

CHICAGO
**human
rhythm**
PROJECT

Board Service Guide

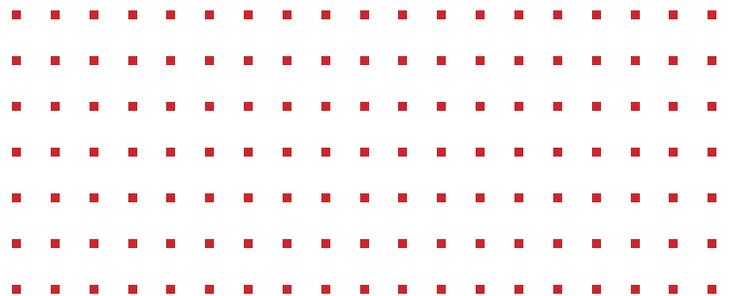


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Program Artistic Director, Jumaane Taylor

Photo by J. Alice Jackson

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“Phenomenal, phenomenal artists – ignition indeed!!” - Concert Patron

Welcome!



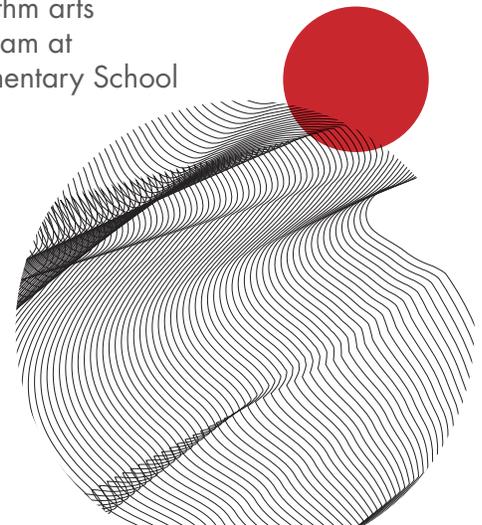
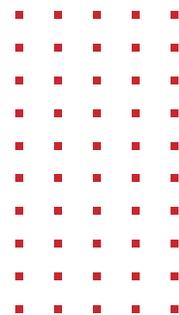
Thank you for your interest in learning more about Chicago Human Rhythm Project’s (CHRP) board of directors. The enclosed information will help you understand our mission and core values, history, who is currently involved on the board and staff, our programs, what we expect of each board member, and what you can expect from us. We look forward to answering any questions you might have, and most of all, to welcoming you to the CHRP family.



Mission

Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP) builds community through American tap and contemporary percussive arts in world class, innovative performance, education and outreach programs.

We All Got Rhythm arts education program at McPherson Elementary School



Vision

AUTHENTIC DIVERSITY IN PERFORMANCE

CHRP presents world class performances in Chicago throughout the year, featuring Chicago's finest percussive dance/rhythmic arts companies like Muntu Dance Theatre, Mexican Folkloric Dance Company, Trinity Irish Dance Company, Ensemble Espanol, Tsukasa Taiko, and Kalapriya Indian Performing Arts, as well as international companies like Step Afrika (US/South Africa), Che Malambo (Argentina), TAO (Japan), Sheketak (Israel), and Barbatuques (Brazil). Rhythmic expression is a universal language through which we promote tolerance, peace, and human creativity.

CULTURAL PLURALISM IN EDUCATION

CHRP teaches rhythmic expression to children, teens, adults, and elders in elementary schools, high schools, community centers, and our own school—the American Rhythm Center. We reach more than 15,000 Chicagoans each and every year, celebrating cultural pluralism as a foundation of American culture.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF COMMUNITIES

Whether our programs are at the Harris Theater, the DuSable Museum of African American History, Willa Cather Elementary School, the Pritzker Pavilion, the Irish American Heritage Center, or the Kennedy Center—ALL of our programs are designed to bring people together to embrace our differences, celebrate our commonalities, and foster long term relationships that are the key to future peace.

