

# CHICAGO DANCE MONTH

LET CHICAGO MOVE YOU!

**2024 SUMMER DANCE GUIDE** 

SeeChicagoDance.com





JUNE 7-9 · SKOKIE

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# WELCOME TO CHICAGO DANCE MONTH!

Dear Chicago Dance Lovers,

Spring has come early this year, and summer will be here in no time. That means See Chicago Dance's summer dance programming is right around the corner, beginning with our annual **Chicago Dance Month Kickoff** performance happening **June 1** on the beautiful **Lake Stage at Navy Pier**.

Throughout the summer, SCD will present 45 companies and individual artists in 17 distinct performance and instructional events. It is our honor to showcase **so many amazing, diverse and dynamic artists** on Navy Pier's three stages this year.

Participation in Chicago Dance Month events is open to all SCD members. This year, we received **an unprecedented number of applications to participate in Dance Month: 85!** This boom echoes the growth of our community's overall interest in SCD's programs and services. Earlier this year we reached a major milestone: **350 new and renewing members**, a 450% increase in the number of individual artists and organizational members since 2019. Thanks to the generosity of our Membership Sponsor, Grand Stage, **membership is free** and involves only the completion of a brief demographic survey, which helps us be more effective advocates for our community.

Throughout this year's brochure, you'll also find **four short spotlights** written by members of our journalism team at SeeChicagoDance.com. Since 2009, SCD has supported a rigorous dance writing platform, offering more reviews and reflections on the creative forces that ignite Chicago's stages than any other media outlet. In 2023, we published 77 dance articles online.

Last but not least, you'll find the summer dance event listings on pages 6–9—just a portion of the performances and instructional opportunities our community will offer throughout the summer. Our members are adding more performances and events to our online calendar—the most comprehensive listing of dance events in the city—every day. **Please check seechicagodance.com/events frequently**;

We invite you to join us in the tradition of Chicago Dance Month. Let Chicago move you!

iflia

Julia Mayer Executive Director, See Chicago Dance





Chicago's historic home for dance training and performance.

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# Living History: Chicago Dance History Project

The Chicago Dance History Project digitizes and preserves oral dance histories across the city. And after a decade of operation, they're restructuring, rebranding and realigning that vision.



Under Executive Director Michael McStraw's leadership, CDHP is in the middle of two concrete changes. First, the archives will migrate to the city's Midwest Dance Collection at the Newberry Library—making them free to the public. Second, a new "digitization station" launching in June at CDHP's downtown offices allows artists and companies to record and digitize materials for contribution to the collection.

Drawing on 40 years of experience in Chicago's dance community, including 13 as executive director of Giordano Dance Chicago, McStraw plans to incorporate a redefinition of the organization as not simply research-based, but service-based.



"Our support will be to help do the research, then encapsulate that work in such a way that it becomes meaningful and useful," he says. **"The really wonderful thing is that it represents all forms of dance in the city and a diversity of people, dance styles and neighborhoods."** 

While the initial archival work is focusing on professional companies and venues, McStraw emphasizes a vision to eventually include independent artists and educational organizations, as well as coordinate panels that invite more voices to discuss the broader art forms and spaces within the community.

To learn more, visit **chicagodancehistory.org**.



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

May 17 Can You Hear Us Now? Preview Event

**Chicago Tap Theatre** Gerber Hart Library 6500 N Clark St, Chicago Fri 7pm, Free

May 17–18 25th Anniversary Concert Series Cergua Rivera Dance Theatre

Ruth Page Center for the Arts 1016 N Dearborn St, Chicago Fri–Sat 7:30pm, \$40–60

May 17–18 Back In the Saddle Darvin Dances

Color Club 4146 N Elston Ave, Chicago Fri–Sat 7:30pm, \$25

May 17–18 Lights/9 Identity Performing Arts

C5 5066 N Kimberly Ave, Chicago Fri–Sat 7:30pm, \$30

### May 17–19 Spring Series: "Of Joy" Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Harris Theater for Music and Dance 205 E Randolph St, Chicago Fri–Sat 8pm, Sun 3pm, \$15–110

