mentoring artists remain a guiding light for this program.
- How to Form a Band:
 - Planning the Structure on Paper: Outlining roles, defining the band's vision, and establishing clear goals for music and collaboration.
 - Creating Agreements: Setting expectations, responsibilities, and shared values to maintain harmony.
 - Acquiring Instruments: Tips for sourcing equipment through budgeting or sponsorships.
 - Building Your Backline: Understanding the essential stage setup, including amplifiers, drum kits, and sound systems.
 - Recruiting Musicians: Best practices for finding talented individuals aligned with your vision.
 - Auditioning Talent Online: Leveraging virtual platforms for discovering and selecting collaborators.
 - Long-Distance Musical Co-Production: Using digital audio workstations (DAWs), file-sharing services, and virtual meeting tools for remote music creation.
 - Common Terms: Familiarizing participants with industry terminology, such as:
 - *Backline*: Essential stage equipment for live performances.
 - *Gigging*: Performing live shows.
 - *Setlist*: The planned sequence of songs.
 - *Jam Session*: Informal improvisation among musicians.
 - *DAW*: Digital Audio Workstation for music recording and production.
 - *Soundcheck*: Pre-performance setup and testing.

Interactive Activity: An open discussion exploring the transformative power of art, the importance of collaboration, and the potential of creative platforms to drive community impact. Participants will share their personal aspirations and motivations for joining the program.

Homework: "If I Could Build My Own Band" Participants will reflect and develop a vision for their dream band by answering the following:

- A. What instruments and roles would your band have? (e.g., singer, rapper, drummer, guitarist, etc.)
- B. What genre or style of music would your band focus on?
- C. What message or vibe would your band want to share with the world?
- D. How would you name your band, and why?
- E. Share what collaboration means to you and why it's essential in creating great music.

How to Produce a Musical Event

- Budget:
 - Determine the overall budget for the event, including all anticipated expenses and revenue goals.
 - Allocate funds for key areas such as performers, venue, equipment, marketing, and staffing.
 - Include contingency funds for unexpected costs.
- Sponsorship:
 - Identify potential sponsors who align with the event's mission and audience.
 - Create sponsorship tiers with clear benefits (e.g., logo placement, speaking opportunities).
 - Approach local businesses, community organizations, and larger companies with tailored proposals.
- Venue:
 - Select an accessible, appropriate space for the event, considering factors such as capacity, acoustics, and amenities.
 - Negotiate rental agreements and understand any restrictions or requirements (e.g., permits, sound limits).
 - Plan for both indoor and outdoor options, depending on the season and expected attendance.
- Advertising & Promotion:
 - Develop a marketing plan, including social media, email campaigns, flyers, and local partnerships.
 - Leverage performers' and sponsors' networks to amplify event promotion.
 - Create engaging visuals and messaging to attract attention and convey the event's unique appeal.

- Ticket Sales:
 - Establish ticket pricing tiers (e.g., general admission, VIP) and sales platforms (e.g., Eventbrite, Ticketmaster).
 - Offer early-bird discounts or bundles to incentivize early purchases.
 - Use social media and email marketing to track and drive ticket sales.
- Travel & Accommodations:
 - Arrange travel for out-of-town performers, staff, and key stakeholders.
 - Book accommodations close to the venue, considering comfort and convenience.
 - Plan transportation logistics, such as shuttles, parking, or ride-share partnerships.
- Equipment & Technical Setup:
 - Ensure high-quality sound, lighting, and stage equipment are available and properly set up.
 - Hire skilled technicians to manage the event's production elements.
 - Perform a full soundcheck before the event to ensure everything runs smoothly.
- Staffing & Volunteers:
 - Recruit and train event staff, including ushers, stagehands, and coordinators.
 - Enlist volunteers for tasks such as ticketing, setup, and crowd management.
 - Provide clear instructions and schedules to ensure everyone knows their role.
- Run of Show (Event Schedule):
 - Plan a detailed timeline for performances, announcements, and transitions.
 - Schedule buffer times to allow for unforeseen delays.
 - Designate a point person to oversee the event's timing and coordination.
- Permits & Legal Requirements:
 - Obtain necessary permits for hosting the event (e.g., alcohol licensing, noise permits).
 - Ensure compliance with local regulations, such as safety measures and crowd control.
 - Secure event insurance to cover potential risks.
- Post-Event Wrap-Up:
 - Plan for cleanup and equipment removal immediately following the event.
 - Collect feedback from attendees, performers, and staff to assess success and areas for improvement.
 - Send thank-you notes to sponsors, performers, and volunteers.
 - Review the budget and create a final financial report.

Indoor Events

- Venue Selection: Choose a space with adequate capacity, good acoustics, and appropriate facilities for your audience (e.g., theaters, community centers, or ballrooms).
- Stage Design: Optimize stage setup for intimacy and visual appeal. Use lighting and décor to create an inviting atmosphere.

