

Hip Hop Theatre Junction

(Brooklyn, NY)

HHTF On-Tour

Total Award: \$50,000 over 3 months

To support the development of new venues for Hip Hop poets, playwrights, dancers and performers by formalizing and implementing a touring package called *HHTF On-Tour*. This year marks the fifth year of operation for the Hip Hop Theatre Junction. This organization was created as a way to give voice to a new generation of artists who are creating community theater that addresses pressing issues that speaks directly to their peers. Though the company is best known for its festivals in New York, Washington, DC and San Francisco, each year the staff also develops new works, collaborates with other theaters to develop new audiences, and presents and tours individual artists. These works address the social-political issues that are relevant to the Hip Hop generation, a group that transcends ethnicity, class and nationality. *HHTF On-Tour* will provide exposure for cutting edge artists who currently have limited venues. It will ensure a steady stream of earned revenue for the company and lessen its reliance on contributed income. This alternative source of income is important because HHTJ's earned income has been low because the Festival's organizers believe that affordable ticket prices are important if they are to meet their goal of developing new audiences. In 2005-06 HHTJ will work with a management firm to develop a structure for touring; develop profiles of potential partners and venues that are interested in this work; initiate curated festivals at Universities throughout the country; and work with presenter partners to develop and tour productions that are featured in their festivals.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$25,000 Arts and Culture Program: *Objective I, Strategy 1*

\$25,000 Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice Program: *Objectives I & II*