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## **STRATEGIC PLAN MOVES FORWARD**

# **CHICAGO HUMAN RHYTHM PROJECT IMPLEMENTS STRATEGIC PLAN, WELCOMES NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Emmanuel Neal, veteran business consultant and  
artist takes the baton



Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP) is pleased to announce the appointment of Emmanuel Neal as the organization's new Interim Managing Director as a part of its 2019 strategic plan facilitated by the Arts and Business Council of Chicago's Business Volunteers for the Arts program.

Neal first joined CHRP's board of directors in 2019 and has worked with multiple artists and organizations in various capacities, and consulting businesses of all types for the past 10 years.

"At the Arts & Business Council of Chicago, we believe in developing leadership, the business of arts, and the art of business. Through our BVA and On BOARD programs, we assist organizations like Chicago Human Rhythm project (CHRP) with strategic planning, board governance, and leadership training with the goal of creating long-term sustainability. As an engaged On BOARD participant,

Emmanuel was immediately enthusiastic about joining CHRP's board of directors and got straight to work joining their BVA strategic planning group. We look forward to seeing him take on this new leadership role and utilize his rich experience and passion to be a change agent in Chicago's vibrant creative community.”

Kristin Larsen, ED – Arts and Business Council, Chicago

CHRP’s five year strategic plan focuses on program assessment-iteration, financial management and succession planning while continuing to advocate for and embody a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion. CHRP’s board of directors selected Neal to support the continued growth and evolution of the organization as well as leadership transition plans.

“Embracing change is a gift. Being able to make those changes is a blessing. Our board worked through the winter of 2018 to write a strong strategic plan and Emmanuel will be key to its successful implementation. We’re grateful to [The MacArthur Fund for Culture, Equity and the Arts at Prince](#), and the [Reva and David Logan Foundation](#) for supporting this effort.”

Michael Foster, CHRP Board Chair

“Leadership transition can be very tricky for organizations led by long-serving founders and CHRP is no exception. In Emmanuel Neal, we’ve found exactly the right person at the right time to support the first phase of this process. I’m looking very forward to working together to lay the foundation for CHRP’s fourth decade of rhythm making and social reconciliation.”

Lane Alexander, Founder and Director

Emmanuel holds a Master in Arts Management degree (Business & Entrepreneurship) from Columbia College Chicago, and is a PhD candidate in Business Psychology (Consulting) at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. He is also a member of The Society of Consulting Psychologists. As a business consultant and coach for the past ten years he has worked with artists, nonprofit entities, entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes in various industries. He’s successfully helped in many situations involving business

startup, growth, transition, human capital, financing, grant writing, fundraising, board development, investor relations, strategic planning, event planning, etc.

Emmanuel also brings more than two decades of experience as an artist and arts entrepreneur to CHRP. His first love is DJing house music, especially in clubs. From there he started coordinating fashion shows, battle of the bands, comedy showcases, dance competitions, poetry readings, plays and weekly parties as well as charity events, auctions, and balls. Emmanuel has a developed business acumen and is well versed in art logistics. He's also a self-published poet with two books on Amazon and organizer and editor of *Dear Cancer, The Anthology*, a collection of pieces from 50 writers to benefit a nonprofit cancer organization.

"As a consultant I was attracted to CHRP because of its founder, Lane Alexander, the board's progressive plans, and the opportunity to help add a different perspective. As an artist I was attracted to CHRP because of the many outlets it provides artists to perform, the history of its impact and the opportunity to contribute my artistic vision. I've always admired Quincy Jones and his ability to bring artists together, provide a platform for them, and really put things in place to help them succeed. I see Quincy Jones qualities in CHRP and I'm excited to be able to add to the success of the vision."

## **Chicago Human Rhythm Project**

Founded in 1988, **Chicago Human Rhythm Project** empowers artists and communities to express culture and identity through rhythm and percussive arts. Through the production of collaborative performances, education programs, and innovative business models, CHRP convenes diverse communities to foster social reconciliation and economic sustainability.

CHRP's five core programs include:

**AMERICAN RHYTHM CENTER** - 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** - 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** - 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.

**WE ALL GOT RHYTHM** - Innovative youth education programs, benefiting hundreds of thousands of Chicago elementary and high school students for the last 25 years. WAGR provides programs with ignition, engagement and immersion programs delivering lecture demonstrations and master classes, multi-week residencies and intensive scholarship programs.

**STONE SOUP RHYTHMS** - A 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.

Chicago Human Rhythm Project programming is supported by many generous individuals as well as foundations, corporations and government agencies including:

The Reva and David Logan Foundation, The MacArthur Fund for Culture, Equity and the Arts at Prince, Arts Work Fund – Arts for Illinois Emergency Relief Fund housed at The Chicago Community Trust, Philip and Marsha Dowd Family Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Free for All Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Jeannette & Jerome Cohen Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City, the Oppenheimer Family Foundation,

Patti Selander Eylar and Charles R. Gardner, the Creative Schools Fund, Martha Struthers Farley and Donald C. Farley, Jr. Family Foundation, Northern Trust, Farny R. Wurlitzer Foundation Fund of the DeKalb County Community Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events for the City of Chicago, the Weinberg Family Foundation, Arts Midwest, US Bank and The Saints.

We are grateful to the Small Business Administration and our fellow Americans for relief funds through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance Grant program, and Paycheck Protection Program.

# RHYTHM WORLD 29.5

6 DAYS OF TAP AND PERCUSSIVE DANCE  
AUGUST 10-15, 2020



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