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**AMERICAN RHYTHM CENTER HOSTS “FREE 4 ALL” SEPT. 21–22**

**New Arts Facility Offers the Public Free Classes of All Shapes and Sizes at the Fine Arts Building**

To introduce Chicago to the range of dance class offerings at the city’s newest collaborative dance/arts facility, the American Rhythm Center (ARC) will host “Dance Free 4 All,” two days of free classes in the newly renovated space on the third floor of the historic Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Avenue. The event takes place Friday and Saturday, September 21 and 22.

Both days will include free classes for all ability levels in a range of genres and styles, including tap, jazz, African, flamenco, Bollywood and classic Indian, swing, Latin, capoeira, tai chi and more. Teaching the classes will be professionals and young dancers representing ARC’s community partners and other affiliated groups, including Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s resident ensemble [BAM!](#), Chicago Chinese Cultural Center, [Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre](#), [Giordano Dance Chicago](#), [Kalapriya Center for Indian Performing Arts](#) and more. On Friday, the public also will be able to watch Giordano Dance Chicago in company class and rehearsal.

ARC is Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s new collaborative initiative to provide a shared, affordable and sustainable education, rehearsal and administrative facility for several leading Chicago arts organizations. ARC officially opens with a full class schedule Monday, October 1. 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.

**Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s “Free 4 All” takes place Friday, September 21 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, September 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the American Rhythm Center at the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave., 3rd floor. For an updated class schedule, visit [chicagotap.org](http://chicagotap.org).**

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**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 Elaine Cohen and Arlen Rubin, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, The Boeing Company and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, with additional support from Pamela Crutchfield, 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.

**About 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 22 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.