



ROOTZ OF CHICAGO



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rootz of Chicago is a nonprofit initiative dedicated to transforming the lives of youth across the city through the power of music, mentorship, and cultural heritage. Our mission is to empower young people—especially those from underrepresented communities—through hands-on education in DJing, music production, event planning, and entrepreneurship. By connecting youth to the legacy of Chicago House music and the professionals who built it, Rootz of Chicago creates a dynamic, inclusive space for artistic growth, technical mastery, and future career exploration.

Programming takes place in schools, parks, cultural institutions, and local venues across the city, with after-school sessions and weekend workshops providing real-world experience and community connection. Rootz of Chicago is more than an educational program—it's a cultural movement, uplifting youth and preserving Chicago's musical roots for the next generation of creative leaders



Rootz of Chicago



Mission:

To inspire and empower Chicago youth through the arts of DJing and music production by offering access to creative tools, technical training, entrepreneurial education, and community mentorship—rooted in equity, cultural pride, and inclusion.

Vision:

Rootz of Chicago envisions a future where Chicago's youth lead the charge in music, entrepreneurship, and community transformation. By partnering with after-school programs and engaging Chicago's iconic House DJs and producers as mentors, we are cultivating a generation of innovative creators, event leaders, and business-minded artists who will redefine both their communities and the music industry.

Target Population:

Youth ages 12–18 from throughout the city of Chicago, with a focus on serving historically underserved and underrepresented communities.

