

Out Hip Hop Artist Captain Magik wins \$20,000 Award

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Out and proud rapper Captain Magik was among 20 artists who has received Cleveland's Community Partnership for Arts and Culture (CPAC) award, according to a press release from CPAC. He is named a "fellow" and will receive a \$20,000 award to support his work, as well as related support services.

A panel of seven arts professionals from across the US reviewed 166 applications. The group then deliberated in an 11-round open adjudication on November 23 – 24 before recommending individuals for funding. Applications were reviewed based on quality of artistic merit and artists' plans for use of the funds, and each application was reviewed without reference to the applicant's name.

Magik recently released the album "Young, Gay and Proud." His first music video, for the single Dilemma, aired regularly on national television on MTV's Logo channel "Click List: Top Ten Videos." The video was voted the number one video of 2008 on Logo. Magik has been featured in Spin magazine, Instinct magazine, the LA Times and the Plain Dealer. He performed at Toronto Pride and as part of "Street Cred 101," a live theatre piece about gay hip hop, at the Highways Performance Gallery in Los Angeles. Magik plans to finish the recording, mastering and marketing of a new album during the fellowship year in addition to the completion of a new music video to accompany the release of the new album.

Following receipt of the fellowship, Magik shared, "I am truly grateful and honored to be chosen for the fellowship. This is an amazing opportunity for me and my career. This \$20,000 will enable me to release a higher quality product and reach a larger audience. I want to thank the residents of Cuyahoga County for their continued support."

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