STEP TOWARD A BETTER TOMORROW

CHRP presents ancient and contemporary traditions in urban settings, featuring world class artists that look and sound like Chicago. We believe that through creativity, education, economic justice, hard work, and diligence, we can build a better Chicago for everyone. One step at a time, one beat at a time, one life at a time.

Conclusion

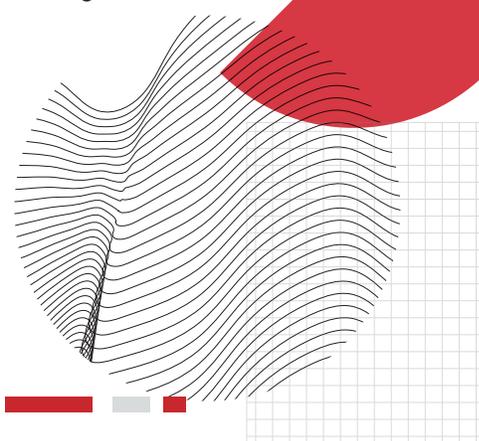
There has never been a more exciting time to join the board of the Chicago Human Rhythm Project. The new Mayfair Arts Center building in Calumet Park enables a future for the organization that is both ambitious and impactful. There are incredible opportunities for growth and for redefining how CHRP serves the community while cementing itself as the preeminent percussive dance organization in the region. There are also challenges we will face that will test our creativity and resolve.

We need people who will join us in making this exciting vision a reality and can't wait to welcome you to the CHRP family so we can get to work!



Photo by Paul Crisanti

Founding Director, Lane Alexander





Master percussionist Monti Ellison teaching history and Djembe



Jessica Bronson, Dianne "Lady Di" Walker, Tre Dumas in JUBA!

Photos by J. Alice Jackson

Our Programs

Chicago Human Rhythm Project empowers artists and communities to express culture and identity through rhythm and percussive arts. Through the production of inspiring performances, education programs, and innovative business models for artistic collaboration, CHRP catalyzes diverse communities to foster social reconciliation and economic sustainability through rhythm.



The MAYFIELD ARTS CENTER is a collaborative space for sustainable development that provides diverse classes for the general public and business development services to independent artists and small to mid-sized companies.

STOMPING GROUNDS is a 10-week, City wide performance and education festival featuring Chicago-based, percussive dance/arts companies in community cultural centers, elementary and high schools and many of Chicago's finest performing arts venues like the Harris Theater, the Auditorium Theatre and the Pritzker Pavilion.



RHYTHM WORLD is the oldest and largest festival of American tap dance in the world. Presented annually in July and August. Rhythm World brings together students from around the globe to study with the greatest living masters of the art form and to enjoy nightly performances by students and masters alike. Recognized internationally as the "mother ship" of American tap, Rhythm World has helped to develop a global culture of more than 70 festivals in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia and South America.

Our innovative youth education programs, WE ALL GOT RHYTHM, have provided high caliber arts experiences for more than 24 years benefiting hundreds of thousands of Chicago elementary and high school students. Since 2004, CHRP has deepened its commitment to youth education through partnerships with many public schools and community organizations and programs with ignition, engagement and immersion programs delivering lecture demonstrations and master classes, multi-week residencies and intensive scholarship programs that change lives and strengthen our community.

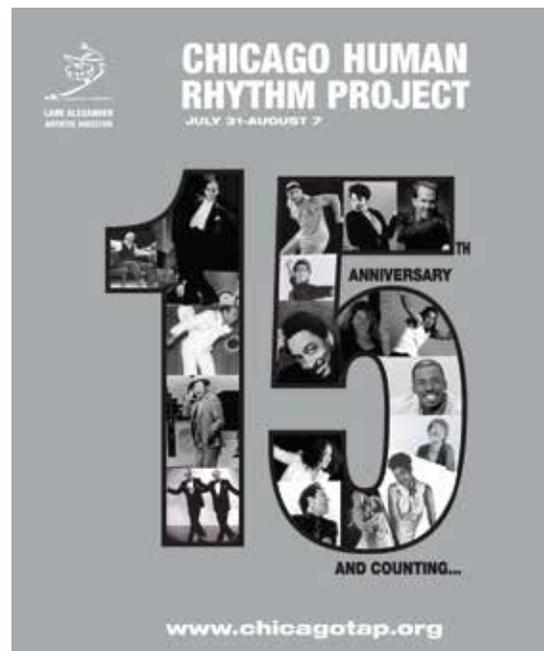


STONE SOUP RHYTHMS is our project based, percussive arts collective that creates new work, supports the highest level of rhythmic expression and represents Chicago Human Rhythm Project throughout the region, nation and world.

