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## LOCAL BANDS/PERFORMERS

## Miki Vale



## The Skinny

**Genres:** [Blues](#) / [Soul](#), [Hip-hop](#) / [Rap](#)

**RIYL:** Addiquit, MC Flow

**Web site:** <http://www.myspace.com/mikivale>

**Formed:** San Diego

## History

Miki Vale is a female rapper originally from Oxnard, California, whose name is a take on a character from the *Batman* comics, Vikki Vale. She first appeared on the 2004 compilation album from SGM (Sleeping Giant Music), called *The Awakening*. In 2006, she collaborated with Oxnard hip-hop artist Kankick for a 7" single from Ramp Recordings called "Yes Yes (Suite 3)."

In 2007, Vale was chosen by the editors of *Billboard Magazine* as one of six finalists in DiscMaker's Independent Music World Series out of over 3000 artists. The same year, she was nominated for a San Diego Music Award for Best Hip-Hop Artist and Best Hip-Hop Album.

As an activist, Vale is the co-founder of the UPliftment Project, which sponsors events by socially aware artists. "[It's] a series of events that showcase artists we feel are not only extremely talented but are also socially aware and using their music as a tool to spread a positive message. All the money raised from these events is donated to charitable organizations like the International Rescue Committee and the FTP [Feed the People] program." FTP volunteers such as Vale gather every other Sunday to walk the streets and deliver bagged lunches to the homeless.

"Though we're all struggling to get by as individuals," she says, "we recognize that there is strength in numbers and realize that we can be more effective by first, bringing attention to the needs of those who are less fortunate and, second, raising funds to help...I think it's important that people in general do something to help others. As humans, we should do what we can to help other humans. Whether a doctor or lawyer, rapper, rocker, sports star, politician, etc. It's unfortunate that our society is not set up so that everyone eats or housing is affordable for all, so I believe it's left up to us as individuals to ensure that we help uplift each other if we are in any position to do so."

"It almost seems like people and the media are more concerned with which [hip-hop] artists are going to jail and rehab, rather than the positive contributions they are making to society," says Vale. "As far as mainstream hip-hop artists, there are actually a lot who are making charitable contributions: Nelly, David Banner, Talib Kweli...Master P and his P. Miller Youth Centers are designed to take kids off the streets and provide education and financial literacy."

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## Band Members

**Miki Vale:** Beats, Visual/performance art, Vocals

## Upcoming shows

None scheduled

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## Influences

YoYo, MC Lyte, Public Enemy, Lauryn Hill, Nikki D, Mos Def, Talib Kweli, Digable Planets, Brand Nubian, Jill Scott, Marvin Gaye, Michael Jackson, Minnie Ripperton


## Related links

[UPliftment Project](#)

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