



Chicago Dance Month

2023 Summer Dance Guide



SEECHICAGODANCE.COM



WORLD PREMIERE
REST
RISE
MOVE
NOURISH
HEAL

JUNE 8-10, 2023 • 6:30PM

LOCATED AT

**ART ON THE FARM
IN GRANT PARK**

SCAN CODE FOR
TICKETS



WELCOME TO CHICAGO DANCE MONTH!

Dear Chicago Dance Lovers,

After a mild winter and a beautiful early spring, what better way to welcome summer to Chicago than with dance?! This year, for the third time, See Chicago Dance kicks off Chicago Dance Month with an electrifying group performance on the beautiful Lake Stage at Navy Pier. All of the artists and companies we are presenting this year have deep roots in Chicago and represent a marvelous array of international traditions, in addition to American forms like tap and modern dance. You'll see lots of musicians on stage this year, too!

In 2023 SCD will present 49 companies and individual artists in 31 distinct performance and instructional events. Through our partnerships with The Green at 320 S. Canal, the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Navy Pier, and Night Out in the Parks, we are proud to present the work of so many amazing artists and compensate all of them for their powerful work!

Dance in Chicago is flourishing! Young artists and veterans, small companies and large, are emerging from the pandemic with energy, joy, and gratitude. Dancers, and their willing enablers (designers, technicians, administrators, managers, etc.), are the scrappiest and most resourceful folks I know. This year you'll find dance artists on stages and in parks and other unexpected places. And with funding, space, and ticket buyers in high demand, many of them are making new work and creating new structures and relationships to support their creative visions.

The listings on pages 6–9 are only a portion of what will be on offer in June and throughout the summer. Please check seechicagodance.com/events frequently; our community users are adding more performances and other events to our calendar—the most comprehensive listing of dance events in the city—all the time.

We invite you to join Chicago's extraordinary dance community to celebrate the beautiful diversity and dynamism of the dance all around us and spread the power of dance in Chicago.

See a show, take a class, make a donation to your favorite dance nonprofit!

Thank you for all the ways you support our community.



Julia Mayer

Executive Director, See Chicago Dance

SAVE THE DATE



2023 AWARDS PRESENTATION & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

HONORING

Homer Hans Bryant

Founder and Artistic Director of
Chicago Multicultural Dance Center
& Hiplet Ballerinas

2023 LEGACY AWARD



Ginger Farley

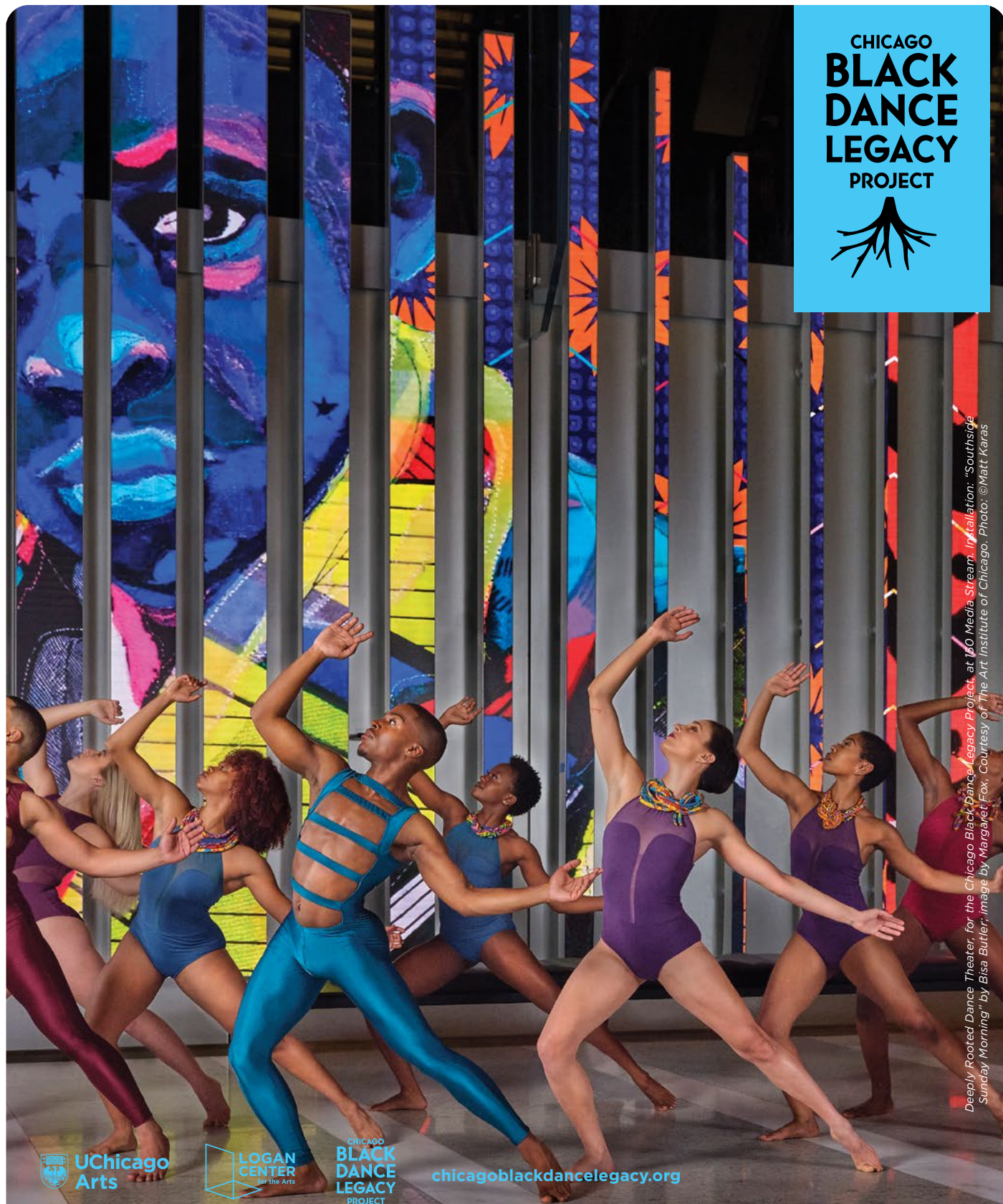
Former Executive Director of
Chicago Dancemakers Forum

