



2024 Summer Institute for Educators

Get in the Groove!

Foundations for a Funky Classroom



“God stuck his toe in the Five Rivers and made the music funky”

–Marshall Jones, The Ohio Players

Essential Questions

- 1.** What is funk and why is Dayton the home of funk?
- 2.** What is Dayton funk’s artistic and aesthetic legacy?
- 3.** What is “the groove” and how can it improve our capacity as learners?
- 4.** What can funk music and the story of Dayton funk teach us about the personal agency of young people?
- 5.** What qualities/social factors are necessary for a community to nurture creative self-expression among young people?
- 6.** How does sharing personal narratives help a community to shape/understand its past and its future?

Pre-Institute Preparation

1. LaFrae has curated a selection of hits by Dayton funk bands that are classroom-ready exemplars of the genre. Find a comfy spot with no distractions and listen to the playlist. How does the music make you feel? Do you already know these songs? What memories, if any, do they bring up?

The Dayton Funk Mixtape (YouTube): <https://tinyurl.com/si2024playlist>

2. Read or listen to the essay [“Boogie Nights: A History of Funk in Dayton”](#) by Basim Blunt (published by WYSO on July 31, 2012). Basim says, “What happened here was something that will never happen again.” Do you agree with this statement?

Curriculum Connections

Funk music is inherently and deeply multi-disciplinary, involving music, language, movement/dance, history and visual arts. Taken together, these provide multiple points of connection and interaction with classroom curriculum.

Curriculum maps that draw connections between funk, the institute and Ohio Learning Standards in ELA, Social Studies, Fine Arts and Social Emotional Learning are available in your binder.

Daily Learning Outcomes

- Participants will understand the musical building blocks of funk, i.e., an emphasis on rhythm, narrative, and the groove.
- Participants will understand the social, political, and economic variables that led to the Dayton funk scene of the 1960s and 1970s.
- Participants will come away with the concept of funk as a “future forward” art form that can inspire young people to envision their own futures.
- Participants will be able to draw inspiration from the Dayton funk canon as a songwriting and poetry writing tool.
- Participants will understand how Dayton funk artists’ technological innovations created new sounds that inspire musicians today.
- Participants will learn how to use simple music sampling and beat making tools to create music in their own classrooms.

Daily Sessions

DAY 1 – Monday, July 15	Location
<p>8:30-9:00 (30 min.) Arrival / Registration / Breakfast</p>	<p>126 N. Main St. Loft Lobby, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>9:00-9:45 (45 min.) Conference Welcome & Warm up Muse Machine Secondary Schools Program Director Emily Gray will introduce our conference’s players and establish the aims of our time together. Muse Executive Director Ruth Reveal will offer her perspective on our work. Teaching artist LaFrae Sci will open with a warmup that introduces everybody to each other and to the work ahead.</p>	<p>Muse Studio, 4th Floor</p>
<p>9:45-10:45 (1 hr.) Who Framed the Funk? Facilitator: LaFrae Sci LaFrae will share a brief history of the genesis of Dayton funk and together we’ll discover the four funky fundamentals at the heart of this week: groove, imagination, identity, and futurism.</p>	<p>Muse Studio, 4th Floor</p>
<p>10:45-11:45 (1 hr.) Soul Train Line Dancing Facilitator: Mariah Johnson The Soul Train Line was an essential “affinity space” for expressions of Black joy in the 1970s. Mariah will teach us classic funk dance moves as part of a fun and fearless Soul Train. Everyone is welcome to groove – how you choose to go down the Line is up to you!</p>	<p>Muse Studio, 4th Floor</p>
<p>11:45-12:00 (15 min.) Morning Reflection Moderator: LaFrae Sci & Mariah Johnson We will share our takeaways from the morning sessions. The full group will brainstorm and chart classroom connections.</p>	<p>Muse Studio, 4th Floor</p>
<p>12:00-1:00 (1 hr.) Lunch Break</p>	<p>Loft Lobby, 3rd Floor</p>