# May 18–19

### Annual Concert Chicago Ballet Arts

McGrath Family Performing Arts Center 1100 Laramie Ave, Wilmette Sat 4pm, Sun 1:30pm, \$12–35

# May 19

# Gala des Etoiles de la Danse

**Chicago Ballet Theatre** The Wilds at Red Oak Nature Center 1400 N River Rd, North Aurora Sun 2pm, \$100

# May 20 Marvelous Monday

Modern Marvels Dance Company Northcenter Town Square 4100 N Damen Ave, Chicago Mon 6pm, Free



May 20 DanceChance Chicago Dancemakers Forum Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities – Central West Center 2102 W Ogden Ave, Chicago Mon 6:30pm, Free

# May 24

### Defiant Silk Festival: Fire + Dragons Raks Inferno

The Newport Theater 956 W Newport Ave, Chicago Fri 7pm, \$25–39



May 24–25 Persistent Spring Winifred Haun & Dancers Ruth Page Center for the Arts 1016 N Dearborn St, Chicago Fri–Sat 7:30pm, \$35

# May 25–26 The Toymaker

### Ballet 5:8

Lincoln–Way West High School 21701 Gougar Rd, New Lenox Sat 2pm & 7pm, Sun 3pm, \$15–35

# May 25 National Tap Dance Day

**Chicago Human Rhythm Project** Mayfair Arts Center 8701 S Bennett Ave, Chicago Sat 6pm, Free

### May 31–June 2 Innate

Hot Crowd Theater Wit 1229 W Belmont Ave, Chicago Fri-Sat 7:30pm, Sat-Sun 2:30pm, \$34



June 1 Dance Month Kickoff Navy Pier Polk Bros Park Lake Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Sat 3pm, Free



June 2 Flight Aerial Dance Workshop Aerial Dance Chicago 4028 W Irving Park Rd, Loft A, Chicago Sun 3:30pm, Free

# June 3

### **Open Studio Series: Amanda Ramirez Department of Cultural Affairs and** Special Events

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

# June 5

# **Open Studio Series:**

Amalia Raye Wiatr Lewis **Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events** 

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

# **SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!**

June 5 Navy Pier City Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Wed 6pm, Free



# June 5

# **Choreography Showing** Venetia Stifler & Concert Dance, Inc

Visceral Dance Center 3121 N Rockwell St, Chicago Wed 7pm, Free

# June 7-9

Blues at the Bean 2024

# Bluetopia

Forteza 4437 N Ravenswood Ave, Chicago Fri-Sun 11am, \$50-100

### June 7-9 Under My Skin

# **Noumenon Dance Ensemble**

The Edge Theater 5451 N Broadway St, Chicago Fri-Sat 7pm, Sun 3pm, \$25

# June 7-9

# Flamenco Passion

**Ensemble Español** North Shore Center for the Performing Arts 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie Fri-Sat 7:30pm, Sun 3pm, \$15-55

# June 8

# **Open Studio Series: Aaliyah Christina**

**Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events** Chicago Cultural Center 78 E Washington St, Chicago Sat 11am, Free

# June 8

**Art Inspired Dance Improvisation** Still Inspired

Old Town Art Fair 1763 N North Park Ave, Chicago Sat 1:30pm, Free

# **SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!** June 8

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Sat 4pm, Free



# June 9 Sunday Dance Mix-Up

The Old Town School of Folk Music 4544 N Lincoln, Chicago Sun 11am, \$20-30



National Tap Day Celebration The Old Town School of Folk Music 4544 N Lincoln, Chicago Sun 4:30pm, \$24-26

### June 11 **Open Studio Series: Helen Lee Department of Cultural Affairs and**

# **Special Events** Chicago Cultural Center

78 E Washington St, Chicago Tue 6pm, Free

# SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

June 12 Navy Pier City Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Wed 6pm, Free

# June 14

Raks Geek: A Sci-Fi + Fantasy Speakeasy **Raks Geek** 

The Newport Theater 956 W Newport Ave, Chicago Fri 7pm, \$29–39

### June 14

Ruth Page School - Spring Show 2024 Ruth Page School of Dance 1016 N Dearborn St, Chicago Fri 7pm, \$20