2023 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
TO THE DANCE FIELD AWARD

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 | 5:30 PM

VENUE WEST | 221 N PAULINA ST | CHICAGO

CHICAGO
**BLACK
DANCE
LEGACY**
PROJECT



Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, for the Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project, at Igo Media Stream Installation: "Southside Sunday Morning" by Bisa Butler, image by Margaret Fox, Courtesy of The Art Institute of Chicago, Photo: ©Matt Karas



chicagoblackdancelegacy.org

The Companies of the Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project's second cohort debut a commissioned work at **ART on THE MART** (Jul 6—Sep 13, 2023) and perform **Metamorphosis** at **Ravinia Festival** (Sep 7, 2023). Featuring Chicago Multicultural Dance Center & Hiilet Ballerinas, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Forward Momentum Chicago, Joel Hall Dancers & Center, M.A.D.D. Rhythms, Move Me Soul, Muntu Dance Theatre, NAJWA Dance Corps, Praize Productions, Inc., and The Era Footwork Collective.



Spotlight: Ayako Kato

Ayako Kato is a dancer, choreographer, and improviser from Yokohama, Japan. She was drawn to Chicago in 2004 and has since created an impressive body of work, inspired by a community of warm-hearted musicians and dancers.

During a yearlong hiatus from dance at the age of 19, Kato encountered the haikus of historic Japanese poet Matsuo Bashō, known to have an accessible writing style that explores existential concepts of spirituality and the view that life is a journey that must be traveled constantly.

This inquiry led Kato to more closely inspect traditional Japanese culture—like tea ceremonies and poetry—as well as contemporary issues. “The beauty of ambiguity to Japanese people is often misunderstood by Western people,” she explained. “I decided to study about this fūryū (windflow), which I translate to mean ‘the beauty of being as it is.’ It was at that time that I started to decolonize my body and noticed that I needed to keep dancing in order to stay sane.”

Kato later moved to Ann Arbor and began studying at the University of Michigan, where one of her teachers asked her a simple yet course-altering question: “Why do you dance?” “I decided I wanted to express through dance the natural beauty in all of us,” said Kato. **“I believe that everybody can dance, and I would like to excavate the natural dignity that all people have. That is my goal.”**

Since moving to Chicago, Kato has worked as an independent dancer and choreographer, founding Art Union Humanscape in 1998. She has built a reputation for her collaborations with an ever-growing list of musicians, including her husband, double bassist Jason Roebke. Dance collaborators include Chicago dance veterans along with rising stars Darling Squire, Tuli Bera, and Amanda Maraist.

