Elements in Music and the City

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POPULAR MUSIC HERITAGE, CULTURAL JUSTICE AND THE DEINDUSTRIALISING CITY

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Abstract: The celebration of popular music can be an important mode of cultural expression and a source of pride for urban communities. This Element analyses the capacity for popular music heritage to enact cultural justice in the deindustrialising cities of Wollongong, Australia; Detroit, USA; and Birmingham, UK. The Element develops a critical approach to cultural justice for examining music and the city in a heritage context and outlines how the quest for cultural justice manifests in three key ways: collection, preservation and archiving; curation, storytelling and heritage interpretation; and mobilising communities for collective action.

Keywords: cultural justice, popular music heritage, Wollongong, Detroit, Birmingham

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Contents

1 Introduction 1

2 Collection, Preservation and Archiving 19

3 Curation, Storytelling and Heritage Interpretation 30

4 Mobilising Communities for Collective Action 44

5 Conclusion: A Critical Approach to Cultural Justice 58

References 65