

BURNSVILLE, Minnesota -- July 27, 2015 -- Twin Cities Catalyst Music has announced the reopening of popular all-ages music venue THE GARAGE. Shows and programming are already underway. The reopening follows a six-month closure for renovations, including updated cafe and bathrooms, as well as a new recording studio.

The closure was also a time for THE GARAGE to change hands. After 15 years as a program of the Burnsville Park and Recreation Department, THE GARAGE is now operated by local nonprofit Twin Cities Catalyst Music.

“THE GARAGE has and will continue to be a place for all ages to interact with music,” said Executive Director Jack Kolb-Williams. “What we’re adding to that model are hands-on opportunities young people normally don’t have access to. We want to empower them to grow and shape their music community in a way that makes the Twin Cities the epicenter of new talent--in music, in music journalism and concert photography, sound and event production. To be young people who do awesome things.”

Last year the two-stage venue hosted 130 shows, drawing 23,000 people. This year, under nonprofit management, THE GARAGE will offer workshops on music journalism, concert photography and videography, live sound production, and a band boot camp for fledgling artists. In addition to the workshops, young people can shape the scene through a youth-run music magazine, teen board membership, and a collaborative booking process. THE GARAGE is about developing young people whose lives revolve around music.

“The lack of all-ages shows in the Twin Cities isn’t the norm other places,” said Education Director Logan Adams. “Both Jack and I grew up with the exact opposite. We could play all over. We could see our favorite bands. In order to bring that to the Twin Cities, an essential charge is to build a community of supporters who believe in and will support all-ages and alcohol-free.”

With its reopening, THE GARAGE has launched a platform for metro music fans to support its all-ages, alcohol-free shows and programming with regular sustaining support or one-time donation. Their goal is \$11,232 and 300 supporters by Sept. 11, which will be marked during THE GARAGE’s subsequent *Grand Opening Celebration*.

“Over the last three years I’ve heard numerous times from attendees that, ‘This place is my home.’ ‘This is where I can see the bands I care about,’ ” said Kolb-Williams. “THE GARAGE is an engine for the Twin Cities. I leave shows thinking, ‘This is real. This is vital.’ ”

For more information about THE GARAGE, to learn how young people can get involved, and ways to support the venue, visit the Twin Cities Catalyst Music website at twincitiescatalystmusic.org.

THE GARAGE’s initial run of shows includes (with more soon to be announced):

- July 31 - Karizma
- Aug. 7 - One Dolla Holla
- Aug. 8 - Pop Nation Summer Tour w/ Round 2 Crew | Sweet Suspense
- Aug. 24 - Epic Rap Battles of History