Kato is currently working on the next iteration of her **“Ethos”** series, with **Ethos IV** premiering later this year and **Ethos V** premiering in April 2024. With the **Ethos** project, she expresses the beauty of diversity, focusing on the land and land’s history. As an immigrant, Kato struggles with a sense of belonging and explores how other people feel about living in a country that is, excluding native peoples, essentially all immigrants. “We need to deepen our awareness of this vertical relationship that we have with nature and how much appreciation we have of this land. I want to keep learning about the history of this land, learning about the layers beneath us.”

Visit **AyakoKatoDance.com** to find out about upcoming presentations of the **Ethos** project and other exhibitions of Kato’s work.



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DANCE CHICAGO

ABUNDANCE SEASON 46



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We've saved you a seat.

[HUBBARDSTREETDANCE.COM/ABUNDANCE](https://hubbardstreetdance.com/abundance)

Hubbard Street Dancers Alyssa Johnson and Abdel Figueroa Reyes.
Photo by Michelle Reid, styling by Inara Stale

CHICAGO DANCE MONTH EVENTS

All programming is subject to change. Please visit SeeChicagoDance.com for updates and further details.

May 21

Chicago Inclusive Dance Festival

ReinventAbility & MOMENTA Dance Co.
Mayor's Office for People w/ Disabilities
2102 W Ogden Ave, Chicago
Sunday 10am, Free

May 21

2023 Annual Concert

Chicago Ballet Arts
McGrath Family Performing Arts Center
1100 Laramie Ave, Wilmette
Sunday 2pm, \$12–35

May 21

FACETS

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
Harris Theater for Music and Dance
205 E Randolph St, Chicago
Sunday 3pm, \$15–110

May 21

Grasp Grip

The Space Movement Project &
The Rooted Space Company
Experimental Station
6100 S Blackstone Ave, Chicago
Sunday 3pm, \$25

May 21

National Tap Dance Day Celebration

M.A.D.D. Rhythms
Harold Washington Cultural Center
4701 S King Dr, Chicago
Sunday 3pm, Price TBD

May 21

Solus

Visceral Dance Chicago
Ann Barzel Theater
3121 N Rockwell St, Chicago
Sunday 3pm, \$20–\$35

May 21

The Wayward Daughter

Ballet 5:8
Lincoln Way Central High School
1801 E Lincoln Hwy, New Lenox
Sunday 3pm, \$25

May 21

Dance Party

Desueño Dance
3057 N Rockwell St 2nd Flr, Chicago
Sunday 5pm, \$10

May 22

DanceChance

Chicago Dancemakers Forum
Red Clay Dance Company
808 E 63rd St, Chicago
Monday 6:30pm, \$5

May 26 & June 9–10

Juke for Liberation

Links Hall
3111 N Western Ave, Chicago
Friday 6pm Saturday 7pm, Free–\$40

May 27 & June 26

Open Studio Series:

Silvita Diaz Brown

Chicago Cultural Center
78 E Washington St, Chicago
Saturday 3pm, Monday 6pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

May 31

Live at Lunch @ The Green

320 S Canal St, Chicago
Wednesday 12pm, Free



June 1

Superbloom

The Seldoms
Harris Theater for Music and Dance
205 E Randolph St, Chicago
Thursday 7:30pm, \$25–60

June 2–10

Ofrendas en Sinestesia: experiments in shared dance rituals

Links Hall
3111 N Western Ave, Chicago
Friday–Saturday, times vary, Free–\$40

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 3

Dance Month Kickoff

Navy Pier, Lake Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Saturday, Wednesday 3pm, Free

June 3 & June 24

Open Studio Series:

Tango 21 Dance Theater

Chicago Cultural Center
78 E Washington St, Chicago
Saturday 11am, Free

June 4

Call Her By Name

Praize Productions
Millennium Park, Jay Pritzker Pavilion
201 E Randolph St, Chicago
Sunday 6pm, Free

June 5

Open Studio Series:

Robyn Mineko Williams

Chicago Cultural Center
78 E Washington St, Chicago
Monday 6pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 7

Pier Dance

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Wednesday 6pm, Free

June 8–10

Rest.Rise.Move.Nourish.Heal.

