



OPEN THE CIRCLE

2018-19 PROJECT REPORT

Message from OTC's Board of Directors

Open the Circle (OTC) is a nonprofit organization devoted to channeling resources into arts and education projects in divested Black Chicago communities. Our initial focus is *Chicago footwork*, an enduring dance and electronic music developed to save lives and build community in the face of poverty, ghettoization and violence.

Footwork dancing started to the sounds of *house music* in 1980s Chicago. Today, footwork is widely recognized, influencing artists like Madonna and Missy Elliot. Yet despite footwork's broad uptake, the communities where it originated rarely benefit from exposure. OTC is working to correct this through three grassroots initiatives: a footwork summer camp, a documentary film, and a touring dance performance.

In 2018-19, OTC raised over \$290,000 for our inaugural footwork projects, more than half of our initial fundraising goal of \$500,000, including grants from the Joyce Foundation, the Field Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation. With your support, we hope to soon reach our full fundraising goal. To donate, please visit: otcprojects.org/support-otc

Thank you to everyone who has donated to OTC during our first two years in operation. With a strong foundation in place, now is a new moment for OTC to surge forward, inspiring systemic change through the arts and education.

Sincerely,

Jamal Oliver,
Wills Glasspiegel,
Dee-Dee Stalworth,
Janeca Holbrook,
Jose Ochoa

Cover image: *Empiire* dancers at OTC's footwork summer camp (2019)
Back cover: *Bringing Out Talent Dance Troupe* (2018)
Photographs by Wills Glasspiegel



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“The circle of dance may be deciphered, like in an open book, as the huge effort of a community to exorcise itself, to liberate itself, to explain itself. There are no limits inside the circle.”

— Frantz Fanon, writer, revolutionary, philosopher and psychologist, 1961

OTC's projects focus on four outcomes:

I - Provide positive outlets to keep Black youth safe in Chicago through dance education and social dance

II - Strengthen community among footwork dancers and DJs on the south and west sides of Chicago

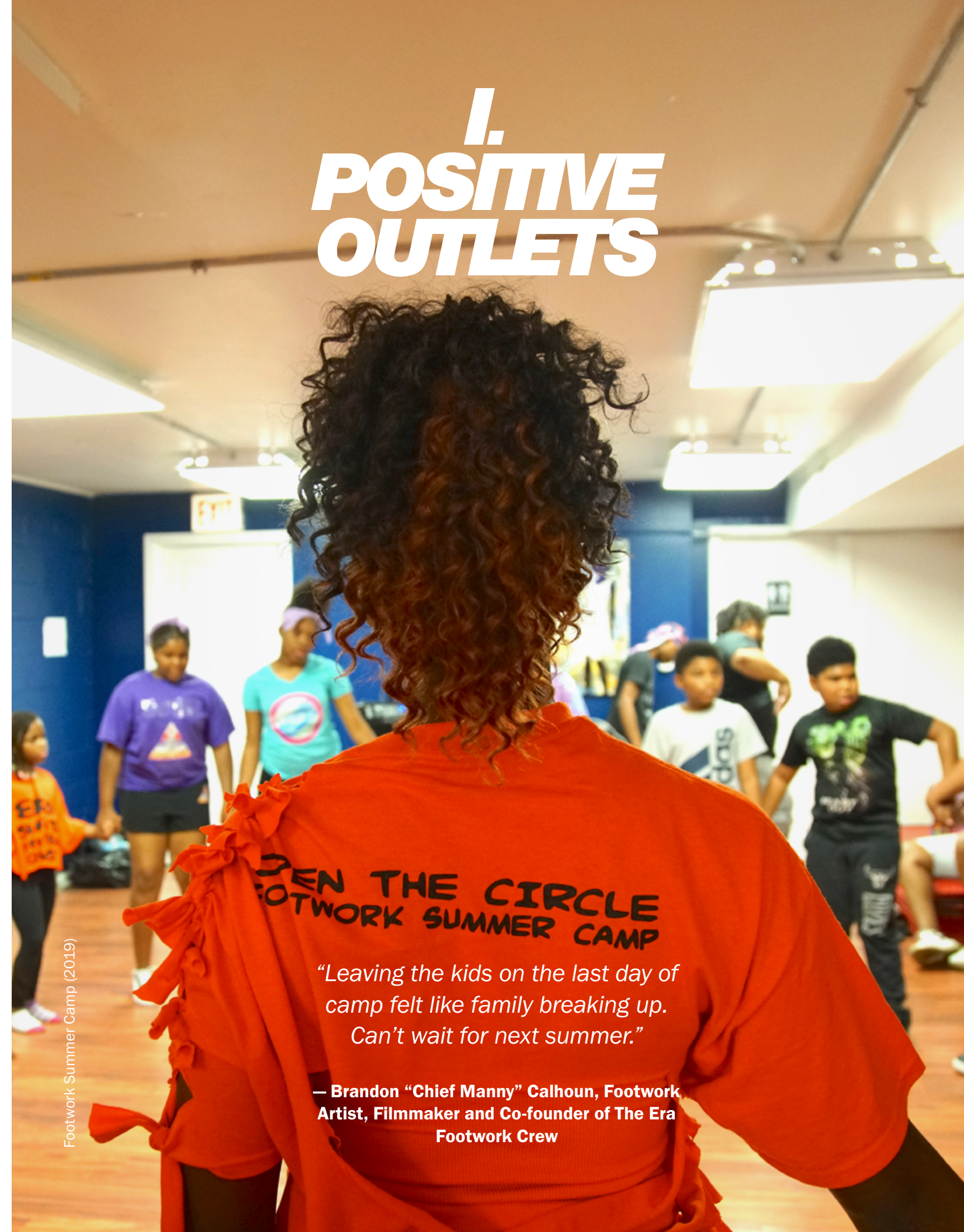
III - Catalyze opportunities for footwork dancers and DJs to support themselves financially, providing upfront investments so that artists can own and control their work

