

**DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
FOR
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

FINDINGS

1. Authorization:

19 DCMR § 4320.7.

2. Minimum Need:

The District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) needs an outside organization skilled in digital music production, song writing, and youth development to deliver regular programming throughout the year in our Teen Space recording studio

3. Estimated Fair and Reasonable Price:

\$14,000.00

4. Facts That Justify a Sole Source Procurement:

- A.** In October 2010, DCPL opened the Teen Space recording studio, named the DC Youth Production Lounge [DC(Y) PL] has been open to the teen public. Teens have made use of the space to create digital music, record albums, and explore the potential of the software applications. The space has not been maximized, however, due to the library staff's limited knowledge of how the studio's equipment and software function and limited staff availability to supervise the space. A community partner is needed – one that has advanced knowledge of the studio software and music production and also the ability to work well with the teen population that uses the space.
- B.** Words, Beats, and Life (WBL) is a locally-based hip-hop education non-profit that is a leader in the field of arts-based youth development programs both local and nationally. Made of a team of professional educators and hip-hop artists, their after school program, the Urban Arts Academy “is an arts enrichment program that works with youth, ages 5-23, to explore their creative potentials, broaden their experiences, and develop their skills in the arts, humanities, and other academic disciplines.” WBL was recognized as one of the city's leading non-profits by the Catalogue for Philanthropy. The DC Commission for the Arts and Humanities' Arts Education Department and the Children and Youth Investment Trust (CYITC) regularly call upon WBL to lead youth arts projects and workshops, because of their unique dual expertise in youth development and the arts.

- C. WBL’s Urban Arts Academy is an outcome-based program that develops the same skill sets DCPL’s teen programs target – employability and 21st Century skill set mastery. They have a 9-year track record of success as one of the city’s most recognized arts/youth-development programs. Their team of staff has developed a strong curriculum, teaching pedagogy, and teaching methodology that mesh perfectly with DCPL’s goals.
- D. They have forged local, national, and international partnerships in the field of hip-hop education, so a partnership with them would be the most strategic for the library, to position us for continuing to develop our teen media production program.
- E. Because of their expert knowledge of hip-hop production, their expertise in youth development, their deep connection in the youth communities around the city, their highly-developed outcome-based curriculum, and their position as a hip-hop education leader nationally and internationally, there is no corporation or other non-profit group with which the library can forge such a partnership at this time.

It is for the reasons outlined herein that a sole source contract is recommended being awarded to Words, Beats, and Life.

5. Certification By the Contract Specialist:

I hereby certify that the above facts are accurate and complete.

Contract Specialist

Date

DETERMINATION

Based on the above findings and in accordance with the DCPL Procurement Regulations, 19 DCMR § 4320.7 I hereby determine that the award of a sole source contract for the services described herein is in the best interest of the D.C. Public Library.

Contracting Officer

Date