### June 14-15 WROUGHT

Laboratory Dancers Ebenezer Lutheran Church 1650 W Foster Ave, Chicago Fri-Sat 7:30pm, \$12-50

# June 15

### Improv Jam for Dancers and Artists Little Fire Artist Collective

The Rooted Space 1803 W Byron St, Suite 201, Chicago Sat 11am, Donations Welcome

# June 15-29

Tend

Khecari Chicago Cultural Center 78 E Washington St, Chicago Sat & Thurs, Noon, Free

### June 16 Snow White the Ballet

# Chicago Ballet Theatre

Lake Park East High School 600 S Medinah Rd, Roselle Sun 3pm, \$27-37

# June 16

### **Open Studio Series: Keisha Janae Department of Cultural Affairs and**

# **Special Events**

Chicago Cultural Center 78 E Washington St, Chicago Sun 3pm, Free

# **SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!** June 19

Navy Pier City Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Wed 6pm, Free





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

### June 20

# Ruth Page Professional Dance & Friends at Ravinia Festival

**Ruth Page Pro Training Program** 201 Ravinia Park Road, Highland Park Thurs 7:30pm, \$35

# June 20–22 New Dances 2024

**Thodos Dance Chicago and DanceWorks Chicago** Ruth Page Center for the Arts 1016 N Dearborn St, Chicago Thurs–Sat 7pm, \$20–40

### June 20–23 Can You Hear Us Now?

Chicago Tap Theatre The Edge Theater

5451 N Broadway St, Chicago Thur–Fri 7pm, Sat–Sun 2pm, \$32–75

# June 21

### Open Studio Series: Jenna Pollack Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

Chicago Cultural Center 78 E Washington St, Chicago Fri 4pm, Free

## June 21–23 Co-MISSION Festival of New Works Links Hall

3111 N Western Ave, Chicago Fri–Sun 7pm, \$16–42



June 22 World Refugee Day World Refugee Day Chicago Foster Beach Park 5200 N DuSable Lake Shore Dr, Chicago Sat, 9am, Free

# June 22 Elpis Dance Festival Identity Performing Arts

Lincoln Park 2021 N Stockton Dr, Chicago Sat 1pm, Free

# SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENTS! June 22

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Sat 4pm, Free

# June 26

**Pier Dance** Navy Pier City Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Wed 6pm, Free

# June 28 Dancing in the Square Perceptual Motion, Inc

Northcenter Town Square 4100 N Damen Ave, Chicago Fri 6:30pm, Free

# June 28–30

# Co-MISSION Festival of New Works Links Hall

3111 N Western Ave, Chicago Fri–Sun 7pm, \$16–42

# July 6, 8, 11, 13, 18 Tend

Khecari

Chicago Cultural Center 78 E Washington St, Chicago Sat/Mon/Thurs Noon, Free

# SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENTS! July 6

Wave Wall Moves Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Sat 4pm, Free



July 7 Dance Month After Dark (21+) The Newport Theater 956 W Newport Ave, Chicago Sun 3pm & 7pm, \$15–100

### July 12 Raks Inferno: An Intimate Circus Speakeasy Raks Inferno

The Newport Theater 956 W Newport Ave, Chicago Fri 7pm, \$29–39

# July 12–13 Summer Dance Intensive Showcase

# Deeply Rooted Dance Theater

Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts 915 E 60th St, Chicago Fri 7:30pm, Sat 2pm & 7:30pm, \$25

# SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT! July 13

Wave Wall Moves Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Sat 4pm, Free





July 14 JUBA! Masters of Tap & Percussive Dance Chicago Human Rhythm Project DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center 740 E 56th St, Chicago Sun 5pm, Free



July 16 Rhythm World: Jubalee! Gala Chicago Human Rhythm Project The Jazz Showcase 806 S Plymouth Ct, Chicago Tue 6:30pm, \$150



July 17 JUBA! Masters of Tap & **Percussive Dance** Chicago Human Rhythm Project Fine Arts Building 410 S Michigan Ave, Chicago Wed 7pm, Free



