

PROPOSAL

SPONSORSHIP



CHICAGO

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SUMMIT

**2026 COMMUNITY
TAP FESTIVAL**



113 S. St. Louis Ave Chicago, IL 60624

Phone: 773-604-1899 | Fax: 773-604-1898

Sponsorship@MADDRHYTHMS.com

About the Chicago Tap Summit



For 25 years, M.A.D.D. Rhythms has been Making A Difference Dancing — preserving, teaching, and elevating the Black American art form of tap dance. The Chicago Tap Summit is our flagship annual gathering, bringing together world-class artists, youth performers, educators, and community members for three days of performance, education, and cultural celebration.

October 2 – October 4, 2026

Friday 5pm - 10 pm

Saturday 9am – 10pm

Sunday 10am – 5pm

Location: Harold Washington Cultural Center, 4701 S. King Drive, Chicago, IL 60615

Why Sponsor the Chicago Tap Summit?

Unmatched Cultural Impact

Your support uplifts:

- A 25-year legacy of Black arts leadership
- A youth pipeline serving dancers ages 5–105
- A festival that draws 2,000+ attendees, including 1,000 youth from across Chicago and the suburbs

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High-Visibility Media Reach

Your brand appears across:

- Major Chicago radio stations (Power 92, V103, WVON, B96, WGCI)
- Print outlets (Chicago Defender, Chicago Reader, Rolling Out)
- Digital platforms with banner ads, email blasts, and social media promotions
- 20,000+ palm cards and 5,000+ direct-mail pieces

Community Alignment

Tap dance is an American art form rooted in Black history, innovation, and resilience. Sponsoring the Summit positions your company as a champion of:

- Arts education
- Youth development
- Cultural preservation
- Chicago's creative economy



Social Media Stats



3.2K

FOLLOWERS

@MADDRHYTHMS



7.5K

FOLLOWERS

@MADDRHYTHMS



1.2K

FOLLOWERS

@MADDRHYTHMS



229K

SUBSCRIBERS

3.28M

TOTAL VIEWS ACROSS 307 VIDEOS.

@MADDRHYTHMS



164

FOLLOWERS



tapsummit@maddrhythms.com

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Featured Artists & Honorees



BRIL BARRETT

Artistic Director • M.A.D.D. Rhythms Founder • Summit Director

Bril Barrett is a visionary tap dancer, educator, and cultural leader based in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood. He is the Founder of M.A.D.D. Rhythms, Artistic Director of the Harold Washington Cultural Center, and Director of the Chicago Tap Summit. A 2024 NEA National Heritage Fellowship recipient and 2025 NDEO Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, Bril's work spans Riverdance, the Kennedy Center, the Democratic National Convention, and a viral TED Talk. His Novice-to-Professional Pipeline has created pathways for hundreds of Chicago youth. At the 2026 Summit, he premieres his new work Oscar Plays Gershwin.

DONNETTA "LILBIT" JACKSON

Performer • Choreographer • M.A.D.D. Rhythms Company Member

Born and raised on Chicago's Southeast Side, Donnetta "LilBit" Jackson is one of the original members of M.A.D.D. Rhythms — joining the company at age 11. A powerhouse dancer across tap and Chicago footwork, she choreographs and performs with Grammy Award-winning artist Chance the Rapper, and was featured alongside Missy Elliott at the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards Michael Jackson Vanguard tribute. Her television credits include Fox/Hulu's The Big Leap and the Red Hot Chili Peppers' music video The Drummer. She has danced for Nike and Jordan Brand internationally and appeared on MTV's America's Best Dance Crew.

STARINAH "STAR" DIXON

Assistant Director • Choreographer • Original Principal Dancer

Starinah "Star" Dixon is the Assistant Director, choreographer, and original principal dancer of M.A.D.D. Rhythms. She has taught and performed at distinguished tap festivals throughout the country, including Jacob's Pillow, the Kennedy Center, and Lincoln Center, as well as internationally in Poland, Japan, and Brazil. A guest artist with Michelle Dorrance's Dorrance Dance and Savion Glover's All Funk'd Up, Star brings singular artistry and depth to every stage she graces. She is also a dedicated educator serving students across Chicago through After School Matters and multiple dance studios.