IV - Help Chicago to recognize its own cultural assets by documenting the history of footwork and sharing widely on terms set by leaders in the Chicago footwork community



Footwork dancer Niya on stage at an OTC dance down in Englewood on the south side of Chicago (2018)

I. POSITIVE OUTLETS



Footwork Summer Camp (2019)

"Leaving the kids on the last day of camp felt like family breaking up. Can't wait for next summer."

— Brandon "Chief Manny" Calhoun, Footwork Artist, Filmmaker and Co-founder of The Era Footwork Crew

Footwork Summer Camp

OTC's Footwork Summer Camp offers dance instruction to over 200 young people on the south side of Chicago, keeping them safe and healthy in a fun educational environment, and providing jobs for a dozen local dancers to teach and develop curriculum around footwork.

"Footwork saves lives," is a mantra repeated often by OTC's collaborators. Especially in areas lacking social services, dance is therapeutic and healthy. Dance brings young people joy, builds self-confidence, provides stress relief and helps with physical fitness. In Chicago, footwork instills intergenerational connectivity and helps black youth network with others outside their communities.

In 2019, Footwork Summer Camp expanded through a partnership with Chance the Rapper's summer camp, Kids of the Kingdom, bringing footwork education to another 100 young people on the south side of Chicago. Chance's great-grandmother started Kids of the Kingdom in 1978.



OTC's footwork summer camp with Empiire Dance Institute on the east side of Chicago (2019)

Dance Downs

OTC's eight dance downs in 2018-19 included over 10,000 attendees from underserved black Chicago neighborhoods, featuring over a dozen different black youth dance troupes from the south and west sides of the city.

OTC's dance downs take place in a variety of spaces, from neighborhood parks to downtown stages. They make public spaces public by welcoming young black residents and their families in places and on stages at which they have not always felt welcome, due to enduring segregation.

OTC's dance downs compensate all of the groups who participate, emphasizing the value of each participant and avoiding a winner-take-all mentality. Attendance is free and families appreciate the opportunity to see their kids perform without having to purchase tickets.