Our History

Co-founded in 1988 by Lane Alexander and Kelly Michaels, CHRP began as a men's duet company. In 1990, CHRP presented its first tap festival at the Gus Giordano Dance Center and Northwestern University in Evanston. Fifty-two students attended the classes and over 200 tap and rhythmic dance enthusiasts attended the concert which was a benefit for Open Hand/Chicago, a meals-on-wheels program serving people affected by HIV/AIDS. The wildly energetic concert featured many of Chicago's finest tap dancers and hoofers as well as Najwa Dance Corp (African dance), Trinity Irish Dance Company and Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater. From the beginning, CHRP's roots were planted in cultural pluralism and inclusion. The festival, now known as Rhythm World, grew to become the largest tap festival in the world and CHRP evolved to become the first year-round presenter of concert tap and contemporary percussive dance-arts.

After co-producing JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance, an Emmy nominated PBS/ITVS documentary in 1998/99, CHRP partnered with the Theater and Interpretation Center of Northwestern University, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, the Dance Center of Columbia College and the South Shore Cultural Center to bring more programs to more communities throughout Chicago. Over the next twenty years, this strategic initiative evolved into five annual programs including Stomping Grounds, Rhythm World, We All Got Rhythm, Stone Soup Rhythms and the Mayfair Arts Center.



CHRP has presented and supported hundreds of artists, trained and ignited the imaginations of hundreds of thousands of students and entertained literally millions of audience members.

"The night was brilliant not just because of the high caliber of performers but also because of the differences and contrast between them."

D.C. Metro Arts, Kennedy Center 2012

"Rhythm World is all about celebrating the diversity of tap dancing and recognizing unique styles that emerge as each generation takes the form to new places."

Chicago Tribune, 2019

CHICAGO HUMAN RHYTHM PROJECT NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE FOUNDING IN 1988:

- Annually presents the oldest and largest festival of American tap dance - Rhythm World
- Educated more than 400,000 K-12 students through master classes, workshops, extended residencies and lecture demonstrations.
- Honored the legacies of great American masters like Jimmy Slyde, Jeni LeGon, Gregory Hines, Dianne Walker, Savion Glover and many others through the annual presentation of the JUBA! Award.

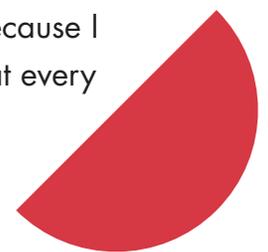


- Provided over \$350,000 in scholarships to deserving teens to study tap dance in summer immersion programs.
- Co-produced the Emmy Nominated PBS-ITVS-WTTW documentary, JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance.
- Presented the FIRST full-length tap concert in a main hall at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. to a sold out house and critical acclaim.
- Established Chicago's first business incubator for independent artists and small non-profit dance organizations.
- Trained many of today's leading artists including MacArthur "Genius" Michelle Dorrance and Jazz at Lincoln Center soloist Jared Grimes as well as many dancers, choreographers and directors on Broadway and the concert stage.
- Presented North American premieres of international percussive arts companies including TAO (Japan), Barbatuques and Vata Tap (Brazil), Che Malambo (Argentina), Sheketak (Israel) and more.

- Committed to sustained, equitable investments in Chicago-based teaching and performing artists for more than three decades.
- Advocated relentlessly for and presented rhythm-based cultural forms including African, Mexican, Indian, Japanese, Native American, Irish and American dance traditions.
- Received an American Masterpieces Award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

"For me it was an amazing opportunity to participate in such a huge event with such incredible dancers. . . It completely changes your view of things, especially because I wouldn't be able to see all of that if I hadn't gotten the scholarship. I'm sure that every little bit of this experience will stay with me forever!"

