

BEATS & BARS

YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAM AND ARTIST MENTORING

PRESENTED BY NAVARRO & LOOP THEORY
ESTABLISHED 2015

Navarro (Founder of Beats and Bars + Loop Theory)

My name is **Rafael Navarro Jr.** and I am the proud founder of **Beats and Bars**. I am a Mexican-American first generation college graduate, as well as a Hip-Hop artist from Chicago, IL. With background experience in both behavioral therapy with children in a group setting, as well as one-on-one with teens at Chicago Public Schools, in combination with my years of experience as an artist, I've created a program I strongly believe in.

I was born and raised in Chicago's West side to immigrant parents. I was introduced to Hip-Hop at an early age and soon after found writing to be the perfect escape for a young man trying to outgrow his environment. Music kept me busy and away from many of the pitfalls my peers were falling victim to in our community. Living in mostly Latino and African-American neighborhoods, it was at my first Hip-Hop show as a teen where I witnessed diversity in such an amazing way. It was beautiful how we all connected over music. Fast forward many years, I graduated with a Bachelor's and specialized in working with children with Autism, as well as teens with behavioral health issues. This then led to the creation of my youth mentoring program, **Beats and Bars**, which provided creative spaces for youth in high-need communities. I came to realize the value there is in a skill set I taught myself as a teen and I want nothing more than for the youth in our city to realize how valuable they are to themselves and our community.

The beauty of Hip-Hop music, which I learned from firsthand experience, is that you're able to start with the bare minimum. It teaches us to create something out of nothing by using our minimal resources to create art; most importantly to give a voice to the voiceless. I want our students to understand that they have the power to write their thoughts down, express them, capture them via an audio recording and share them with the world.. I want our students to understand they have the ability to create art within their means and have an impact on the world. I am proud to have Beats and Bars guide our youth, to not only find their passion, but also give them confidence to utilize their voice.

Press

[The Chicago Tribune](#)

[The Chicago RedEye](#)

[The Chicago Reader](#)



BEATS & BARS

MISSION

Our organization's mission is to develop creative spaces for early adult development through the use of songwriting, music production and audio recording. **Beats and Bars** creates a space for self-expression, peer-to-peer collaboration, all while learning about project management, entrepreneurship, marketing and more.

Our goal is to engage the youth by giving them a creative platform to use music making as a therapeutic process, as well as experience social emotional interaction with their peers. Our heuristic approach combined with our scrum project development implementation helps develop leadership skills, increases confidence and engages them in critical thinking. **Beats and Bars'** real life studio experience accommodates all skill sets and prioritizes the individuality in each child. The skills they learn assist youth in becoming better writers, thinkers, improve their social skills and learn the dedication it takes to develop their craft into a business. All programming is led by professional artists.

We are passionate about our cause and believe Hip-Hop music can be used as a method to help the youth **communicate, cope and coexist**. Our purpose is to give youth a space to create, collaborate and understand the entrepreneurial options available within the music industry. We strongly believe mentoring our youth through music and its creation plays a pivotal role to their development as young adults.

AFTER-SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

FOR YOUTH AGES 10 - 18



SONG WRITING

LEARN TO WRITE LYRICS &
COMPOSE SONGS



BEAT MAKING

LEARN HOW TO MAKE BEATS
& PRODUCE MUSIC



AUDIO RECORDING

LEARN HOW TO RECORD
YOUR OWN SONGS

Register: LoopTheoryInc.com/beatsandbars
If you have questions email us at booking@looptheoryinc.com

INSTRUCTORS



RAFAEL NAVARRO
ARTIST + YOUTH MENTOR



STEPHAN STECIW
DJ + PRODUCER



JASON SALDANA
ARTIST + PRODUCER

**OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT.
WE THEN FILM A MUSIC VIDEO, PROMOTE THE PROJECT AND OUR YOUTH
GET TO EXPERIENCE BEING A REAL ARTIST IN REAL TIME.
ALL WHILE BEING MENTORED BY OUR TEAM.**

AS SEEN ON ABC 7 & THE CHICAGO READER

Student Experience



Learn how to write their own lyrics: Students are taught the skill of lyric writing which helps develop their ability to express emotions, tell stories, and communicate ideas through words, fostering both creativity and literacy.

Compose and produce songs with their peers: Collaborative songwriting and production allow students to work together, improving their teamwork, communication, and problem-solving abilities.

Artist development and mentoring from experienced artists: Students receive one-on-one and group guidance from seasoned artists, helping them to define their personal style, grow as artists, and begin the journey to find their artistic identity.

Learn audio engineering basics: Students gain hands-on experience with recording equipment and audio software, setting the foundation for a technical understanding of sound production.

Student Experience



Learn about project management: Students learn how to organize, plan, and execute creative projects from start to finish, equipping them with valuable time management and leadership skills.

Set timeline and meet deadlines: Understanding the importance of setting goals and meeting deadlines helps students become more disciplined and accountable, skills that are crucial in any career or academic pursuit.

Complete an album (EP/LP) with their peers: Participants experience the full cycle of creating a professional-quality music project, from songwriting to production, giving them a sense of achievement and pride in their work.