Red Clay Dance Company
Art on the Farm Grant Park
119 E Congress Pkwy, Chicago
Thursday–Saturday 6:30pm, \$15–150

June 8–11

Synesthete

Chicago Tap Theatre
The Den Theatre
1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago
Thurs–Sat 8pm, Sunday 3pm, \$25–40

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 9

Open Studio: Such Creatures

Chicago Cultural Center Dance Studio
78 E Washington St, Chicago
Friday 12pm, Free

June 9 & August 11

Raks Inferno

The Newport Theater
956 W Newport Ave, Chicago
Friday 9pm, \$29–39

CHICAGO DANCE MONTH EVENTS

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 10

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Saturday 3pm, Free

June 10

Memoirs of Jazz in the Alley

South Chicago Dance Theatre
Auditorium Theatre
50 E Ida B. Wells Drive, Chicago
Saturday 7:30pm, \$33–77

June 12

Open Studio Series: Jean Wildest

Chicago Cultural Center
78 E Washington St, Chicago
Monday 6pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 13

On the Move 1

Promontory Point
5491 S DuSable Lake Shore Dr, Chicago
Tuesday 4:30pm, Free

June 13

Open Studio Series:

Christopher "Mad Dog" Thomas

Chicago Cultural Center
78 E Washington St, Chicago
Tuesday 6pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENTS!

June 14

Live at Lunch @ The Green

320 S Canal St, Chicago
Wednesday 12pm, Free

June 14

Pier Dance

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Wednesday 3pm, Free

June 16

Open Studio: Helen Lee

Chicago Cultural Center Dance Studio
78 E Washington St, Chicago
Friday 12pm, Free

June 16–25

Co-MISSION Festival of New Works

Links Hall
3111 N Western Ave, Chicago
Friday–Sunday 7pm, \$16–42



June 16

Synastry

Simantikos Dance Chicago
Ruth Page Center for the Arts
1016 N Dearborn St, Chicago
Friday 7pm, \$20–50

June 16–18

Flamenco Passion

Ensemble Español
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts
9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie
Fri–Sat 7:30pm, Sun 3pm, Price TBD

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 17

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Saturday 3pm, Free

June 19

Juneteenth Celebration

M.A.D.D. Rhythms
Harold Washington Cultural Center
4701 S King Dr, Chicago
Monday 1pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 21

Pier Dance

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Wednesday 6pm, Free

June 22–24

New Dances 2023

Thodos Dance & DanceWorks Chicago
The Ruth Page Center for the Arts
1016 N Dearborn St, Chicago
Thursday–Saturday 7pm, \$20–40

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 23

Open Studio: Shalaka Kulkarni

Chicago Cultural Center Dance Studio
78 E Washington St, Chicago
Friday 12pm, Free



June 23–24

New Works 2023

Synapse Arts
Berger Park Cultural Center
6205 N Sheridan Rd, Chicago
Friday–Saturday, 7pm, \$10–20

June 24

Dancing in the Healing Garden

Perceptual Motion
Galter Life Center
5157 N Francisco Ave, Chicago
Saturday 12pm, Free

June 24–25

Solstice Flight

Aerial Dance Chicago
4028 W Irving Park Rd, Chicago
Saturday–Sunday 5pm & 7pm, \$20

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 24

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Saturday 3pm, Free

June 25

Open Studio Series:

Christopher Knowlton

Chicago Cultural Center
78 E Washington St, Chicago
Sunday 1pm, Free

CHICAGO DANCE MONTH EVENTS



June 25

**Joffrey For All
Free Public Performance**

Joffrey Ballet
Millennium Park, Jay Pritzker Pavilion
201 E Randolph St, Chicago
Sunday 5:30pm, Free

June 26

DanceChance

Chicago Dancemakers Forum
Mayor's Office for People w/ Disabilities
2102 W Ogden Ave, Chicago
Monday 6:30pm, \$5

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENTS!

June 27

On the Move 2

Promontory Point
5491 S DuSable Lake Shore Dr, Chicago
Tuesday 4pm, Free

June 28

Live at Lunch @ The Green

320 S Canal St, Chicago
Wednesday 12pm, Free

June 28

Pier Dance

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Wednesday 6pm, Free

June 29-30

The Shwang Out

Links Hall
3111 N Western Ave, Chicago
Thursday-Friday 7:30pm, \$10

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 30

Open Studio: Jamila Kinney

Chicago Cultural Center Dance Studio
78 E Washington St, Chicago
Friday 12pm, Free

June 30-July 2

In This Neck of the Woods

Noumenon Dance Ensemble
The Edge Theater
5451 N Broadway, Chicago
Fri & Sat 7pm, Sun 3pm, \$15-25

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENTS!

