



The Jazz & Democracy Project® (J&D) utilizes jazz as a metaphor to cultivate a profound understanding of American democratic ideals. J&D brings American democracy to life, enriches the study and teaching of U.S. history, government, civics and culture, and inspires youth to become active, positive contributors to their communities. Students explore the importance of **Listening, Critical Thinking, Voice, Choice, Participation, Cooperation, Peaceful Negotiation, and America's Classical Music . . . Jazz!**

bringing  
American  
democracy to life

# jazz & democracy



*“There is no better example of  
democracy than a jazz ensemble.”*

- Michelle Obama

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## Jazz as a Metaphor for Democratic Participation

The Jazz & Democracy Project® (J&D) Founder, Dr. Wesley J. Watkins, IV, Ph.D. ("Dr. Wes"), has inspired thousands of students and teachers in [Chile](#), [The Gambia](#), [Liberia](#) and [Haiti](#) with the "Jazz as a Metaphor for Democratic Participation" interactive workshop. Through jazz, Dr. Wes is able to highlight the importance of civic participation and the hard work needed to make a great contribution to society. This 90-minute workshop provides a unique form of cultural diplomacy, as it highlights vital cultural and civic values through America's greatest artistic contribution to the world: jazz!

### WORKSHOP GOAL: Inspire democratic participation

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW: J&D believes that if First Lady Michelle Obama is correct, and "**There is no better example of democracy than a jazz ensemble**," then the jazz master provides not only an exemplar of artistic excellence, but of model citizenship and democratic participation.

Using the **interactive Whackin' The Blues® activity** (see photo), **live performance footage**, and exclusive **interviews with today's jazz masters\***, Dr. Wes reveals key facets of the jazz process, and what this tells us about participating in the democratic process.

Students also hear master musicians discuss the enormous **preparation** required to successfully improvise with others, as well as the **love** and **passion** needed to devote one's life to the craft. These inspirational words coupled with jaw-dropping performance footage (or live music) act as a springboard for students to consider what they love enough to devote such time and effort, and how this can benefit their local communities, their country, even the world!



Inspired by the words and performances of jazz musicians, **students leave the workshop energized to make a positive contribution in their communities**, and with a clearer picture of how they can begin preparing themselves to **make that contribution *right now!***



\*Includes exclusive interviews with:

- ♪ Terence Blanchard
- ♪ Michel Camilo
- ♪ Stefon Harris
- ♪ Horacio "El Negro" Hernández
- ♪ Mark Levine
- ♪ Jacky Terrasson

\*\*No musical experience required

\*\*\*Suitable for middle school students and older.



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## **What participants have said about J&D’s Jazz as a Metaphor for Democratic Participation & Preparation Workshop:**

*“When I came to class I expected a lecture on the study of jazz. But when we experienced hands-on movement, watched videos, learned the basic Blues, and heard what it meant to be a musician, it felt as real as I thought I could ever be to jazz.”* - 9<sup>th</sup> Grader

*“It made me realize that I have a voice in democracy.”* - 11th Grader

*“I valued that no matter what you love to do, there is always a way that it can help someone else.”*  
- 8th Grader

*“Jazz in itself meant a world of difference for children that had not heard this type of music or known anything about its meaning.... [The Chilean students learned] about participation and the responsibility of 'one' with respect to 'others'”*

- Veroniza Izikson, Interpreter, [J&D Chile](#)

*“Your approach to teaching the interactive workshops using jazz theory and performance as well as educational instruments, was an inspiration to Chilean teachers and community leaders.... Teachers involved in the workshops are now starting to use multimedia tools and team poster-making as strategies in their classrooms.”*

- Angela Emerson, Cultural Affairs Officer  
Embassy of the United States of America, Santiago, [Chile](#)

*“You don’t just teach music, you teach teamwork, and harmony and listening skills and the pure joy of learning.... Music is a universal language and you speak that language as well as anyone I know.”*

- Ambassador Pamela White  
Embassy of the United States of American, Banjul, [The Gambia](#)

*“You and the jazz trio delivered an engaging and powerful message, showing how the essential building blocks of jazz also apply in a profound way to the successful exercise of democracy. Respect and appreciation for others’ contributions, collaboration, individualism but also a willingness to compromise—these vital principles for any democratic society are, among others, what The Jazz & Democracy Project® brought to life.”*

- Karl P. Albrecht, Deputy Chief of Mission  
Embassy of the United States of America, Monrovia, [Liberia](#)





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## Workshop Set-Up & Supplies:

### Room

1. The ability to make the room dark so that videos and images projected from the LCD will be visible
2. Table at front for presentation supplies
3. Chairs or desks for participants

### A/V

4. LCD projector (Mac adaptor will be provided by J&D)
5. Screen, wall or white board on which to project
6. PA/speaker system to be connected to laptop via headphone jack
7. Microphone for large audiences/rooms

### Participant supplies:

8. Copies of handout (original provided by J&D)
9. Pencils/Pens
10. Boomwhackers® C-Major Diatonic set (1 Boomwhacker® per participant. See below for pricing\*)

### Misc.

11. Power strip
12. Extension chord

### Group poster option:

13. One pack of markers (e.g., 8 Crayola markers) and one sheet of flip chart paper *per every 4 participants*
14. Surfaces on which participants can create posters, e.g. large tables, floor space, or wall space to tape flip chart paper
15. Blue or masking tape to hang posters for creation and/or display

### Live Musician Option:

♫ TBD depending on instrumentation

### \*Boomwhacker® Calculator:

<a href="#">Boomwhackers® C-Major Diatonic Scale Set</a> \$24.95 + shipping for 8 Boomwhackers per set	Subtotal	Estimated <sup>1</sup> Shipping & Handling	Estimated <sup>1</sup> TOTAL
<b>5 sets (40 Boomwhackers)</b>	<b>\$124.90</b>	<b>\$12.49</b>	<b>\$137.39</b>
6 sets (48 Boomwhackers)	\$149.88	\$14.99	\$164.87
7 sets (56 Boomwhackers)	\$174.86	\$17.49	\$192.35
8 sets (64 Boomwhackers)	\$199.84	\$19.98	\$219.82
9 sets (72 Boomwhackers)	\$224.82	\$22.48	\$247.30
10 sets (80 Boomwhackers)	\$249.80	\$24.98	\$274.78
11 sets (88 Boomwhackers)	\$274.78	\$27.48	\$302.26
12 sets (96 Boomwhackers)	\$299.76	\$29.98	\$329.74
13 sets (104 Boomwhackers)	\$324.74	\$25.98	\$350.72

<sup>1</sup> Estimates are based on the Boomwhacker® Shopping Cart domestic shipping and handling estimate. Individual state taxes will apply to the final order. Go [here](#) to calculate total charges for your specific address.

