



URBAN ARTISTRY

Recommended for Ages 5 and up

Grades K and up

A Reproducible Learning Guide for Educators

This guide is designed to help educators prepare for, enjoy, and discuss *Urban Artistry: Surviving the Times*. It contains background, discussion questions and activities.

Programs Are Made Possible, In Part, By Generous Gifts From:

The Nora Roberts Foundation

Siewchin Yong Sommer



Smithsonian Associates

Discovery Theater • P.O. Box 23293, Washington, DC • www.discoverytheater.org

Like our [Facebook Page](#) • Follow us on Twitter: [Smithsonian Kids](#) • Follow us on Instagram: [SmithsonianAssociates](#)

ABOUT THE DANCERS

Urban Artistry, Inc., is an internationally recognized non-profit organization **dedicated to the performance and preservation of art forms inspired by the urban experience**. Junious Brickhouse founded Urban Artistry in 2005 with a small group of friends in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area. Serving as cultural ambassadors for communities that are often unsung, the group fulfills their mission through effective collaborations that support artists' past, present, and future. Their core values are **education, preservation, community, service, perspective, excellence and innovation**.



STYLES OF URBAN DANCE

You may have heard about different styles of dance such as ballet, tap, jazz, and hip hop. Some of you may have danced in shows before too. But have you heard of styles such as breakin', waacking, and locking? There are many different styles of urban dance that you may have never seen before!

BREAKING' (B-BOYING', B-GIRLIN', BREAKDANCING):

Have you ever seen someone **spinning on their head on the ground or doing cool flips and tricks?** Chances are, they were breakdancing! A "breaker" (B-Boy/B-Girl) dances to the **break beat of music** (extended rhythmic section of a song). A major element in breaking is **"battling."** Breakers can battle on their own, in duos, or as part of a crew. This genre of dance was created by African American and Latino youths during the late 1970s.

HIP HOP DANCE: Hip hop dance often encompasses many different genres of street dance including breaking, locking, and popping. Hip hop is characterized by **improvisation** (meaning, they make the moves up on the spot). Dancers will battle each other to the beat of hip hop music. KRS-1 defines hip hop as **"moving intelligence."**



LOCKING: The movements of locking are **large, fluid, flowing movements that are synced to the music and feature sudden freezes**. This genre of dance is full of fast movements followed by a large pause, to give the appearance of freezing. Born out of a time of social and political movements of the 1960s and 1970s, this style draws from many social dances of the time and is traditionally done to Funk and Soul music.

POPPING: Have you ever done the robot dance? Popping is the closest thing to that—this dance involves many **hard hitting, small staccato movements of the body**. The result is a robot-like dance! Popping goes by many names—it is sometimes spelled as poppin' or referred to as pop n' lock, pop and lock, or even poplocking. This dance was born out of a time of social

and political awareness in Oakland, CA during the 1960's. Traditionally, it was done to funk and soul music as a solo and group dance, pulling from many resources like James Brown, vernacular jazz, tap, singing group routines, science-fiction films and cartoons.

WAACKING: A fiery and expressive dance that involves **rapid random arm movements and voguing** (posing). This style originated in the disco clubs of the 1970's of Los Angeles and was popularized on the show Soul Train.

For more information please visit: <http://urbanartistry.org/dance-academy/class-descriptions/>
<http://dancininthestreets.weebly.com/urban-dance-styles.html>
http://www.reallusion.com/ContentStore/iClone/pack/StreetDance_Locking/default.aspx



TEST YOUR MOVES

To view the instructions in a video, please visit:

<http://www.howcast.com/videos/508476-how-to-do-the-6-step-kids-hip-hop-moves/>

MATERIALS:

- Tennis Shoes
- Music
- Clear floor space
- Phone/Computer/iPad (to watch video)



DIRECTIONS:

1. Standing straight with your feet side by side, cross your right foot over your left.
2. Step back with your left foot to the corner, like you are making a box with your feet.
3. Step your right foot back to make the other corner of the box.
4. Bring your left foot diagonally across the box, and keep it straight.
5. Move your right foot behind your left foot so that it is crossed behind your left leg.
6. Quickly jump to shift your weight from your left foot to your right foot. Now your right foot should be in the air.
7. Continue to practice this pattern while standing. Once you have the pattern down, move to the ground and put the moves together



SMITHSONIAN CONNECTION



If you're able to **visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture, check out the Cultural Expressions exhibit.** The exhibition introduces visitors to the broad concept of African American and African diaspora culture and five ways through which that culture is expressed. Look for the **Movement: Gesture & Social Dance** section to learn more.

For more information, please visit: nmaahc.si.edu

The mission of the Smithsonian Institution is “The increase and diffusion of knowledge.”

Smithsonian Associates advances the Institution’s mission to “increase and diffuse knowledge” through life-enriching educational and cultural experiences inspired by the Smithsonian’s research and collections for DC-region students, families, and adults, and for learning communities nationwide.

Discovery Theater has been presenting DC-area children with live educational performances for more than 30 years. With programs that enrich the Smithsonian experience for nearly 50,000 children annually, Discovery Theater is a gateway to the exhibits, collections, and themes contained in the museums and galleries on the National Mall and beyond. We explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs in the company of puppeteers, storytellers, dancers, actors, and musicians. Discovery Theater performances unite ideologies, enact themes that reflect the diversity of its audiences, open avenues of self-reflection, and offer an enjoyable means for parents and teachers to demonstrate life’s lessons. There’s so much to do and explore at the Smithsonian—and Discovery Theater is the ideal place to begin! For more information, please visit our website www.discoverytheater.org.

Our Location

The S. Dillon Ripley Center
3rd Sublevel
1100 Jefferson Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Mailing Address

Discovery Theater
P.O. Box 23293
Washington, DC 20026

Email: info@DiscoveryTheater.org

Phone: (202) 633-8700

Fax: (202) 633-1322

Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00am - 4:30pm

