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## CHICAGO HUMAN RHYTHM PROJECT CELEBRATES INNOVATORS OF DANCE MAY 9

The [American Rhythm Center](#) (ARC), a program of the [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#), hosts “Celebration of Innovators,” an evening of free performances, discussion and a community tap jam, Friday, May 9, 5:30–9:30 p.m. on the third floor of the historic Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

“Celebration of Innovators” spotlights the legacies of two legends in the field of dance: Isadora Duncan, the mother of modern dance, and Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, the father of rhythm tap. Guests will view performances by leading Chicago dance artists and have the opportunity to participate in a tap jam to conclude the evening. Performers include CHRP’s resident ensemble [BAMI](#), Tess Collins, [Duncan Dance Chicago](#), Gang of Toes, [M.A.D.D. Rhythms](#) and Evelyn Sanchez of [Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater](#).

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.

**“Celebration of Innovators” is free and open to the public. For information visit [arcchicago.org](http://arcchicago.org).**

### Funding

CHRP’s ARC has raised more than \$1 million to date as part of a multi-phased \$2.5 million capital start-up campaign. Major funding for capital and/or start-up operations has been provided by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Elaine Cohen and Arlen Rubin, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, Charlie Gardner and Patti Eylar, Jane Ellen Murray and Ed Wentz, The Boeing Company, The Joyce Foundation, The MacArthur Fund for the Arts and Culture at Prince, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, and Pamela Crutchfield, with additional support from David Sensibar, 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

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 24 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, 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

For information visit [chicagotap.org](http://chicagotap.org).

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