<p>1:00-1:30 (1 hr.) Band Introductions Facilitator: LaFrae Sci</p> <p>In the spirit of Dayton’s unique funk bands, we’ll be forming our own funky groups to apply the skills we’re learning together! We’ll spend this session getting to know our band mates, creating our band names, and writing origin stories based on our common experiences.</p>	<p>Muse Studio, 4th Floor</p>
<p>1:30-2:30 (1 hr.) Songwriting: The Funky Hook Facilitators: LaFrae Sci & Mariah Johnson</p> <p>We will learn about Sun, a Dayton funk band founded by Byron Byrd that recorded eight albums between 1976 and 1984 (and still performs to this day!). Using Sun’s song “Sun is Here” as a model, we will create musical hooks as the foundation for our own funk-inspired songs.</p>	<p>Muse Studio, 4th Floor</p>
<p>2:30-3:45 (1 hr. 15 min.) JAM SESSION: “Our Muse Groove” Concept Albums Facilitators: LaFrae, Mariah, Omope, Deron</p> <p>We will continue to work with our band mates to develop a unique concept album that signifies our identities and a vision for the future. Goals for this session include settling on a unified concept, creating a signature dance move, and developing the hook and verses for at least one song.</p> <p><i>Please use the restroom on the way to your breakout space.</i></p>	<p>LaFrae-Muse Studio</p> <p>Omope-Muse Conference Room, 3rd Floor</p> <p>Deron-Burnell Roberts Conference Room, 1st Floor</p> <p>Mariah-Studio B, 2nd Floor</p>
<p>3:45-4:00 (15 min.) Afternoon Reflection/Housekeeping Moderator: LaFrae Sci & Mariah Johnson</p> <p>We will share out with a partner from a different band and discuss ideas of how today’s activities can be used in their classrooms. The full group will chart classroom connections.</p> <p><i>Question: “How can funk music be used as a teaching tool to foster expressions of belonging?”</i></p>	<p>Muse Studio, 4th Floor</p>

DAY 2 – Tuesday, July 16

Location

About Our Host, Central State University:

Central State arose from Wilberforce University — the nation’s oldest private Historically Black College or University (HBCU) and a prominent stop on the Underground Railroad. In 1973, Central State identified the need for evening and weekend courses for non-traditional students whose work schedules prohibited their ability to take classes on the Wilberforce campus. In 2007, noted alumni Dr. James Elam presented a gift to the Central State University Foundation. With that gift, the Foundation purchased the former Reynolds & Reynolds headquarters on Germantown Street, which now houses CSU-Dayton.

8:30-9:00 (30 min.)

Arrival / Registration / Continental Breakfast

Central State-Dayton
840 Germantown St.

9:00-9:30 (30 min.)

Welcome/Warm Up

Facilitator: Deron Bell

Welcome to Day 2! After a listening warm up, we will do a quick check-in to share any new reflections we have about yesterday's work.

Large Multipurpose Room

9:30-10:30 (1 hr.)

It’s a Family Affair

Facilitator: Deron Bell

Funk is alive, not a genre from a bygone decade! We will learn how Dayton’s own Funkmaster, Deron Bell, grew up in the funk scene and how those experiences of mentorship continue to shape him personally and professionally. We will think about and share how important people in our lives from an older generation have inspired us.

Large Multipurpose Room

10:30-11:00 (30 min.)

Music Technology Integrations: MyMusicEd & Koala Sampler

Facilitators: Deron Bell & LaFrae Sci

We will learn how to use two intuitive beat-making apps to start bringing our funk songs to life. Teachers will split into two groups and rotate between the apps in 15-minute sections.

Large Multipurpose Room

11:00-11:15 (15 min.)

Group Shares/Morning Reflection

Moderator: Deron Bell

We will share our takeaways from the morning sessions and brainstorm and chart classroom connections.