July 8

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Saturday 3pm, Free

July 12

Live at Lunch @ The Green

320 S Canal St, Chicago
Wednesday 12pm, Free

July 13

Dancing in River Park!

Perceptual Motion
5100 N Francisco Ave, Chicago
Thursday 7pm, Free

July 14-15

Inclined to Decline

Darvin Dances
The Rooted Space
1803 W Byron St #201, Chicago
Friday-Saturday 7:30pm, \$15

July 14 & September 8

Raks Geek

The Newport Theater
956 W Newport Ave, Chicago
Friday 9pm, \$29-39

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

July 15

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Saturday 3pm, Free

July 16-23

Rhythm World 33

More info at ChicagoTap.org
Times & locations vary, Free-\$150



July 22

DisFest

Reinventability
Chicago Cultural Center
78 E Washington St, Chicago
Saturday 12:30-6pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

July 22

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Saturday 3pm, Free

July 24

DanceChance

Chicago Dancemakers Forum
The Ruth Page Center for the Arts
1016 N Dearborn St, Chicago
Monday 6:30pm, \$5

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENTS!

July 26

Live at Lunch @ The Green

320 S Canal St, Chicago
Wednesday 12pm, Free

July 29

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Saturday 3pm, Free

August 5

Elpis Dance Fest

Identity Performing Arts
2021 N Stockton Dr, Chicago
Saturday 2:30pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENTS!

August 5

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Saturday 3pm, Free

August 9

Live at Lunch @ The Green

320 S Canal St, Chicago
Wednesday 12pm, Free

August 11

Manor Park Concert Series

Le Ballet Petit
Ravenswood Manor Park
4626 N Manor Ave, Chicago
Friday 7pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

August 12

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage
600 E Grand Ave, Chicago
Saturday 3pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENTS!

August 16

VIRTUAL EVENT: Screendance Club

Register at SeeChicagoDance.com

Wednesday 5pm, Free

August 19

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage

600 E Grand Ave, Chicago

Saturday 3pm, Free

August 21

DanceChance

Chicago Dancemakers Forum

Harold Washington Cultural Center

4701 S King Dr, Chicago

Monday 6:30pm, \$5

August 23

Elevating Diverse Voices

Ballet 5:8

Daley Plaza

50 W Washington St, Chicago

Wednesday 12pm, Free

SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENTS!

August 23

Live at Lunch @ The Green

320 S Canal St, Chicago

Wednesday 12pm, Free

August 26

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage

600 E Grand Ave, Chicago

Saturday 3pm, Free

August 30

Live at Lunch @ The Green

320 S Canal St, Chicago

Wednesday 12pm, Free

September 2

Wave Wall Moves

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage

600 E Grand Ave, Chicago

Saturday 3pm, Free

September 6

Live at Lunch @ The Green

320 S Canal St, Chicago

Wednesday 12pm, Free

September 13

Live at Lunch @ The Green

320 S Canal St, Chicago

Wednesday 12pm, Free



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CHICAGO 2023 SUMMER DANCE

July 15 – September 10 (select dates)

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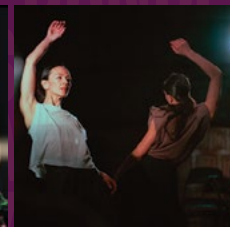
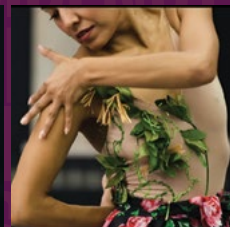


chicago cultural center

DANCE RESIDENCY OPEN STUDIO SERIES 2023

May 27 – June 26 (multiple dates)

Six dancemakers offer free open studios to share works-in-progress



Resident artists include (from left to right): Christopher Knowlton, Jean Wildest, Silvita Diaz Brown, Robyn Mineko Williams, Tango 21 Dance Theater, Christopher "Mad Dog" Thomas



ChicagoCulturalCenter.org

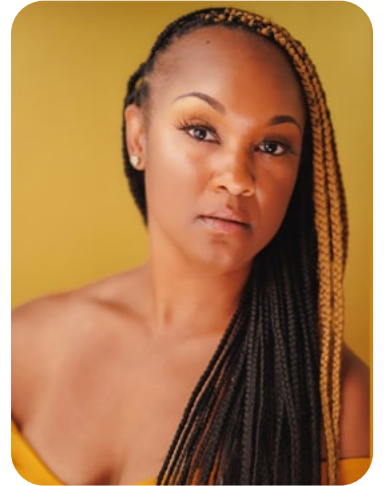
Spotlight: Enneréssa LaNette Davis and Praize Productions, Inc.

