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verb: Local artists help the “cause”

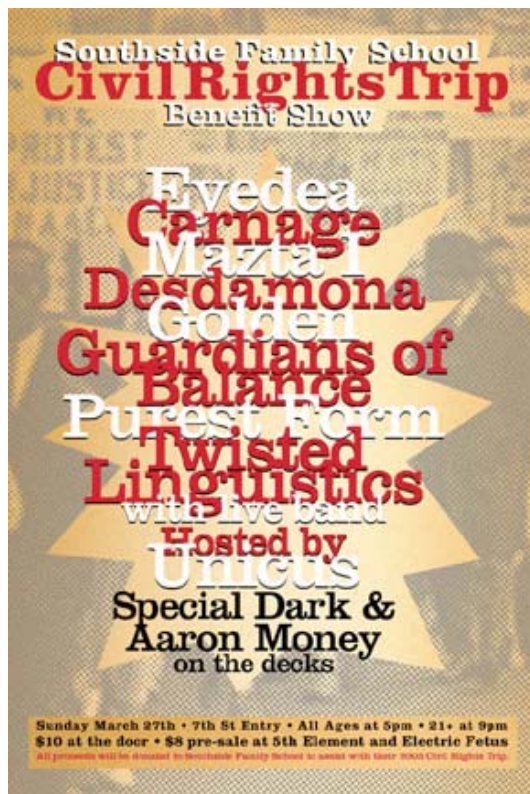
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by *Kandis Knight*

We are blessed with a city full of many talented Hip-Hop artists who are also committed to helping the “cause.” Local emcee Golden is a perfect example. Despite being constantly busy with his music career, he still finds time to help with matters close to his heart.

On Sunday, March 27, Golden hosts a self-produced benefit show for Southside Family School's social justice curriculum. Southside Family School (SFS) is a small alternative charter school in the heart of Minneapolis with a social justice curriculum at its core. SFS's mission is to educate children and the community about the underlying social problems that foster racism, sexism and poverty. Golden thought that the Hip-Hop community would be a good ally for Southside Family School and its mission.

“The social justice mission and the truth-telling in curriculum that happens at this little school is really impressive,” claims Golden, who also volunteers at SFS. “I think the ethics of the school and what their students study is consistent with why Hip-Hop [began] and what it continues to do—give a voice to the voiceless. I have wanted the Hip-Hop community to be involved with Family School for a long time. I thought, what better way than to help to raise money for their trip to learn about one of the most important periods of our history—the Civil Rights Movement.”



The school's biggest contribution to the children is the Civil Rights Trip. Every three years since 1993 the Southside Family School has taken 25 6th to 8th graders on a tour through the southern United States for 12 days to explore the path of the Civil Rights Movement.

Golden's benefit will help to raise funds for this year's trip, which will be held March 28 - April 9. The children attending this year's trip are required to study the Civil Rights Movement intensively and interview civil rights veterans in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The focus is on “Children as Actors in History.” Students meet and interview some of the central actors in the civil rights drama, people who were children and teenagers at that time. Adults now, they continue their struggle for racial and economic justice. These role models teach children that it's possible to face hatred with love and make peaceful change. This project also demonstrates the power of young people to lead us towards freedom and justice.

Coming to Golden's aid are some of the Twin Cities best and brightest Hip-Hop stars. “Alibi of Purest Form has been a champion of Southside Family School for a long time, teaching Hip-Hop curriculum and life lessons to the students there. Noah B. of Twisted Linguistics was a guest artist who taught art and Hip-Hop to middle and high school students in the St. Paul Public School system. Desdama, poetess, emcee and curator and organizer for Intermedia Arts has been involved in so many community projects it's hard to know where to start. Slim and Mastermind of G.O.B. are the musical end of Sub Zero, a North Minneapolis-based collective, which promotes unity among underprivileged youth in the Twin Cities. Mazta I, freestyle guru, is relatively new to the Twin Cities music scene and has injected a much needed breath of fresh air into our

community. Carnage, a product of the foster care system, now gives back as a social worker who licenses foster parents and places children in homes in order to achieve a successful match. Eyedea, Come on. He is partly responsible for shaping the sound of many young up-and-coming artists today, and is more accomplished than many. Add Aaron Money and Special Dark on the wheels and you've got the backdrop to one of the illest events this year!” said Golden.

“If you wonder why I selected these artists for this event, you just have to listen to their music. All of the artists featured embody what is good and true about Hip-Hop music and culture. They represent the entire breadth of the Twin Cities



Hip-Hop scene from East St. Paul to South Minneapolis, and do it in a way that is fresh and intelligent.”

Hexagon



“I think the show is exciting because I listen to local Hip-Hop and take break-dancing classes. We get to learn about Hip-Hop in school and that’s really cool--most schools don’t do that. When Alex (Alibi of Purest Form) comes into our class we listen to songs and we talk about what they mean and what we can relate to. Rappers teach us about what’s going on in the world. It’s cool that famous people are supporting us, especially because we are just a small school and we do things differently here.”

—Willis Batz-Kamby, 6th Grade Southside Family School Student

For more information please visit the school’s website at SouthSideFamilySchool.org.

The Southside Family School Civil Rights Trip Benefit Show takes place Sun. Mar. 27 at the 7th Street Entry featuring Eyedea, Mazta I, Carnage, Golden, Desdamona, Guardians of Balance, Purest Form, Twisted Linguistics and Special Dark, with DJ Aaron Money on the turntables. The show will be hosted by local emcee Unicus, of Kanser. 5 p.m. \$8 adv/ \$10 door. All Ages. And again at 9 p.m. \$8 adv/ \$10 door. 21+. \$8. 701 First Ave. N., Mpls. 612-338-8388

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331 Club



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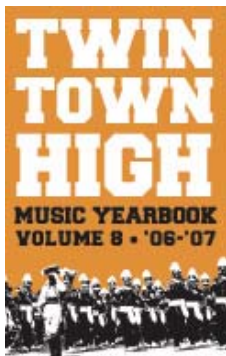
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