

Everybody's Fly: A Life of Art, Music, and Changing the Culture

Fred Brathwaite, aka Fab 5 Freddy

Artist, filmmaker, and architect of Hip-Hop culture.

Theaster Gates

Artist, archivist, social innovator, and professor and Special Advisor to the President at the University of Chicago.

Thursday, March 19, 2026, 7:00 PM CT
Evanston Township High School Auditorium
1600 Dodge Ave., Door 6, Evanston, IL 60201

BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY of *Everybody's Fly* at the event, while supplies last.



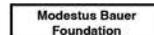
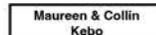
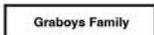
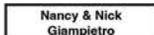
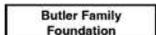
This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded.
No registration required. Suitable for youth 12+

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FERED BRATHWAITE, aka FAB 5 FREDDY – IN PERSON
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Thursday, March 19, 2026 | 7:00 PM CT

Everybody's Fly: Art, Music, and Changing the Culture

A FAN in-person featuring Fab 5 Freddy, in conversation with Theaster Gates

Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Door 6, Evanston, IL 60201

No registration required.

Bonus Book Giveaway: FAN is giving away copies of *Everybody's Fly* to attendees, while supplies last.

Blondie's declaration on their 1980 hit "Rapture" introduced listeners around the world to **Fred Brathwaite**, also known as **Fab 5 Freddy**, a pioneering cultural icon whose fearless creativity reshaped the worlds of art, style, and music. Next spring, Viking is proud to publish his electrifying memoir *Everybody's Fly: A Life of Art, Music, and Changing the Culture*.

Everybody's Fly is an essential, street-level cultural history from one of our most curious, passionate, and inspiring minds still working today. Picking up where Patti Smith's (FAN '19) *Just Kids* leaves off, it offers an intimate look into how New York's underground art and music scene—guided by Fab's singular vision of what could be possible—irrevocably transformed mainstream culture from the late 1970s to today.

Because Fab doesn't just *have* a great story—he *is* the story. Name a seismic cultural shift of the last five decades, and chances are, he wasn't just there—he was making it happen. He's the graffiti artist who turned subway tags into fine art, showing his work most recently at the Saatchi Gallery in London; the visionary behind the first hip-hop movie; the bridge between Jean-Michel Basquiat and the downtown punk scene; the first person to take rap global on MTV as the original host of *Yo! MTV Raps*; the director behind iconic music videos for Snoop Dog, Nas, Queen Latifah, and KRS-One; and, of course, the inspiration for the opening rhyme of Blondie's number one smash hit "Rapture"—the song that propelled hip-hop from the Bronx to popular culture for the first time. With a spirit of joyful creativity, he shattered racial and artistic boundaries, bridging worlds and bringing underground movements to the mainstream.

Vibrant, rhapsodic, and compulsively readable, *Everybody's Fly* is a love letter to the art of seeing, a fascinating account of an inimitable creative life, and a celebration of what it means to shape culture.

Fab will be in conversation with **Theaster Gates**, world-renowned artist, archivist, social innovator, and professor and Special Advisor to the President at the University of Chicago. Gates creates work that focuses on space theory and land development, sculpture, and performance.

This event is suitable for youth ages 12 and up. It will be recorded but not live streamed and available on FAN's website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by **FAN**, in partnership with The Avery Coonley School, Avoca D37, Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Bennett Day School, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, Brickton Montessori School, British International School of Chicago, Catherine Cook School, Compass Health Center, Countryside Day School, Evanston Scholars, Evanston Township HS D202, Family Service Center, Foundation 65, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Glenview Public Library, Gorton Center, Hyde Park Day School, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Forest Community High School D115, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Libertyville D70, Lycée Français de Chicago, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Pope John XXIII School, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, The Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, Stevenson High School D125, Township High School D113, Township High School D214, TrueNorth Educational Cooperative #804, Wilmette Public Library, Woodlands Academy, Youth & Opportunity United.