Enneréssa LaNette Davis, executive director of Praize Productions, Inc., has a strong Chicago wind at her back. Although both Davis's personal artistry and PPI's success have been noted during the past 12 years, it is since the release of her feature-length motion picture *NINE* in 2022 that she has burgeoned. This year, the vision has fully blossomed and come to fruition.

"Our 12th year is what we have dreamed of," said Davis. "You work so hard for so many years, and this is what we have prayed for and more." With conviction, Davis has claimed 2023 as "the year of consecutive wins."

Earlier this year Davis received a Chicago Dancemakers Forum Lab Grant and will use the year to write her first book. Later this summer, she is curating her first photo exhibition, "The Rhythm Within Our Blues," featuring Chicago-based photographers Seed Lynn, Amber Green, and Tony Smith.

"This year has been about taking ownership of our own narratives, acknowledging the wins and claiming victory over our lives," Davis commented. "We are called to be powerful, and when we achieve and take ownership in our gifts and purpose, how can we not be confident in that?"



Davis's brainchild, Praize Productions, Inc., is a Chicago-based performing arts organization she founded in 2011 to increase access to quality dance arts education for young people on Chicago's South Side. Now in its 12th season, the organization houses both a pre-professional performing arts academy and RIZE Pro-Elite, a professional dance company. As one of four Chicago-based organizations selected for the inaugural Millennium Park Residency Program, the company will perform its first full-length stage concert since 2019, "Call Her by Name," at Pritzker Pavilion on June 4. It's a fitting title for a woman recently embracing her own distinct name and affirming young Black girls and women as they stand in their birthright within themselves, their homes, communities, cities, and the world.



The Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project recently selected PPI as one of 10 dance companies in its new cohort. The Project has made a multi-year commitment to strengthen the capacity of long-standing Black dance companies in Chicago.

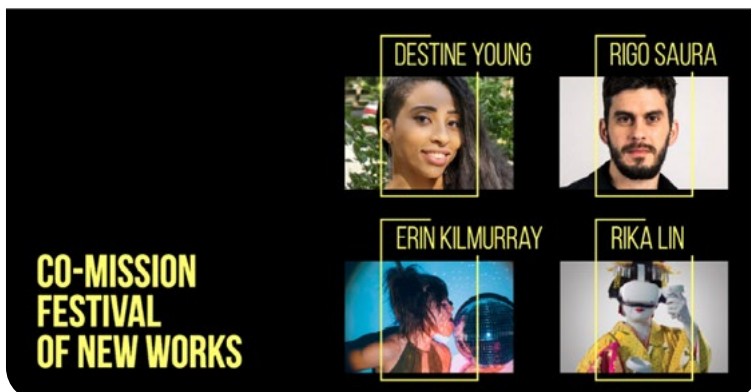


Links Hall Spring Season

April 24 - June 25, 2023

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Info + Tickets: linkshall.org



So, even as Enneréssa LaNette Davis is aware of the magnitude of her responsibility as a mentor for young girls and a leader in her community, she is also committed to enjoying this celebratory time. "A few years ago, I can remember being so burned out, I couldn't enjoy the blessings we were receiving. Now I want to truly enjoy this season of winning."

To learn more about Enneréssa LaNette Davis and Praize Productions, Inc., visit **PraizeProductions.com**.

Spotlight: Nejla Yatkin's *A Dance For A Time Being*



Choreographer Nejla Yatkin has been ahead of the technological curve for much of her esteemed career. In her latest project, she uses augmented reality for the first time so audiences see dance in a new way: on their smartphones, wherever they are, anytime. And that's just the beginning.