Create a portfolio of work: By the end of the program, students will have participated in creating songs, a music video, and promotional materials that they can use as a foundation for future creative endeavors or college applications.

Learn about marketing and promoting their album: Students gain insights into the business side of music, learning about branding, social media, and how to effectively promote their work to a broader audience. They develop confidence in self-promotion and public engagement.

Student Experience



Experience shooting a music or promotional video: Students will have the opportunity to participate in a music video or promotional video for one of the songs they created. Participating in the creation of a music or promotional video allows students to see the connection between music and visual storytelling. This experience may inspire them to explore the visual aspects of music, such as directing, editing, or conceptualizing future projects. Students may develop a deeper interest in the creative process beyond songwriting, potentially sparking an interest in areas like video production or multimedia artistry.

Foster a lifelong passion for music: Through exposure to various aspects of the music industry, students not only enhance their skills but also cultivate a lasting love for music and the arts.

Visitors and speakers from various career paths in the music business: We actively invite professionals from our music network—such as producers, DJs, managers, and performers—to connect with our youth. While we aim to provide students with valuable insights into different music career paths, these visits are not guaranteed due to the busy schedules of industry professionals and their need to travel. We will make every effort to arrange guest appearances when time and availability allow, giving students a chance to learn from and be inspired by real-world experts.

Additional Benefits



Social/emotional interaction: By interacting with peers and mentors in a creative space, students develop social skills, emotional intelligence, and build friendships that foster mutual respect and support.

Build resilience and adaptability: By tackling creative challenges and stepping outside their comfort zones, students develop resilience, problem-solving skills, and the ability to adapt to new situations.

Become comfortable expressing themselves: Through music and mentorship, students build confidence in their voice and artistic identity, learning to embrace their individuality and share it with others in a supportive environment.

Boost self-esteem and self-awareness: As students gain confidence in their abilities and find their unique voice through music, they develop a stronger sense of self, which leads to improved self-esteem and self-awareness in their personal lives.

Behavioral development: Students are guided in how to positively express emotions and handle challenges through art, which contributes to improved behavior, discipline, and focus.

Additional Benefits



Develop leadership and collaboration skills: Working on group projects and performing together fosters leadership qualities, while also teaching students how to effectively collaborate with others toward a shared goal.

Improve public speaking and performance skills: Whether performing music or sharing their creative process, students become more comfortable with public speaking and performing in front of an audience, skills that are transferable to any profession.

Increase cultural awareness: By exploring different genres and forms of artistic expression, students gain a deeper appreciation for diverse musical and cultural backgrounds, promoting inclusivity and cultural awareness.

Lifelong transferable skills: Beyond the music industry, students develop skills like communication, creativity, discipline, and collaboration, which are valuable in any career path they choose to follow in the future.

Press + Videos

[ABC 7 News Story](#)

[The Chicago Reader Story](#)

[Beats and Bars - Who They Wish I Was \(Music Video\)](#)

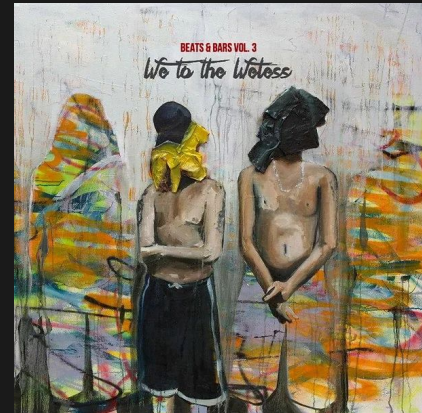
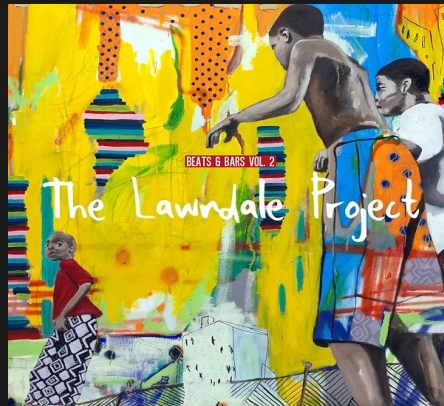
[Beats and Bars - Bitter Sweet Home \(Music Video\)](#)

[Beats and Bars - Ballad of a Thug \(Music Video\)](#)

[Beats and Bars - Student Vlogs](#)



Previous Releases



Click cover to stream album

BEATS & BARS

INTERESTED IN **BEATS AND BARS** OR WANT US TO HOST
OUR PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION?

CONTACT US TODAY
BOOKING@LOOPTHEORYINC.COM

TO LEARN MORE VISIT
LOOPTHEORYINC.COM/BEATSANDBARS

COMPANY SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAMMING

Would your company or organization like to grant a child the opportunity to participate in one of our programs or attend one of our workshops?

Send us an email at booking@looptheoryinc.com and we will provide you with more information.

Your donation will go directly to covering the cost for a child to attend our youth music and artist mentoring program or attend one of our upcoming workshops.

Anytime we have sponsored availabilities for families, we promote the company sponsoring those opportunities for children in our communities.

WE ALSO PROVIDE PRIVATE LESSONS AND WORKSHOPS