Passing the Mic is an annual event that celebrates the transformational potential of hip hop arts in the Madison community and on the UW-Madison campus and involves First Wave scholars, teen artists from across the US as well as internationally-renowned performing artists.

All events are free & open to the public!

11th Annual Hip Hop Arts Festival featuring J. Ivy (Chicago), Telmary Diaz (Cuba), Frank Waln (S. Dakota), Baba Israel (NYC), Kyle T. Mays (Detroit), First Wave and The Midwest Hip Hop All Stars

Promenade Hall, Overture Center (201 State St. Madison, WI)
Thursday, October 22nd 3:30-5:00pm
Indigenous Traditions, Multilingual Voices in Hip Hop Today:
A Panel Discussion
featuring Frank Waln, Telmary Diaz, J. Ivy, Baba Israel
moderated by Dr. Kyle T Mays (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

7:00-9:30pm
Passing the Mic/All Elements Hip Hop Arts Showcase
featuring Midwest Hip Hop All Stars
Hosted by J. Ivy, Frank Waln & First Wave
featuring the Midwest Youth Spoken Word and Hip Hop All-Stars

Friday, October 23rd 5:00-6:30pm
First Wave Spoken Word Showcase: Indigenous Traditions, Multilingual Voices
First Wave poets put their unique poetic spin on the global languages of hip hop and will be responded to by renowned local and internationally acclaimed artists, community intellectuals and UW faculty members.

7:00-9:30pm
Celebrating Ten Years of OMAI:
A Showcase featuring Guest Artists and
an Excerpt of Baba Israel’s “The Spinning Wheel by Baba Israel”

Saturday October 24th 8:00-10:00pm
Showcase Performance: Indigenous Traditions, Multilingual Voices
Telmary Diaz, Frank Waln, J. Ivy and First Wave artists & the Midwest Youth Hip Hop All Stars

J. Ivy is a Grammy-Award winning Chicago-based spoken word artist whose new book, "Dear Father" was recently released by Simon and Schuster Publishers
Frank Waln an award winning Sicangu Lakota Hip Hop artist, producer, and performer from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota & is featured on MTV's Rebel Music Series
Telmary Diaz - Hailing directly from Havana, Cuba, Telmary Diaz is an acclaimed multi-talentd artist who has shared the stage with the likes of Africa Bambaataa, Terence Blanchard, Roy Hargrove and other musical giants.
Baba Israel is a theatre and Hip Hop artist who has toured across the US, Europe, South America, Australia and Asia, performing with artists such as Outkast, Philip Glass, Rahzel, Lester Bowie, Vernon Reid among many others.
Kyle Mays, originally from Detroit, is a hip hop scholar of Black and Saginaw Chippewa Heritage who has just begun his tenure as a member of the History Department at Univ. of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

PROMENADE HALL, OVERTURE CENTER (201 STATE ST. MADISON, WI)
A PROTECT THE MIC EVENT HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH UCAN AND SOSONIC)