Julv 19 JUBA! Masters of Tap & **Percussive Dance Chicago Human Rhythm Project** Fine Arts Building 410 S Michigan Ave, Chicago Fri 7pm, Free

July 20 **International Dance Experience 2024** Ruth Page School of Dance 1016 N Dearborn St, Chicago Sat 2pm, \$10

**SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!** Julv 20

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Sat 4pm, Free



# SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!

July 27 Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Sat 4pm, Free

The Future is NOW

Sat 7:30pm, \$20-35

Lincoln Way East High School

/hapse Arts

celebrating 20 years

201 Colorado Ave, Frankfort

July 27

Ballet 5:8

August 3

August 3

August 9

**Speakeasy** 

August 10

Sat 4pm, Free

**Raks Inferno** 

Fri 7pm, \$29–39

The Newport Theater

956 W Newport Ave, Chicago

**SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!** 

Sat 4pm, Free

**Birthday Bash** 

Sat Noon, \$1-40

Berger Park Cultural Center 6219 N Sheridan Rd, Chicago

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage

600 E Grand Ave, Chicago

**SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!** 

**Raks Inferno: An Intimate Cirque** 

Synapse Arts



### August 10 Dance for Life 2024

**Chicago Dance Health Fund** Auditorium Theatre 50 E Ida B Wells Dr, Chicago Sat 6pm, \$25–125

# August 10 **Dance Africa Chicago**

Muntu Dance Theatre Kennedy King College 6301 S Halsted St, Chicago Sat 7pm, Price TBD

# August 16–17

Ellas y Yo Mexicanas Sildance/AcroDanza

Night Out in the Parks Location TBD Fri-Sat 6:30pm, Free

# **SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT!**

August 17 Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago

Location TBD Sat 8pm, Free

# August 19-23

WORKSHOP: Back to Nutcracker! **Ruth Page School of Dance** 1016 N Dearborn St, Chicago Mon-Fri 11am, \$12-20

**Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project** Millennium Park, Jay Pritzker Pavilion 201 E Randolph St, Chicago Sat 5:45pm, Free

### SEE CHICAGO DANCE EVENT! August 31

Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago Sat 4pm, Free



Navy Pier Wave Wall Stage 600 E Grand Ave, Chicago

# Sat 4pm, Free

August 17 **Bon Fest** Shubukai

# August 24

# **Divination: The Dancing Souls of Black Folk**

SEECHICAGODANCE.COM | 9

# DON'T MISS THE 2024-25 SEASON!

**Step Afrika!** October 19, 2024

Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah January 11–12, 2025

**Complexions Contemporary Ballet** February 7, 2025

Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández March 1-2, 2025

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater March 5-9, 2025

Parsons Dance April 12, 2025

South Chicago Dance Theatre May 3, 2025

**Hiplet Ballerinas** May 17, 2025





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Photo courtesy of Complexions Contemporary Ballet.

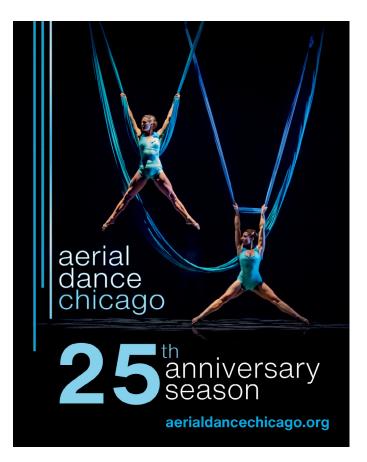
# Spotlight: Chicago Dance Health Fund doubles down on dancer health

Originally created to support those living with HIV/AIDS by using the power of dance, Chicago Dancers United has a new name. After 32 years, the newly branded Chicago Dance Health Fund has a broadened mission supporting a spectrum of health and wellness in the Chicago dance community.

"As we refocus ourselves under a new name, we are making the health component critical," says Executive Director Nathaniel Ekman. "We are here to support the health and wellness of the Chicago dance community."

CDHF has evolved to bolster preventative health care, critical medical needs and wellness resources with two grants. In 2023, dance professionals received \$100,000 in financial support.