ANDREW CARR

Choreographer • M.A.D.D. Rhythms Senior Company Member

Andrew Carr is one of the most exciting young voices in American tap dance. A Chicago native who began dancing at age 4, he became a professional member of M.A.D.D. Rhythms at just 13 and has been a faculty member and choreographer at the Chicago Tap Summit ever since. In 2024, he was featured in Dance Magazine as a rising choreographer and went viral with his piece Universe 4 Two. He performed at Lollapalooza Chicago and is currently pursuing a marketing degree at DePaul University. At 20, his distinctive musicality and choreographic voice are redefining what the next generation of tap looks like.

CALEB JACKSON

Performer • M.A.D.D. Rhythms Company Member

Born and raised in Chicago, Caleb Jackson began his tap training at age 10 at the M.A.D.D. Rhythms Tap Academy. He joined the After School Matters program, quickly rising through the company pipeline to become a professional performer at age 14. Caleb has appeared in numerous M.A.D.D. Rhythms productions and festivals across the country, including the DC Tap Fest, the Chicago Tap Summit, and the Cleveland Tap Experience — representing the power of M.A.D.D. Rhythms' Novice-to-Professional model.

TRISTAN BRUNS

Performer • Choreographer • Director, Tapman Productions

Tristan Bruns holds a BA in Music from Columbia College Chicago and brings a distinctly musical sensibility to his tap work. A member of M.A.D.D. Rhythms and the Chicago Human Rhythm Project's Stone Soup Rhythms, he has performed at the Beijing International Dance Festival, the Reus Tap Dance Festival in Spain, and the Poznań Jazz Festival in Poland. He has appeared in regional theater productions including Drury Lane's 42nd Street and Porchlight Theatre's Sophisticated Ladies. As founder and director of Tapman Productions, he has created four full-length original tap productions. He is also a recurring faculty member at the Chicago Tap Summit.

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Featured Artists & Honorees



TRE DUMAS

Co-Founder • M.A.D.D. Rhythms • Choreographer

Martin "Tre" Dumas III is a co-founder of M.A.D.D. Rhythms alongside Bril Barrett, and one of the anchoring creative forces of Chicago's tap community. He is the founder and director of the Jus'LiTeN Tap Ensemble and has been a driving presence in tap dance performance, education, and community building for over two decades. He has mentored some of Chicago's most prominent tap artists, and his influence spans the company's full 25-year legacy. At the 2026 Chicago Tap Summit, he presents the world premiere of his new work My Personal Stash.

JA'BOWEN DIXON

Performer • Choreographer • M.A.D.D. Rhythms Company Member

Ja'Bowen Dixon is a performance and visual artist from Chicago who has been training across tap dance, acting, music, writing, and design since the age of six. As one of the founding members of M.A.D.D. Rhythms, he has performed at the Chicago Bulls halftime, appeared in major motion picture films, and has been featured on the cover of The New York Times and on NBC's Today Show. He is currently a faculty member at Broadway Dance Center and Steps on Broadway in New York City. His latest project, Potential Energy, blends tap, original music production, and spoken word.

KJ SHELDON

Performer • Educator • M.A.D.D. Rhythms Company Member

KJ Sheldon is a tap dancer and educator who earned her BFA in Musical Theatre from Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts. A Colorado native mentored by the late Prof. Robert L. Reed, she moved to Chicago at 18 and joined M.A.D.D. Rhythms, performing at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Harris Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, and internationally at the 2023 Rhythm of the World showcase in Wenzhou, China. KJ is passionate about passing the tradition to the next generation and brings expertise across tap, musical theatre, and dance education throughout the Chicagoland area.