- Seating Arrangements: Plan layouts (e.g., theater-style, cabaret seating) to suit the event's purpose.
- Climate Control: Ensure comfortable temperature and ventilation for a pleasant experience.
- Sound Equipment: Invest in high-quality sound systems tailored for indoor acoustics.
- Breakout Spaces: Include areas for mingling, VIP sections, or vendor booths if applicable.

Outdoor Festivals

- Permits and Regulations: Secure necessary permits for outdoor gatherings, including noise control and public safety.
- Weather Contingency: Plan for unpredictable weather with tents, canopies, or indoor backups.
- Venue Layout: Map out areas for the stage, vendor booths, seating, restrooms, and crowd control.
- Stage and Power Supply: Set up sturdy outdoor staging with reliable generators or power sources for sound and lighting.
- Eco-Friendly Practices: Include recycling stations, eco-friendly décor, and green initiatives to minimize environmental impact.
- Outdoor Lighting: Enhance the atmosphere with appropriate lighting for evening events.

Block Parties

- Community Engagement: Collaborate with local organizations and residents to build excitement and ensure a shared sense of ownership.
- Street Permits: Obtain permits for road closures and ensure emergency vehicle access routes.
- Theme and Décor: Choose vibrant themes that resonate with the community. Include colorful signage and banners.
- Food and Entertainment: Partner with food trucks, local bands, and street performers to provide diverse entertainment.
- Interactive Stations: Add attractions such as art installations, dance zones, or games for all ages.
- Security and Safety: Coordinate with local authorities and hire security personnel to manage crowds and ensure safety.

Patron Dinner Theater

- Curating the Experience: Combine fine dining with live performances for an immersive event.

- Performance Style: Blend music, theater, or poetry into a cohesive narrative that enhances the meal's pacing.
- Table Setup: Arrange seating for optimal viewing, with intimate tables for smaller groups.
- Menu Design: Pair themed meals with the performance to create a multi-sensory experience.
- Technical Aspects: Use discreet sound and lighting equipment that complements both the dining and performance ambiance.
- Audience Interaction: Include participatory segments or meet-and-greet opportunities with performers.

Literary Salons with Music, Dance & Poetry

- Theme Creation: Choose a central theme, such as "Cosmic Creativity" or "Echoes of the Soul," to guide the evening's tone.
- Venue Selection: Opt for intimate settings like libraries, art galleries, or cafes to evoke the charm of traditional salons.
- Curated Lineup: Include a mix of poets, dancers, and musicians to provide a varied and engaging program.
- Atmosphere and Décor: Use soft lighting, cozy seating, and elegant touches to create a warm and inviting space.
- Interactive Sessions: Add Q&A discussions or workshops to engage the audience in the creative process.
- Collaborative Performances: Blend art forms, such as live poetry readings accompanied by instrumental music or interpretive dance.

Rolling Classes on the 22-Passenger Coffy Bus

The HIP Soul Festival Workshop includes an innovative and immersive learning experience aboard the Coffy Bus, a mobile classroom and creative stage that takes artistry and education on the road.

- Rolling Theater: Experience the thrill of improvisational acting in a unique setting! Scenes are performed by actors portraying passengers as they board the bus. Student participants are encouraged to join in, exploring their dramatic and creative abilities in an unforgettable rolling performance.
- Karaoke for Literacy: Participants will engage in music and performance-based literacy activities, building reading fluency, confidence, and connection through the power of song—all while having a blast on the Coffy Bus stage.

Rolling Karaoke Nights: Literacy Through Music

Our Rolling Karaoke Nights are more than just fun and entertainment—they're an opportunity to foster literacy in a creative and engaging way. Using music and performance as teaching tools, we aim to enhance reading fluency, comprehension, and confidence in participants of all ages.

Why Karaoke as Literacy?

- Engagement: Singing lyrics encourages participants to read aloud in a relaxed and enjoyable environment.
- Retention: Music aids memory, helping participants retain vocabulary and sentence structures.
- Confidence: Performing in front of an audience builds self-esteem, inspiring participants to embrace their voice—both literally and figuratively.
- Accessibility: Karaoke spans generations and cultures, making it an inclusive platform for learning.
- Community Adventures: Student participants will have the opportunity to give back through inspiring community service events:
 - Singing for Seniors: Bring joy and connection to local senior homes through heartfelt musical performances.
 - Wellness Retreats with Healing Tribes: Partner with holistic practitioners to support community wellness through restorative experiences.
 - Creative Journeys: Use the Coffy Bus as a mobile hub for artistic inspiration, connecting with communities in a meaningful and impactful way.

The Coffy Bus brings creativity, collaboration, and compassion to life, making these rolling classes and events an essential part of the HIP Soul Festival Workshop experience.