OTC produced a footwork dance down as part of 2019 Chicago House Music Festival in Millennium Park (2019)

DANCE DOWN #1
HOSTED BY SH-KUNNA STEWART AND THE ERA FOOTWORK CREW
SATURDAY JULY 21ST - 2PM
HAMILTON PARK, CHICAGO
FEATURING: GEEK SQUAD, ROYAL DIAMONDZ, ROYAL FLUSH, ULTIMATE THREAT, BRINGING OUT TALENT, INSANITY, EMPIRE, ROYALTY
MUSIC BY: DJ STEW & DJ SPINN

DANCE DOWN #2
HOSTED BY SH-KUNNA STEWART AND THE ERA FOOTWORK CREW
SATURDAY AUGUST 18 - 2PM
AUSTIN TOWN HALL PARK, 5610 W. LAKE STREET
FEATURING: GEEK SQUAD, ROYAL DIAMONDZ, ROYAL FLUSH, ULTIMATE THREAT, BRINGING OUT TALENT, INSANITY, EMPIRE, ROYALTY
MUSIC BY: DJ STEW & DJ SPINN

DANCE DOWN #3
HOSTED BY SH-KUNNA STEWART AND THE ERA FOOTWORK CREW
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25TH
12PM - 1PM
DOWNTOWN CHICAGO AT MILLENNIUM PARK IN FRONT OF THE BEAN
FEATURING: GEEK SQUAD, ROYAL DIAMONDZ, ULTIMATE THREAT, BRINGING OUT TALENT, INSANITY, EMPIRE
MUSIC BY: DJ STEW & DJ COREY

DANCE DOWN AT THE BEAN
FEATURING THE ERA FOOTWORK CREW, EMPIRE, BRINGING OUT TALENT, GEEK SKQUAD, AND FINAL ALERT
2:30PM - 4PM | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST AT THE BEAN IN MILLENNIUM PARK
SOUNDS BY DJ CLENT & DJ COREY | HOSTED BY THE ERA & YASI FEST

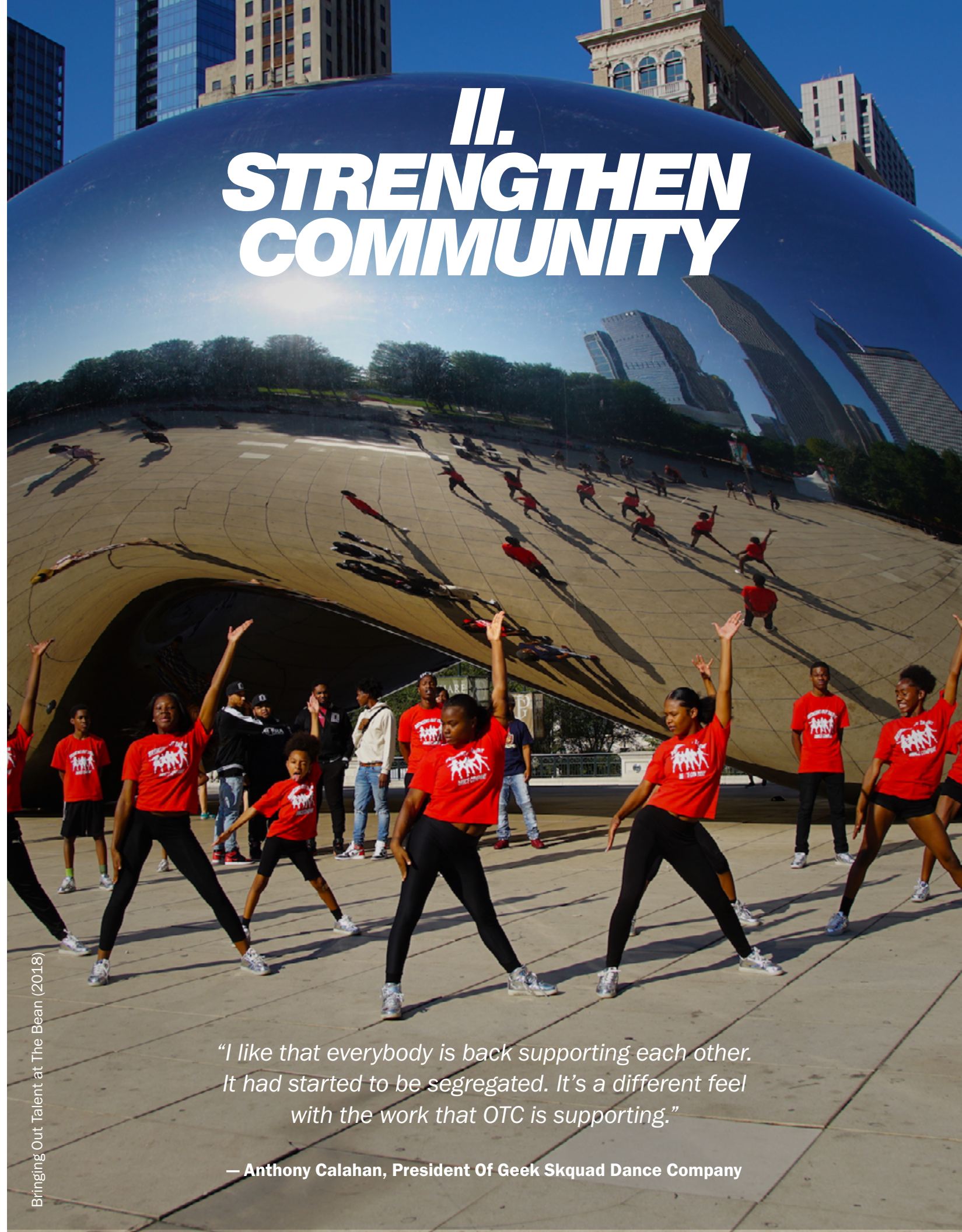
DANCE DOWN
FEATURING TINY DIAMONDS, DYNASTY OF THE EMPIRE, GEEK SQUAD, BRINGING OUT TALENT, ASTRONAUT FLEET AND THE ERA FOOTWORK CREW
6PM - 7:30 | THURSDAY, JULY 11TH, 2019 AT NAVY PIER'S FRESH FEST
HOSTED BY DE'ONE JOHNSON | SOUNDS BY DJ CLENT & DJ COREY
AT THE LAKE STAGE IN POLA BROTHERS PARK AT NAVY PIER

