

## BboyB Bio

BboyB grew up in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago, but saw his first graffiti during a family vacation to New York City in 1981. By 1982 his tag was all over Logan Square and he formed one of Chicago's first iconic Graffiti crews, ABC, the Angel Berto Crew, along with fellow graffiti writer Angel/Seen. As the crew expanded to include such graffiti greats as Take2, Trixter, HATE, Flash, Non-Stop, and Risk, the name changed to the more all encompassing Artistic Bombing Crew, to retained the acronym ABC. ABC later went on to join one of the first graffiti super crews, The Federation (FEDS), which was the unification of ABC + MPC (Master Piece Crew) + TCP (The Crowd Pleasers).

Also in 1982, BboyB established Chicago's first and longest running Writers Bench, located at the Logan Square Eagle (Centennial Monument). On Super-Transfer Sundays, Writers such as Slang, Defski, Upski, Scarce, Flee, and many others would come from all corners of Chicago to this central location to craft styles, share photos, have Black Book Sessions, and have breaking cyphers. It was also during this time that BboyB studied and developed his b-boy dance form, learning street styles of competitive dance and going on to become an avid breakdancer.

The name BboyB comes from B-boy (the East Coast term used to identify a breaker, plus "Be" a shortened version of Berto. BBoyB was the first person to use the title/designation "B-boy" + "name" to create his Hip Hop alter ego. It is now a common identifier for breakdancers all over the world that has a history rooted in Chicago. It also works side by side with the other Hip Hop element identifiers such as DJ "name" and MC "name". The only element that did not carry on this tradition is the Graffiti Writer.

In 1985, BboyB was the first writer to work with the City of Chicago in establishing a legal graffiti wall. Collaborating with the LSNA (Logan Square Neighborhood Association), he helped create the very first paid permission wall at the Logan Square Bus Terminal. After this turning point, BboyB moved away from the illegal bombing of rooftop, trains, busses, and walls, and began to practice the art form in other mediums and legal murals.

While getting his BFA at Columbia College, BboyB started a Hip Hop newspaper, The Rap Sheet, later known as the FlyPaper, with the help of Raymond O'Neal and Mic Shane. The Flypaper was passed out at hip hop events like DJ Jesse DeLa Peña's nights at Lower Links, where the likes of many rapper came up. "We Got Big Lips Productions", Triple XXX, and Lit X also played a huge role in helping push the FlyPaper during the resurgence of Hip Hop. After it's launch in 1991, the FlyPaper was printed almost monthly for four years, until it was shut down in 1995 after BboyB's partners moved out of Chicago. BboyB started it back up in 2001 as the sole editor, and continued a monthly run until 2008. The FlyPaper still remains the longest running Chicago Hip Hop newspaper in existence. Now it resides in Hiphoppers private collections.

BboyB has also collaborated with many other writers and breakers to form action groups including the first community chapter of Hip Hop Congress, KRS ONE's Temple of HipHop, a Universal Zulu Charter through Pop Master Fabel from Rock Steady Crew/Zulu in NYC, and the RedBull advisory committee that successfully brought the BC One to Chicago.

He's also established many community events/spaces around the City of Chicago, including the now infamous annual Writers Bench Battle, Battle for the Eagle, with Breaker Ray, as well as Project Logan, a permission wall and safe space for writers in Logan Square with Flash and AnySquared in 2010 and is the most active permission wall in Chicago.

Flash, Telly, and BboyB are also in the process of writing a Chicago History of Graffiti Book with over 400 interviews, and thousands of Graffiti photographs. This effort to retain history led to the creation of Permanent Record, an archive art show, with talks, performances and workshops that include all elements of Hip Hop. Permanent Record had its first showing in 2013, a pop-up show in Logan Square. An expanded version opened at the Hairpin Arts Center during Chicago Artist Month in 2015, and returned again in 2016 during the Silver Room's Winter Block Party in Hyde Park and in 2018.

While BboyB's true passion is the Hip Hop community, he's held down 9-5s at various large advertising agencies such as Y&R, Leo Burnett, Jack Morton Worldwide, and his later career took him to giant news media outlets like the Chicago Tribune, The Chicago RedEye and Cafe Magazine. BboyB continues to paint Graffiti Art and has never stopped being an artist, dancer, organizer, and of course the Hip Hop Preservationist.