The other notable aspect of this project is that Yatkin has chosen to feature three incomparable Chicago dance artists who are still making new works in their 60s and 70s. In this first iteration, she introduces Kevin Iega Jeff (co-founder and currently emeritus executive artistic director of Deeply Rooted Dance Theater), Hema Rajagopalan (founder and artistic director of Natya Dance Theatre), and Bryan Saner (freelance performer, former member of Goat Island Performance Group, and current member of Every House Has a Door). Yatkin intends to add three new artists each year.

Within the app, a viewer can select the dancer they want to see and whether to see them dance before or after the viewer listens to their thoughtful reflections on how and what they are still learning from their aging dancing bodies. Yatkin believes this is a wonderful way for a new, digitally native generation of dancers and dance lovers to "meet" and experience the work of these amazing elders.

Which leads to the project's title, *A Dance for A Time Being*. Yatkin does not use the more familiar "for the time being." She is interested in beings, in this case human beings—the ones who do the dancing and the ones who love to engage with it. "Dancers' bodies accumulate insight and knowledge throughout years of training and life experience," Yatkin said. **"This project asks us to reflect on the body as a Time Being, ever-changing and growing, filled with embodied wisdom."**



To experience the work anytime, scan this QR code, download the app*, and follow the prompts.

Collaborators for *A Dance for A Time Being*

Featured Artists: Kevin Iega Jeff, Hema Rajagopalan, Bryan Saner

Concept and Direction by Nejla Yatkin

Filmed by Enki Andrews

Edited by Enki Andrews and Nejla Yatkin

Augmented Reality and App Development by Eugene Ovcharenko and the team at Intenvix

Music by Sathapat Sangsuwan

*At this time *A Dance for A Time Being* is available for use only on Apple devices.

To learn more about Nejla Yatkin, visit NY2Dance.com.

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Chicago Dance

Kim Davis and Isaiah Collier, photo by MReid Photography.

Spotlight:

The Era Footwork Crew

The world-class dance form Chicago footwork is fast, energetic, open to boundless creativity—and it has deep roots right here in Chicago. But a generations-long cycle of resource disparity has prevented many young and talented dancers living on the South and West Sides from pursuing a career in dance, which, in turn, has negatively affected the development and visibility of the art form. This is where Chicago footwork crew The Era steps in.



The Era is a pioneer of footwork, using its art to support its members and their respective communities since 2014. The crew’s dancers—Jamal “Litebulb” Oliver, Sterling “Steelo” Lofton, Brandon “Chief Manny” Calhoun, Jemal “P-Top” De La Cruz, and Syd Falls Syd—first knew each other as members of different “battle cliques,” but soon they joined forces. Together they aim to create an organization that performs and represents the music, style, and values of Chicago footwork, using dance as a primary means of expression and a tool of resistance.

The Era is the embodiment of collectivism. “Our goal is to support each other’s individual projects as a collective model that we all are a part of,” said Calhoun. “Litebulb’s working on his own dance show. I’m working on my film. Steelo is working on his fashion. Syd creates music. P-Top is focused on teaching. I think the biggest accomplishment is being able to operate like an organization.”

There is, however, still a lot of work to do. “Footwork is growing nationally and globally. But the community in Chicago is smaller compared to the early days of footwork. That comes from the lack of support and resources necessary for this dance form to really thrive. Globally there is a lot more opportunity.”

The Era’s collective approach is paying off—its members are now performing and teaching locally and internationally. Last year, the crew received recognition in the form of a \$90,000 National Dance Award from New England Foundation for The Arts, and they were recently invited to join the Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project.

To Calhoun, The Era’s rise to prominence goes hand-in-hand with giving back to the community. “We’ve noticed the importance of passing this down. **It’s not a trend, it’s not a fad. There’s a community of culture behind it. This dance is more than a dance.** It’s a way of expressing yourself. Working within the community, breaking into the arts world and the political scene—we’re proud of being sort of ‘founding fathers’ to this generation.”

To find out where The Era Footwork Crew will perform next, visit TheEraFootworkCrew.com.

CHICAGO DANCE MONTH ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Programs of See Chicago Dance are made possible with support from

CHICAGO DANCE MONTH SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



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SEE CHICAGO DANCE FUNDERS



... and many generous individuals

WRITING CREDITS

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PHOTO CREDITS

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Photo 1: Unfolding Disability Futures by Frank L Konrath

Photo 2: Ajumma Rising by Michelle Reid

Photo 3: Ballet 5:8 by Frank L Konrath

Photo 4: Chicago Tap Theatre by Philamonjaro

Photo 5: Raks Inferno by Michelle Reid

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