LISA LATOUCHE

Guest Artist • Tap Dance Artist • Broadway Choreographer

Lisa LaTouche is a Tap Dance Artist, choreographer, educator, and cultural historian based in New York. An original cast member of Broadway's Shuffle Along, choreographed by Savion Glover, she received both the Fred Astaire Award and the Actors' Equity Award for Outstanding Broadway Chorus. A 2024 Armstrong Now Artist in Residence at the Louis Armstrong House Museum, she also directs Tap Phonics, her performance company founded in 2010, and has been commissioned by The Brooklyn Museum, 92Y, and Gibney Dance. She is currently a Professor at PACE University and Marymount Manhattan College, and a champion of tap's cultural and diasporic roots.

IZAIAH HARRIS

Performer • Tap Dancer • Jazz Singer • Musical Theater Artist

Izaiah Montaque Harris is a tap dancer, jazz singer, and musical theater performer who began his tap training at age 5 at Studio One Dance Theater, where he performed 15 consecutive recitals. He studied Contemporary, Urban & Popular Music at Columbia College Chicago and has worked with After School Matters Gallery 37, Congo Square, Merit School of Music, and FloFiyah LLC. A member of M.A.D.D. Rhythms, he performed the role of "Tap Mathematician" in the Broadway hit musical After Midnight aboard Norwegian Cruise Line's record-breaking flagship vessel, bringing his multidisciplinary artistry to audiences worldwide.



Youth Performances & Education

The Summit includes a major youth component featuring:

- M.A.D.D. Rhythms Bronzeville: The HWCC Crew (ages 14–18)
- Students from the M.A.D.D. Rhythms Tap Academy (ages 5–105)
- 500–700 middle & high school students attending special school-day performances
- 90–160 dancers participating in masterclasses and workshops

This is where sponsors make the biggest difference.





Marketing & Media Value

Your sponsorship includes exposure across:

Digital

- Website banner ads
- Streaming video & audio content
- Weekly email blasts
- Social media promotions (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn)

Radio

Valued at \$30,000, including ticket giveaways and live broadcasts on Power 92, V103, WVON, and more.

Print

Valued at \$20,000, including Chicago Defender, Rolling Out, Chicago Reader, Indigo, and others.

Street Promotion

20,000 palm cards + 1,000 posters distributed citywide

Publicity

Media kits, press releases, interviews, and a strong arts-and-youth narrative:

"Corporate America Supports the Arts, Our Youth, and the Preservation of an American Art Form: Tap."



Corporate Sponsorship Participation

SPONSORSHIP TIERS

PRESENTING SPONSOR — \$30,000

- Presenting Sponsor designation on all materials
- Logo on all print ads, banners, palm cards, and direct mail
- Full-page rear cover ad in 1,200 program books
- 30 performance tickets + 30 VIP reception tickets
- 20ft x 10ft exhibit space (tables & chairs included)
- Name included in all paid radio spots
- Banner ad + hotlink on website
- Logo on 4 weekly email blasts
- Right to hang 2 banners at the event
- Right to make an announcement at the top of the show
- Custom promotions available

FULL SPONSOR — \$20,000

- Logo on all print ads, palm cards, and direct mail
- Full-page inside front cover ad in program book
- 20 performance tickets + 20 VIP reception tickets
- 10ft x 10ft exhibit space
- Banner ad + hotlink on website
- Name included in paid radio spots
- Logo on 4 weekly email blasts
- Right to hang 1 banner
- Right to make an announcement at the show

PARTIAL SPONSOR — \$10,000

- Logo on print ads, palm cards, and event banners
- ½-page ad in program book
- 10 performance tickets + 10 VIP reception tickets
- Banner ad + hotlink on website
- Logo on 4 weekly email blasts

PARTIAL SPONSOR — \$5,000

- Logo on print ads and palm cards
- 5 performance tickets
- Banner ad + hotlink on website

SUPPORTING SPONSOR — \$1,000

- Logo on print ads
- 2 performance tickets





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