Large Multipurpose Room

<p>11:15-12:30 (1 hr. 15 min.) JAM SESSIONS: “Our Muse Groove” Concept Albums, Continued Facilitators: LaFrae, Mariah, Omope, Deron</p> <p>We will continue to work with our band mates to develop a unique concept album. Goals for this session include adding music to lyrics with MyMusicEd and/or Koala and working on phrasing.</p> <p>Please use the restroom on the way to your breakout space.</p>	<p>Classrooms: LaFrae - 112 Omope - 113 Deron - 114 Mariah - 115</p>
<p>12:30-1:30 (1 hr.) Lunch Break</p>	<p>Large Multipurpose Room</p>
<p>1:30-2:30 (1 hr.) “Why Dayton?” OG Panel Facilitator: Deron Bell</p> <p>Funk “OGs” Tony Allen (Sun, Dayton Funk All-Stars), Khalilah Forte (Dayton Funk All-Stars), and Reginald Harmon (The Ohio Players) will share their stories about why Dayton is the Hometown of Funk.</p>	<p>Large Multipurpose Room</p>
<p>2:30-3:15 (45 min.) Finding Your Voice Facilitators: Deron Bell & LaFrae Sci</p> <p>We will explore the sonic legacy of Dayton Funk pioneer Roger Troutman (Zapp) through the distinctive sound of the vocoder. Then, we will consider how to encourage students to identify soulful actions in their lives and use those actions as jumping off points for developing their own voices.</p>	<p>Large Multipurpose Room</p>
<p>3:15-4:00 (45 min.) Lesson Plan Creation Time</p> <p>Participants will begin to write a lesson plan for their class using funk fundamentals to guide their planning. Teaching artists will be available to answer questions and offer suggestions.</p>	<p>Large Multipurpose Room</p>
<p>4:00-4:15 (15 min.) Afternoon Reflection/ Housekeeping Moderator: Deron Bell</p> <p>Participants will reflect on their lesson planning time and share discoveries and questions.</p> <p><i>Question: “How can the history of funk music in Dayton be used to help students think differently about belonging and exclusion?”</i></p>	<p>Large Multipurpose Room</p>

DAY 3 – Wednesday, July 17

Location

8:30-9:00 (30 min.) Arrival / Registration / Continental Breakfast	126 N. Main St. Loft Lobby, 3 rd Floor
9:00-9:30 (30 min.) Welcome/Warm Up Facilitator: Mariah Johnson Welcome to Day 3! After a listening warm up, we will do a quick check-in circle to share any new reflections we have about yesterday's work.	Muse Studio, 4 th Floor
9:30-10:45 (1 hr. 15 min.) The Funky Story Circle Facilitator: Omope Carter Daboiku Omope will lead us in a story circle and community poem creation based on Lakeside's "Fantastic Voyage." The song topped Billboard's R&B chart for 2 weeks and peaked at #55 on the Billboard Hot 100.	Muse Studio, 4 th Floor
10:45-11:00 (15 min.) Morning Reflection Moderator: Omope Carter Daboiku We will reflect on the morning's session and brainstorm and chart classroom connections.	Muse Studio, 4 th Floor
11:00-11:45 (45 min.) JAM SESSION: "Our Muse Groove" Concept Albums, Continued Facilitators: LaFrae, Mariah, Omope, Deron We will continue to work with our band mates to develop a unique concept album. Goals for this session include refining our musical choices and incorporating story circle takeaways to improve our lyrics. <i>Please use the restroom on the way to your breakout space.</i>	LaFrae-Muse Studio Omope-Muse Conference Room, 3 rd Floor Deron-Burnell Roberts Conference Room, 1 st Floor Mariah-Studio B, 2 nd Floor
11:45-12:45 (1 hr.) Lunch Break Muse advisors are asked to return to the Muse Studio at 12:15 for a brief presentation on the 2024-2025 Out-of-School Tickets program.	Loft Lobby, 3 rd Floor
12:45-2:15 (1 hr. 30 min.) The Funky Album Cover Facilitator: Reginald Harmon	Muse Studio, 4 th Floor