DANCE DOWN
FEATURING TINY DIAMONDS, DYNASTY OF THE EMPIRE, GEEK SQUAD, BRINGING OUT TALENT, ASTRONAUT FLEET, MBM DANCE, THE ERA
2PM - 5PM | SATURDAY, JULY 27TH AT HAMILTON PARK, CHICAGO
HOSTED BY DARNELL PAYNE | SOUNDS BY DJ CLENT & DJ COREY
FOOTWORK CIRCLES HOSTED BY THE ERA FOOTWORK CREW

DANCE DOWN
FEATURING BRINGING OUT TALENT, EMPIRE, DANCE FORCE, THE ERA FOOTWORK CREW, AGGRESSION, FINAL ALERT, A LIST, 2 OFFICIAL BOYS, ROYALTY, FLYBOILILROCK AND ROYAL HEAT
2PM - 5PM | SUNDAY, AUGUST 18TH AT AUSTIN TOWN HALL PARK, CHICAGO
HOSTED BY JASMINE WALKER | SOUNDS BY DJ CLENT & DJ COREY

FOOTWORK AND DANCEDOWN
AT THE ANNUAL HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL
FREE IN MILLENNIUM PARK - MAY 25 - 6-9PM
6-7PM - DANCE WORKSHOP WITH THE ERA FOOTWORK CREW - MUSIC BY DJ SPINN (TEKLIFE)
8-9PM - YOUTH DANCE DOWN HOSTED BY DARNELL PAYNE - MUSIC BY DJ CLENT & DJ COREY
FEATURING BRINGING OUT TALENT, DYNASTY, A LIST, ROYALTY, DIAMONDS OF THE EMPIRE

OTC Dance Down flyers from 2018-19



II. STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

Bringing Out Talent at The Bean (2018)

"I like that everybody is back supporting each other. It had started to be segregated. It's a different feel with the work that OTC is supporting."

— Anthony Calahan, President Of Geek Skquad Dance Company

Strengthen community among footwork dancers and DJs



OTC's footwork summer camp features DJ / music education from artists like Jana Rush (2019)

Promoting footwork education to women and girls in OTC's summer camp has helped address the historically male-dominated character of Chicago footwork. Teaching female dancers inspires them to challenge male dancers, revitalizing footwork's popularity among black Chicago dance groups across the board.

