



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jill Chukerman
773-392-1409/jchuk@ren.com

DANCE FREE-4-ALL!

AMERICAN RHYTHM CENTER HOSTS FREE CLASSES JAN. 5–10 AT FINE ARTS BUILDING

The [American Rhythm Center](#) (ARC), the innovative, collaborative dance/arts facility operated by the [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#) (CHRP), invites Chicagoans to start the new year with a [DANCE Free-4-All](#), six days of free dance classes on the third floor of the historic Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Avenue. The event takes place Monday–Saturday, January 5–10, 2015.

The DANCE Free-4-All features free classes for all ability levels in a range of genres and styles, including tap, Flamenco, Afro-contemporary, Afro-Haitian, Zumba, ballet, modern, hip hop, break dance, Tai Chi and more. Teaching the classes are professionals and young dancers representing the ARC's community partners and other affiliated groups, including [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#), [Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre](#), [Red Clay Dance Company](#), [DMX Dance Company](#), [Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater](#), [Esoteric Dance Project](#), Gang of Toes, [Natya Dance Theatre](#), [Tamboula Ethnic Dance Company](#), [Kalapriya Center for Indian Performing Arts](#), [M.A.D.D. Rhythms](#), Monica Morris, Movement Revolution Dance Crew and more.

On January 9, the ARC hosts a free Improvisation Jam at 6 p.m. for modern and contemporary dancers and a free Tap Jam for hoofers and tap dancers at 8 p.m. Donations are welcome.

The ARC is Chicago Human Rhythm Project's collaborative initiative to provide a shared, affordable and sustainable education, rehearsal and administrative facility for several leading Chicago arts organizations. The aim is to offer diverse, high-quality dance and movement classes to the general public while centralizing the education programs, rehearsal space and administrative offices of several core groups, as well as additional emerging companies and independent artists. The regular session of winter classes begins January 12, 2015.

Chicago Human Rhythm Project's DANCE Free-4-All takes place Monday–Saturday, January 5–10 at the American Rhythm Center at the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave., 3rd floor. For information or an updated class schedule, visit arcchicago.org or call 312-922-1272.

Funding

CHRP's ARC has raised more than \$1.3 million to date as part of a multi-phased \$2.2 million comprehensive start-up campaign. Major funding for capital, capacity and/or start-up operations has been provided by Elaine Cohen and Arlen Rubin, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, Charles Gardner and Patti Eylar, The Boeing Company, Northern Trust, The Jane Ellen Murray Foundation, Phil and Marsha Dowd, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation and Pamela Crutchfield, with additional support from The MacArthur Fund for the Arts and Culture at Prince, Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development, the James. S. Kemper Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, matching funds from the Polk Bros. Foundation through IFF and many generous individuals. Pro bono contributions have been made by Jenner & Block LLP and Baxter Insurance.

Chicago Human Rhythm Project

Chicago Human Rhythm Project is celebrating its 25th anniversary season. Upcoming events include:

- February 13–15, 2015 – **Winter Tap Jamboree** of master classes, Tap Scholar auditions and more takes place at the American Rhythm Center (ARC) at the Fine Arts Building.

- April and May 2015 – The debut of the **Chicago Rhythm Fest** begins with a series of mini-performances, lecture demonstrations, panel discussions and free classes in several Chicago neighborhoods featuring a variety of Chicago percussive dance companies.
- May 13, 2015 – The **culminating performance of the Chicago Rhythm Fest** at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University offers a showcase of Chicago’s finest percussive dance companies, including Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, Mexican Dance Ensemble, Muntu Dance Theatre and Trinity Irish Dance Company.
- July 6–August 2, 2015 – The **25th annual Rhythm World summer festival** of tap and percussive dance takes place at the ARC, MCA Chicago, Jazz Showcase and Jones College Prep; the fifth year of a five-year international focus (Canada, Japan, Brazil, Europe) will spotlight Chicago and U.S. artists.

Founded in 1990, [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#) (CHRP) builds community by presenting American tap dance and contemporary percussive arts in world-class and innovative performance, education and community outreach programs. During the last 23 years, CHRP has produced multiple community-based collaborations involving shared revenue programs, concerts and touring opportunities, including:

- annual National Tap Dance Day concerts, featuring an array of tap and percussive dance artists
- a shared revenue program designed to assist Chicago’s budding tap community to build capacity through audience development, created in 2001
- Thanks 4 Giving, another innovative shared revenue program launched in 2005 as part of its annual Global Rhythms concerts at the Harris Theater, through which CHRP has partnered with more than 100 Chicago-based nonprofits to raise funds for a wide variety of service agencies
- participation in the 5th Anniversary Beijing International Dance Festival, assembling 70 artists to represent the United States
- establishment of the American Rhythm Center (ARC), providing a shared, affordable and sustainable education, rehearsal and administrative facility for several leading Chicago arts organizations in the historic Fine Arts Building
- curating the first ever, full-length performance of concert tap dance on a main stage of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on December 7, 2012

CHRP’s vision is to establish the first global center for American tap and percussive arts, which will create a complete ecosystem of education, performance, creation and community in a state-of-the-art facility uniting generations of diverse artists and the general public. For information visit chicagotap.org.

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