<p>Funk OG and visual artist Reginald Harmon will take us on a journey through the visual identities of Dayton Funk bands and how album covers supported the music by showcasing “thriving alternative realities” for Black people. Then we’ll stretch our artistic sides and create our own album cover artwork and/or logos.</p>	
<p>2:15-3:00 (45 min.) JAM SESSION: “Our Muse Groove” Concept Albums, Continued Facilitators: Reginald, LaFrae, Mariah, Omope, Deron</p> <p>We will continue to work with our bandmates to develop a unique concept album that signifies our identities and a vision for the future. Goals for this session include finalizing our band logo and/or album cover and deciding on other aesthetic elements for our presentation such as costuming and props.</p> <p>Participants should move tables as needed to sit with their bandmates.</p>	<p>Muse Studio, 4th Floor</p>
<p>3:00-4:15 (1 hr. 15 min.) Lesson Activity Activation Breakout Groups by Grade Level or Subject Area</p> <p>Participants will each be given a chance to activate part of their lesson plan and receive feedback from peers and teaching artists. Muse Curriculum Consultant Becky Davis will speak briefly on the opportunity to earn graduate credit for implementing a developed lesson.</p>	<p>Muse Studio & Hallway, 4th Floor</p>
<p>4:15-4:30 (15 min.) Afternoon Reflection Moderator: Omope Carter Daboiku</p> <p>Participants will share with a partner from a different breakout group and discuss ideas of how to use artwork and physical media in their own classroom. The full group will brainstorm and chart classroom connections.</p> <p><i>Question: “How does sharing personal narratives help a community to shape/understand its past and its future?”</i></p>	<p>Muse Studio, 4th Floor</p>
<p>6:00-8:00 (Optional)</p> <p>Choreographer, educator, ThinkTV producer and show host Rodney Veal will record an interview with LaFrae at The Hub inside the Arcade. You are invited to join the live audience! Register on EventBrite here.</p>	<p>The Hub, Dayton Arcade</p>

DAY 4 – Thursday, July 18

Location

8:30-9:00 (30 min.) Arrival / Registration / Continental Breakfast	Muse Studio, 4 th Floor
9:00-9:30 (30 min.) Warm Up/Opening Activity Facilitator: Omope Carter Daboiku Our final morning listening warm up for the final day! Omope will introduce our special guest speaker, Rodney Veal.	Muse Studio, 4 th Floor
9:30-10:15 (45 min.) Dayton's Future Begins with You Presenter: Rodney Veal Choreographer, educator, and champion of Dayton's arts scene, Rodney Veal will join us to reflect on the urgent and essential need for teachers to inspire young people to develop their artistic voices, find mentors, and take pride in where they come from.	Muse Studio, 4 th Floor
10:15-12:40 (2 hrs. 25 min.) Band Rehearsals Facilitators: LaFrae, Mariah, Omope, Deron We will rehearse our funky masterpieces in order to share them after the lunch break! <i>Please use the restroom on the way to your breakout room.</i>	LaFrae-Muse Studio Omope-Muse Conference Room, 3 rd Floor Deron-Burnell Roberts Conference Room, 1 st Floor Mariah-Studio B, 2 nd Floor
12:40-1:40 (1 hr.) Lunch Break Our friends from Discover Classical will have a table in the lobby. Stop by and say hello!	Loft Lobby, 3 rd Floor
1:40-1:55 (15 min.) Group Warm Up Facilitator: LaFrae Sci LaFrae will lead the group in a physical/vocal warm up.	Muse Studio, 4 th Floor
1:55-3:30 (1 hr. 35 min.) Funk Group Presentations and Reflections	Muse Studio, 4 th Floor

<p>Each funk band will share a selection from their Concept Album and proclaim themselves as new Dayton Funk Legends! Participants will get a chance to respond and reflect on each other's creations.</p>	
<p>3:30-4:00 (30 min.) Final Reflection In this final session we will circle back to our overarching thematic questions and discuss discoveries that we made during the week. Participants will brainstorm and chart ways to bring this work back to their classrooms and opportunities to help their students find their groove next year.</p> <p><i>Question: "How can learning about Dayton's contributions to funk music impact the way students think about themselves and their community?"</i></p>	<p>Muse Studio, 4th Floor</p>