CHRP Summer Scholarship Student



Our People

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kwaku Osebreh– Chair (2018)
Corporate Attorney – Associate
Mayer Brown



Claudette Smith– Vice Chair (2010)
Vice President, DMOT Specialist
(Global Services Industry & Capabilities)
Northern Trust



Brenna Conway– Vice Chair (2018)
Director of Engineering City Scholars
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign



John Gingell– Treasurer (2016)
President Gingell Consulting.
President/CEO Bennabis
Property Casualty Ins. Co



Michael Foster– Past Chair (2010)
Senior Sales Manager
The Whitehall Hotel



Lane Alexander
Founding Director (1988)
Chicago Human Rhythm Project



Irene Michaels (2016)
Founder and President – IOnTheScene



Emmanuel Neal (2019)
CEO – Free Thought Business Coaching, LLC;
PhD Candidate, The Chicago School of
Professional Psychology



Ashley N. Leonard
Founding Associate Director
To&Through Project - Middle Grades Network



Joyce Selander (2018)
Retired, Commodities Broker
Chicago Board of Trade



Constance Vervalcke (2020)
Manager, SAP Security & GRC – PwC

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

- Lane Alexander, Founding Director
- Jumaane Taylor, Artistic Director-Rhythm World, Stone Soup Rhythms
- Meggy Huynh, Development & Marketing Manager
- Canisha Russ, Outreach Coordinator (We ALL Got Rhythm)
- Eric Hochberg, Music Director
- Margaret Nelson, Production Stage Manager
- Afable Consulting LLC, Business & Financial Management
- Fred Brewer, Marketing & Graphic Design
- Chris Frerichs, Grants Consultant
- Alison Rootberg, Outreach & Arts Education
- Paul Crisanti, Photography
- Jennifer Alice Jackson, Photography
- James Patrick, Videography



Constance, Canisha, Lane & Meggy
@ Bridgeport Art Center

Photo by Meggy Huynh

BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS

- To work with board members and staff to build a culture of accountability and philanthropy
- To regularly attend board and committee meetings
- To participate actively in committee work and prepare for meetings
- To participate in friend- and fundraising activities and events

Chicago Human Rhythm Project Board Member Expectations & Responsibilities

ADVOCACY

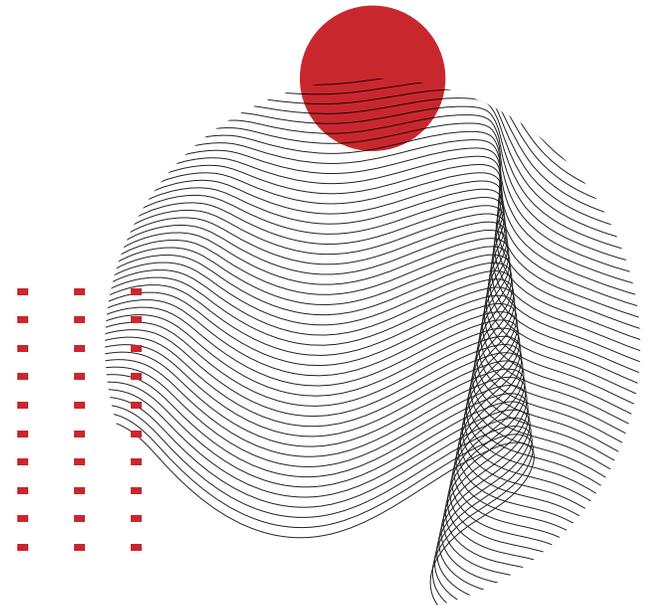
Serve as an advocate for the organization in the community by actively promoting CHRP in discussions with others and introducing others to the organization through invitations to performances and special events. Developing a knowledge of CHRP including its history, mission, and structure is important in fulfilling this critical role for the organization. CHRP will provide tools to help member's succeed including collateral, information, and tickets to performances and designated events.