One of CDHF's newer programs, the Day of Dance Health, brings together CDHF partners Howard Brown Health and Shirley Ryan AbilityLab at the Ruth Page Center this fall to provide complimentary physical therapy screenings, orthopedic care, behavioral health



appointments, medical appointments and a variety of other services, including a lunchtime seminar on how the three partners support the dance community.

CDHF's signature fundraisers, Dance for Life on Aug. 10 and drag cabaret Dance Divas this fall, remain cornerstones of the organization.

To learn more, visit **cdhf.org**.



# **MOMENTA:** The company where "everybody can dance"

MOMENTA, one of the leading forces within the Midwest disability arts community, cultivates an environment where everybody can come together to celebrate movement.

MOMENTA's mission to embrace and showcase physically integrated and inclusive dance has provided artists with and without disabilities a space to nurture creative expression and celebrate differences. More than two decades ago, the company began actively including dancers, choreographers and staff members with disabilities in the artistic process. MOMENTA highlights the importance of championing disabled artists and their unique contributions.

"Contributions are made because of their disability, not in spite of it," says Artistic Executive Director Sarah Najera.

MOMENTA collaborates with individuals who have a range of physical, invisible, dynamic and intellectual disabilities, using its platform to educate non-disabled dancers about disability awareness. In addition to MOMENTA's signature concert CounterBalance, which takes place each fall at Center on Halsted, Everybody Can Dance workshops provide an inclusive space for people of all ranges of motion and dance experience. In-person and online workshops take place once a month through December.

For more information, visit **momentadances.org**.



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# The Gig Economy: Dancers seek transparency in a freelance industry

Arts advocates are pushing for more pay transparency from the dance industry, whose workers are routinely in the dark regarding standard rates and benefits. This lack of explicit information enables employers to pay dancers suboptimal rates, leaving them to pursue their passion in poverty.

Last year, Darvin Dances surveyed 38 dance companies as part of its **Chicago Dancer Pay Transparency Project**. The data found that most professional dancers are employed as independent contractors with no benefits. They earn near minimum wage and work an average of seven hours per week, per company.

According to equity advocacy organization **On Our Team**, the only people who can afford to work for such low wages are those with privilege. "The current system all but requires affluence, personal wealth or a breadwinning partner to sustain a career," OOT organizer Elsa Hilter said on HowlRound, a knowledge commons by and for the theatre community, January 6, 2021.

The benefits of equitable and transparent pay are that artists can better choose which companies to work for, women and ethnic minorities gain firmer footing during pay negotiations, and companies attract better talent and goodwill (and good press).

"All of these companies are definitely trying to pay as well as they can," says Darvin Dances Director Mariah Eastman, "but they're still paying almost minimum wage or less. That's just sad to me."

For more information about pay equity, visit the Chicago Dancer Pay Transparency Project, **darvindances.com**, and On Our Team, **onourteam.org**.



# CHICAGO DANCE MONTH ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Page 5: "Living History: Chicago Dance History Project" by Megan Kudla
Page 11: "Spotlight: Chicago Dance Health Fund doubles down on dancer health" by Rachel Benzing
Page 12: "MOMENTA: The company where 'everybody can dance'" by Isabel Campisteguy
Page 13: "The Gig Economy: Dancers seek transparency in a freelance industry" by Tristan Bruns

# PHOTO CREDITS

Page 7
Photo: National Tap Day courtesy of Old Town School of Folk Music
Page 8
Photo 1: World Refugee Day courtesy of World Refugee Day Chicago
Photo 2: JUBA! by J. Alice Jackson
Photo 3: Jubalee! by J. Alice Jackson
Page 9
Photo 1: JUBA! by J. Alice Jackson
Photo 2: Derick Grant courtesy of Chicago Human Rhythm Project
Photo 3: Synapse Arts by Frank L. Konrath
Page 11
Photo: Dance for Life 2023 Finale, Gail Kalver & Randy Duncan by Michelle Rei
Page 12
Photo: MOMENTA Dance Company by Paul Park
Page 13
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