



**HARRIS THEATER FOR MUSIC AND DANCE ANNOUNCES RETURN OF THE
CHICAGO BLACK DANCE LEGACY PROJECT
WITH *DANCING THE ARCHIVE: EMBODIED HISTORIES, COLLECTIVE POWER*
FEATURING TEN COMPANIES CELEBRATING TEN *LEGACY BEARERS*
IN ONE EPIC PERFORMANCE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026**

Tickets starting at \$46 now on sale!

(July 16, 2026) CHICAGO – Following last year’s smashing sold-out engagement, the [Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance](#) proudly presents the return of [Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project](#) in a one-night-only performance themed ***Dancing the Archive: Embodied Histories, Collective Power***. As performed by ten extraordinary Black dance organizations, this electrifying evening celebrates Chicago’s inaugural *Legacy Bearers* – ten visionaries and changemakers whose lives and leadership have shaped the city’s landscape across sectors while inspiring its future. This epic performance takes place at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 East Randolph Street, on Friday, August 28, 2026, at 7:00PM. Tickets, starting at \$46.00, are now on sale online [HERE](#) or by phone at 312.344.7777.

Showcasing an incredibly diverse range of artistic genres including African, traditional, and contemporary modern and ballet, jazz, tap, and more, *Dancing the Archive* will feature repertory performances – and World Premieres created specifically for this program – by [Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project’s third cohort](#): [The Chicago Multicultural Dance Center](#), [Deeply Rooted Dance Theater](#), [The Era Footwork Collective](#), [Forward Momentum Chicago](#), [Joel Hall Dancers & Center](#), [M.A.D.D. Rhythms](#), [Move Me Soul](#), [Muntu Dance Theatre](#), [NAJWA Dance Corps](#), and [Praise Productions Inc.](#)

The evening will unfold through the following chapters: Record Keepers (*archivists, historians, preservationists*), Stewardship (*philanthropists, resource holders*), Wordsmiths (*writers, critics, journalists, cultural narrators*), Moral Courage (*activists, faith leaders, truth-tellers*), Sound (*musicians, composers, sonic architects*), Voice (*media, storytellers, cultural amplifiers*), Space Makers (*presenters, curators, venue leaders, producers*), Cultural Allies, Cultural Memory Continuum (*dance artists as lineage bearers and embodied historians*), and Transmission (*educators, mentors, tradition carriers*). Each company will present a work reflecting the spirit of

its chapter, honoring a Chicago Legacy Bearer whose life and contributions embody that chapter's theme. Together, these performances weave a living archive of Chicago's excellence, inviting audiences to experience the stories, values, and vision that continue to shape our city. Specific honorees – and the dance organization saluting each – will be announced shortly.

"Powerful, moving, and unapologetically beautiful, *Dancing the Archive* is more than a performance—it is an experience! As a celebration of Black creativity, cultural memory, and collective possibility, this dynamic program invites audiences to witness how legacy lives not only in the past, but in the bodies, imaginations, and communities carrying it forward," said **Mashaune Hardy** and **Kevin Iega Jeff**, Co-Directors, Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project. "And this year, we are honored to pay tribute to ten invaluable contributors to Chicago's civic ecosystem with our first-ever *Legacy Bearers* recognitions and have collaborated with each organization to present a related work."

"The Harris Theater is proud to welcome back the Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project for what is certain to be one of this summer's dance highlights," said **Michael McStraw**, Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols, Interim President and CEO of the Harris Theater for Music and Dance. "*Dancing the Archive* reminds us that Chicago's cultural legacy has been shaped by visionary leaders across every sector of our city. By honoring these Legacy Bearers through the artistry of dance, this performance celebrates the people, values, and collective spirit that continue to define Chicago."

Leadership support for the Harris Theater's presentation of the Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project is provided by Irving Harris Foundation and Joan W. Harris, *Harris Theater Presents Mainstage* Sponsor, and ITW, *Mainstage* Dance Sponsor.

About Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project

A project of the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts at The University of Chicago, the **Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project** is a multi-year project that celebrates the historic impact of Black dance in Chicago and beyond. Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project participating organizations, events and programs are open to all who are excited about celebrating the Black dance form. We look forward to welcoming you to experience, create, and contemplate art.

Funders for the Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project's 3rd Cohort include the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, Joyce Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, Pam Crutchfield, University of Chicago's Logan Center for the Arts, and friends of the Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project.

For more information on Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project, please visit <https://www.chicagoblackdancelegacy.org/>

About the Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance

The Harris Theater is Chicago's home for music and dance, connecting diverse audiences with artists from across the city, the nation, and the world. An anchor institution of Millennium Park and the first multi-use performance venue built in downtown Chicago since 1929, the Harris was established in 2003 to create a much-needed home for the city's vibrant community of midsize performing arts organizations. Today, the nonprofit Harris Theater features some of the most diverse arts and culture offerings in the city, from its Chicago-based Resident Companies to the world-renowned visiting artists who perform on its stage through the *Harris Theater Presents* series. The Harris represents a distinctive model for artistic excellence, collaboration, and creative symbiosis, making the performing arts relevant and accessible to the widest possible audience. Acting as both a home base and supportive partner for its Resident Companies, the Harris provides state-of-the-art performance space and ongoing support to nearly 30 Chicago-based performing arts organizations. Its 1,500-seat multi-use theater brings innovative and boundary-pushing productions from more than 32 countries across

six continents to Chicago, creating unique opportunities for dialogue between Chicagoans and the world's leading artists, thinkers, and innovators. The organization's signature *Harris Theater Presents* series has featured acclaimed artists and ensembles including Joyce DiDonato, Batsheva Dance, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, New York City Ballet, English National Ballet, Joshua Bell, Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras, Angelique Kidjo, and Paris Opera Ballet. The Theater's education and community engagement initiatives build bridges between artists and community members, providing master classes, artist talks, and free tickets for more than 35 partner organizations throughout Chicago.

To learn more about the Harris Theater, Chicago's home for music and dance in Millennium Park, visit <https://www.harristheaterchicago.org/> and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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