PARTICIPATION

Attend a minimum of 4 out of 6 board meetings and make a special effort to participate in board retreats or other special gatherings. In addition, members are required to participate on at least one Board committee and attend 60% of the meetings.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Support the work of the Nominating & Governance Committee by identifying, recruiting, and cultivating new board members. Members are strongly encouraged to identify a replacement for themselves when their tenure on the board ends. (Note: Should this be formally adopted it will allow you to ask outgoing members to honor this, especially if we get more corporate types on the board)



GOVERNANCE

Honor the fiduciary and legal responsibilities all members are entrusted with by ensuring that the organization operates in a responsible and ethical fashion. Members are expected to provide oversight throughout their term on the board.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Make a minimum annual contribution of \$1,000, with \$500 as a personal contribution and \$500 raised from others in support of general operations, and purchase four tickets to most if not all events and performances. Members who are in a position to contribute more may expect to be asked to participate at a higher level. Members are encouraged to help identify and solicit sponsorships and other forms of financial support from individuals, companies, and other organizations in a position to support the work of CHRP. Should the board commit to conducting a capital campaign at some point in the future, all members will be asked to make a multi-year pledge that is proportionate to their resources and relationship to the organization.





Photos by J. Alice Jackson

Rhythm World 30 artist Naomi Funaki at the DuSable Museum

What You Can Expect from CHRP

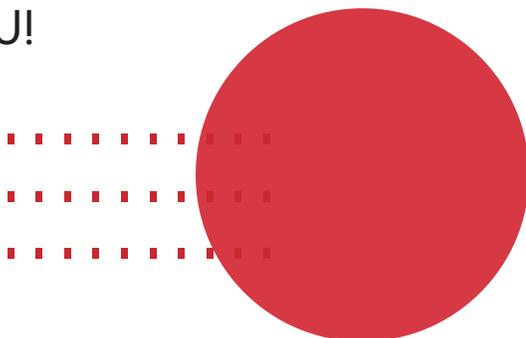
First and foremost, you can expect electrifying performances every time we showcase the world-class dancers we present, life-changing educational programs that serve students and community members, and a personal association with our region's leading percussive dance organization.

Our goals are to make your time serving on the CHRP board personally fulfilling, intellectually stimulating, socially enjoyable, and something you look forward to. To accomplish this, we will work with you to curate your board experience.

HERE ARE A FEW AREAS TO THINK ABOUT SHOULD YOU JOIN THE BOARD:

- What would you like to accomplish in your first year on the board?
- Are there specific areas of our operation that interest you and that you would like to interact with?
- What committee do you think would best align with your interests and skillsets?
- Are there people in your network you are excited to introduce to CHRP?
- Who on our board might be someone you would like to have mentor you during your first few months of service?

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!



Board Committees:

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee's job is to oversee the organization's overall fundraising and, in particular, the fundraising done by the board. To accomplish this, its responsibilities are:

- To work with staff to establish a fundraising plan that incorporates a series of appropriate vehicles including identifying, cultivating, and soliciting individual and corporate donor prospects, organizing special events, and other actions as needed.
- To take the lead in certain types of outreach efforts, such as chairing a dinner/dance committee or hosting fundraising parties, etc.
- To be responsible for involving all board members in fundraising.
- To monitor fundraising efforts to be sure that ethical practices are in place, that donors are acknowledged appropriately, and that fundraising efforts are cost-effective.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

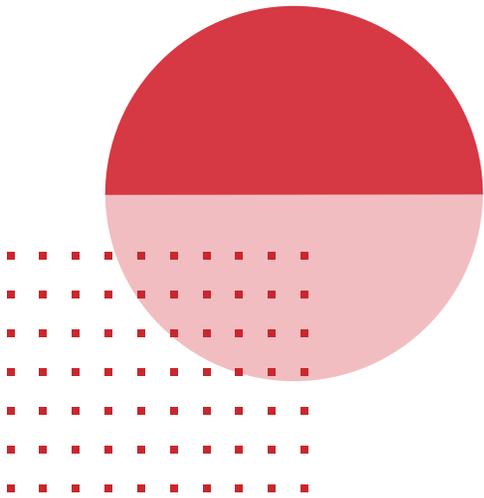
The Finance Committee (often called the Budget and Finance Committee) tasks are:

- To review budgets initially prepared by staff, to help develop appropriate procedures for budget preparations, and to monitor the budget and the organization's plans regularly
- To report to the board any financial irregularities, concerns, opportunities
- To recommend financial guidelines to the board (such as establishing a reserve fund or to obtain a line of credit for a specified amount)
- To work with staff to design financial reports and ensure that reports are accurate and timely
- To recommend selection of the auditor and work with the auditor, unless there is a separate audit committee
- To advise the executive director and other appropriate staff on financial priorities and information systems, depending on committee member expertise.

NOMINATING & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

In some ways the most influential of all the committees, the N&G Committee is responsible for the general affairs of the board and include some or all of the following responsibilities:

- Ensure that the organization operates in an ethical fashion and that governance is an understood and valued responsibility of all board members.
- Work with the ED and board chair to create a slate of officers.
- Identify, cultivate, and recruit new members for the board of directors based on organizational criteria and priorities.
- On-board and orient new members.
- Cultivate board member attendance and engagement at meetings and coordinate program selection for board meetings.
- Meet with each member on an annual basis to develop a personal action plan including financial commitments.
- Evaluate board members on an annual basis based on established board expectations.
- Conduct exit interviews for board members cycling off.
- Other actions and responsibilities as agreed to by the members of the board.



Board Meeting Schedule

Currently, board meetings convene at 6 PM on the second Wednesday of every other month starting in January and are approximately 90 minutes. Meetings have been virtual, but may be hybrid or in-person as is possible. The schedule is reviewed for the next year at the annual meeting each November.

Committee Meeting Schedule

The Finance, Fundraising-Event and Nominating-Governance Committees meet in the intervening months when the Board does not meet. This calendar is also set at the annual meeting. Some committees meet more often as needed and by consent.

Event Dates

- Feb - Dec Monthly events at the Mayfair Arts Center
- April TBD Mayfair Arts Center Mural Reveal - 8701 S. Bennett Ave
- May 12 Jubilee! Gala Fundraiser - Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
- July 8 - 24 32nd Annual RHYTHM WORLD, multiple venues including The DuSable Museum of African American History; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Navy Pier, Polk Bros Park, Lake Stage; the Jazz Showcase
- Dec TBD Holiday Rhythms at the Jazz Showcase



CHRP board members at the MCA

Support



GAYLORD & DOROTHY
DONNELLEY FOUNDATION

**Martha Struthers and Donald C.
Farley Jr. Family Foundation**



Dr. Scholl Foundation
Founded by William M. Scholl, M.D., in 1947



pianoforte chicago



the
Saints
Volunteers for the Performing Arts



Paycheck Protection Program 1 and 2
Shuttered Venue Operators Grant



Donors

Saint \$200,000 +

Anonymous
Neighborhood Opportunity Fund for the City
of Chicago, Department of Planning and
Economic Development

Visionary \$100,000 – 199,999

Philip and Marsha Dowd
U.S. Small Business Administration,
Shuttered Venue Operators Grant
Walder Foundation

Leader \$50,000 - \$99,999

Joyce Chelberg
Pamela Crutchfield
The Department of Cultural Affairs and
Special Events for the City of Chicago
Patti Selander Eylar and Charles R.
Gardner
MacArthur Fund for Arts, Equity and Culture
at Prince
Elaine Cohen Rubin and Arlen Rubin
State of Illinois, Back to Business Grant

Sustainer \$20,000-49,999

Illinois Arts Council Agency
Henry Krasnow
Richard G. and Diane Weinberg

Builder \$10,000-19,999

Chicago Free for All Fund at The Chicago
Community Trust
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Paul Levy and Mia Park
The National Endowment for the Arts
The Service Club of Chicago
The Shubert Foundation Inc.
The Small Business Administration, Economic Injury
Disaster Loan

