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CHICAGO HUMAN RHYTHM PROJECT WELCOMES BOB FIEDLER AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](#) (CHRP), celebrating a quarter century of creating community and fostering social reconciliation through American tap and contemporary percussive arts through innovative performance, education and outreach programs, welcomes Bob Fiedler as executive director.

“I could not be more pleased with the selection of Bob Fiedler to help lead CHRP through its third decade,” said Founder and Artistic Director Lane Alexander. “His background and record of accomplishment align perfectly with CHRP’s needs and aspirations, and I’m looking very forward to working together for many years to come.”

“We’re very excited to have Bob with us as executive director, bringing his expertise to the organization as we move into our next 25 years and beyond,” said CHRP Board Chair Michael Foster. “He will lead us as we build our board, seek partners to support our endeavors and work side by side with Lane to keep us growing, evolving and thriving.”

Fiedler is a nonprofit professional with 20 years of experience, primarily in the field of arts education. For nearly nine years, he was the executive director of The People’s Music School (TPMS), a community music school in Chicago offering tuition-free music education to children whose families cannot afford to pay for specialized music instruction. He has also served in administrative leadership roles for nonprofit health service and social service organizations. Fiedler earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from The Pennsylvania State University. He spent the first seven years of his career in the corporate world before deciding he wanted to marry his passion for the arts and social justice with his business experience, subsequently moving into the nonprofit sector.

“I am extremely passionate about the arts, especially rhythm, sound and movement,” said Fiedler. “I believe they play a monumentally important role in our lives on many levels. I am honored and thrilled to join the Chicago Human Rhythm Project and build upon what Lane has created during the last 25 years. As he is fond of saying, the best is yet to come!”

Funding

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Chicago Human Rhythm Project

For 25 years, Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP) has helped to foster the revival and nascent renaissance of American tap dance throughout North and South America, Australia, Europe and Asia. CHRP presents the oldest and largest annual festival of American tap and percussive dance in the world—Rhythm World—and has

expanded through community outreach, commissioning the creation of new work, tap community development, innovative conferences for the field and a commitment to social reconciliation, economic justice and local investment. Unlike any other festival in the nation, the development of a local community has been fundamental to the mission of the organization. CHRP has consistently presented and promoted Chicago artists alongside visiting guest artists and has made a huge investment in the local dance community, working to make Chicago hospitable to sustainable, long-term careers in Chicago for percussive dance companies and soloists. CHRP has led the national and international tap movement by building an international network of performance venues that encompass preservation, presentation, education, innovation and investment. The Human Rhythm Project is dedicated to the recognition of tap dance as the American contribution to the millennia-old art of percussive dance and as a high art form alongside European ballet and modern dance. One of the most vibrant and creative artistic communities in the world today lives in the percussive dance community, and one of the most, if not *the* most, vibrant percussive dance community in the world exists in Chicago.

During the last 25 years, CHRP has educated and performed for millions of people; received an Emmy Award nomination, as well as national airings, for *JUBA! Masters of Tap and Percussive Dance*, which was co-produced with ITVS and WTTW/Channel 11; earned an NEA American Masterpieces grant administered by the Illinois Arts Council Agency; curated the first full-length tap concert in any of the Kennedy Center's three largest theaters for a sold-out audience of 1,100 in the Eisenhower Theater; provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in tap dance scholarships to deserving, talented teens; and, most recently, led a collaborative effort to establish a shared dance/arts space in the center of the Chicago Cultural Mile: the American Rhythm Center. 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. For information, visit chicagotap.org.

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