Week 2: The Power of Expression

- Theme: Using Voice & Performance to Inspire Change
- Vocal and performance coaching for singers, rappers, dancers, and poets.
- Learning to connect emotionally with an audience.
- Rolling Karaoke Segment: Incorporate this dynamic literacy activity aboard the Coffy Bus to enhance confidence and creativity.
- Homework: Perform an original or chosen piece during a practice session.

Week 3: Collaborative Creativity

- Theme: Creating Together, Building Community
- Participants begin crafting group pieces (songs, poetry, dance routines).
- Interactive Storytelling: Share personal journeys through art aboard the Coffy Bus during a rolling theater session, encouraging spontaneity and collaboration.
- In-person and virtual collaboration techniques (sessions in Chicago and Hammond, IN).

- Homework: Refine group contributions to align with the festival's theme.

Week 4: Showmanship & Stage Presence

- Theme: Owning the Spotlight
- Workshop on stage presence, movement, and confidence-building.
- Guided practice with The Coffy Shop Band for seamless integration.
- Rolling Classes continue with improvisational acting as part of the Rolling Theater—allowing participants to explore performance in a unique setting.
- Homework: Continue rehearsing group and individual acts.

Week 5: Production & Professionalism

- Theme: Behind the Curtain – Building a Show
- Introduction to stage production, sound, and lighting basics.
- Collaborating with event coordinators and technicians.
- Community service event: Singing for Seniors—participants bring their music to local senior homes, enriching lives and building connection through art.
- Homework: Develop a personal plan for post-workshop growth.

Week 6: Polishing & Perfecting

- Theme: Rehearse, Refine, Repeat
- Full run-through of performances for "Love in the Upper Room."
- Refining individual and group acts through constructive feedback.
- Rolling Karaoke for confidence-building in a fun, judgment-free space.
- Homework: Journal personal goals and reflections on growth.

Week 7: Community Impact & Legacy

- Theme: Art with Purpose
- Participants brainstorm how their work can impact their community.
- Wellness Retreats with Healing Tribes: Engage in restorative, community-focused activities, aligning creativity with holistic wellness.
- Final rehearsal and adjustments for individual and group acts.
- Homework: Write a message of hope or empowerment for the audience.

Week 8: The Grand Showcase – Love in the Upper Room

- Theme: Shining Bright Together
- Final preparations and dress rehearsal for the debut performance of The Coffy Shop Band.

- Event Day: Semi-formal showcase featuring singing, poetry, comedy, and dance.
- Reflective Closing Ceremony: Participants share their experiences, aspirations, and growth during the program.
- Post-event Celebration: Vendors, sponsors, and community members join in to honor the participants' achievements.

Love in the Upper Room: Participant Guide

Join Us for an Unforgettable Experience!

As a participant in the HIP Soul Festival Workshop, you are part of the creative heartbeat behind Love in the Upper Room—an electrifying musical theater showcase that celebrates life, love, and community. This Sweetest Day event, held on Saturday, October 18th, 2025, will be an inspiring culmination of your hard work, creativity, and collaboration.

What to Expect: Prepare for a night filled with high-vibrational energy and soulful performances. From singing, poetry, and comedy to theatrical sketches inspired by the Coffy Books, this production promises to elevate spirits and create meaningful connections. As a participant, your contributions—whether as a performer, collaborator, or organizer—will play a crucial role in crafting this extraordinary show.

Event Highlights:

- Reception & Opening: Kick off the evening with cocktails, lively dancing, and interactive games. The Coffy Box Rom~Com Game Show will set the tone for a fun and engaging atmosphere.
- Showcase of Talent: Delight in performances by beloved artists such as Jessica Holter, Karis Lovechild, Avalon, Rachael Alexander, and Khoree the R&B Poet. Your contributions as part of The Coffy Shop Band will join this stellar lineup, unveiling new talents and artistic collaborations.
- Honoring D'Wayne Wiggins: Celebrate the legacy of the late, great D'Wayne Wiggins, whose mentorship and visionary ideas have inspired the HIP Soul Festival Workshop. Your participation pays tribute to his commitment to musical healing and community impact.

Participant Preparation:

- Rehearsals: Ensure your group and individual acts are polished and ready to shine during this showcase. Final rehearsals will focus on refining transitions and enhancing stage presence.
- Collaboration: Continue working closely with fellow participants to ensure every performance reflects the spirit of unity and resilience that defines the HIP Soul Festival.

- Audience Engagement: Be ready to connect emotionally with attendees, inspiring them with your artistry and energy.

Post-Event Celebration: After the final bow, join us in celebrating with vendors, sponsors, and the community. This is an opportunity to share your experiences, network with supporters, and reflect on the transformative journey you've been part of.

Your Contribution Matters: You're not just performing; you're helping create an unforgettable experience that fosters love, connection, and empowerment. Together, we honor D'Wayne Wiggins' legacy and build a brighter future through creativity and collaboration.