Benefactor \$5,000-9,999

Dr. Scholl Foundation
Ginger Farley and Robert Shapiro
Martha Struthers Farley and Donald C. Farley, Jr.
Family Foundation
Oppenheimer Family Foundation
The Fanny R. Wurlitzer Foundation Fund at
the Dekalb County Community Foundation

Sponsor \$2,500-4,999

Diana E. Harris
Linda Lee Nelson
The Saints

Partner \$1,000-2,499

Lane Alexander
Margaret Balsley-Cross
Robert and Belle Fahrer
Brenna Conway
Elaine Cohen and Arlen Rubin
John Gingell
Arny Granat and Irene Michaels
Rosemarie Guadnola
Kathleen Miles
Kwaku Osebreh
Z.J. Tong
Dona Williams

Patron \$500-999

Technical Development Corporation
Dell
Leigh and Henry Bienen
Carol Efron-Flier
Erika Erich
Peter and Susan Gray
Irene Kwasny
Ann and Tom Nash
Joyce Selander
Claudette Smith
Constance Vervalcke

Friend \$250-499

Dolores Connoly and Dan Casey
Maria Diecidue
April Dumas-Gray
Barbara Ellis Racic
Michael Foster
Gina Heise
Candace Jackson
Sandra L. Johnson
William Kurtis and Donna LaPietra
Tracy and Charles Lanham
Lynne Lombardi
Julie Ma
Kevin McGirr and Sinclair Bell
Ann and Tom Nash
Kathryn Simon
Cheryl Taylor
Amy and Tony Volpe
Joan Winter
Scott Wozencraft
William Wozencraft
Mark and Margie Zivin

Contributor \$100-249

Fiona and Joseph Clair
Jennifer Lynn Collins
Valerie and William DePriest
Nyla Diab
Linda Sohl-Ellison and Monti Ellison
Myra Epping
Michael Foster
Dena Gordon
Lucy Gregor
Lisa Guerra
Vivian Krause
Sharon Kwong
Cathy Lazaroff
Debra Luther
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Christine Rohan
Barbara and Edwin Swanson
Mary Summers
Sarah Girson Shirk
David Tarnoff
Patricia Tennison
Laticia Thompson
Ed Underhill
Ellen Warren
Rosemary Young

Subscriber \$50-99

Yvonne Afable

Fredric Brewer
Megan and Jimmy Conway
Jacqueline Criswell
Martin Dumas III
Kevin Fay
Michelle Good
Richard Greenman
Mary Jo Horvath
Kaitlyn Hunt
Diane Kallenback
Mary Anne Kerr
Judith Kiehm
Amy Kleinman
Rose Ann Laureto
Megan Legault
Max Leichtman
Marlene Morton
Gretchen Olszak
Mary Ann Rackley
Kyle Sternkopf
Linda Surlak
Nicole Yeska
Lisa Yondorf

Fan \$49

Matti Allison
Jean Barker
Christine Bishop
Richard Bono
Shey Campbell
Mario Caruso
Rachel Conlin
Caley Conway
Sheila Conway
Celine Cua
Emily DePalma
Alison Haus
Jennifer K Henry
Nicholas Herwaldt
Sarah Hess
Mary Holschbach
Mandy Irvine
Kevin Jacobsen
Linda Laaker
David and Kati Morris
Catherine Painter and Christo-
pher Brandely
Doris M Rolland
Selena Roque
Michael Termine
Mary Thorson
Linda Streaty
Jill Villanueva
Monica Wilhelm
Mary Williams
Carina York
Lane Alexander
Nick Canellis
Brenna Conway
Barbara Ellis Racic
Erika Erich
Michael Foster
John Gingell
Graham Grady
Judie Moore Green
Stanislawa Jamell
Ashley Leonard
Ruth Leshen
Emmanuel Neal
Elizabeth Stein
Lisa Tallman
Amy Volpe