OTC has demonstrated how Chicagoans can engage footwork to foster social development, anti-violence organizing and arts education. Employing footwork dancers and documenting their work has inspired them to expand their teaching practices, and to create their own classes and camps in diverse communities across and beyond Chicago.

OTC has opened up performance opportunities for artists across the footwork community, introducing dancers, DJs and dance groups to stages, sponsors and grantmaking organizations. Like dance moves, OTC's projects and ideas spread throughout the footwork world in Chicago, reaching young people in the city's most under-resourced areas.

Collaborators

The Era Footwork Crew is a creative collective founded in 2014 by footwork dancers on the south side of Chicago. In 2016, FADER Magazine recognized The Era as one of Chicago's "cultural organizers of the year" for bringing footwork dancing to the stage in Englewood on the south side. The Era is OTC's lead on-the-ground partner. They help support the dance downs, develop curriculum and run our summer camp.



Bringing Out Talent (BOT) is a top youth dance group in Chicago, managed by Shkunna Stewart and her husband, Terrence "DJ Stew" Stewart. Shkunna is a third generation dance troupe leader from the south side of Chicago. In 2017, they took first place in the Bud Billiken Parade. BOT co-hosts the OTC footwork summer camp at their dance studio and on the tennis courts at Robert Taylor Park. OTC worked with BOT as our lead organizer for a series of dance downs with The Chicago Park District in 2018-19.

Empiire Dance Institute was incorporated 19 years ago on the south side of Chicago. Empiire gives children in Chicago a safe haven through dance. Empiire's work includes teaching skills in addition to dance, including arts and crafts, mentoring, life skills, and learning about educational resources around the city through field trips. Led by Latisha Waters and Dee Nice, Empiire hosts the OTC footwork summer camp and has hosted and been lead organizer for the Dance Downs in the Park collaboration with Chicago Summerdance.





I am the Queen is a movement of empowerment for female footwork dancers, inspired by the short 2018 film of the same name. The movement is open to all female participants within the Chicago footwork community across generations. In 2018, they performed at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, and also taught footwork to young people as a part of the OTC's footwork summer camp in 2018 and 2019.

DJ Clent and DJ Corey are a father-son team who DJ'd five OTC dance downs in the summer of 2019. DJ Clent is one of the originators of the footwork sound in Chicago, a style of music he started as a teenager on the south side of Chicago in the late 90s. The child of two DJs, Clent got his start dancing with the Lake Park Dancers and Phase 2, later joining House-O-Matics. DJ Corey, "the youngest in charge," is an up-and-coming DJ and dancer from Chicago, following in the footsteps of his dad.



Teklife, established by DJ Rashad and DJ Spinn (pictured), is the leading global brand for footwork music. It is responsible for introducing the music of Chicago footwork – a local underground scene – to the world. Today, Teklife is also a record label for footwork music. Teklife artists like DJ Spinn, DJ Taye, DJ Earl, DJ Phil, DJ Manny and affiliates Traxman and RP Boo tour to many different venues, playing their beloved Chicago sounds for audiences across language and cultural divides.



Darnell Payne is the principal of Sullivan School and founder of U-Phi-U. He hosted OTC's dance down at the Chicago House Music Festival in May 2019. Darnell was one of the first footwork dancers in Chicago, and his work as a youth organizer has laid the foundation for dance groups to participate at the Bud Billiken Parade on the south side of Chicago.



Geek Skquad promotes individuality, creativity, positive thinking and problem solving through dance for inner city Chicago children. Anthony Calahan, Gregory Burrell, and Romarius Beard lead three divisions of Chicago's premier youth dance company.

Social Works is a nonprofit started by Chance the Rapper that empowers youth through the arts, education and civic engagement. OTC and Social Works collaborated on multiple events in 2018-19, including OpenMike Chicago for Chicago Public School high schoolers, and an event to raise awareness and collect clothing for homeless citizens. In 2019, Social Works brought OTC's Footwork Summer Camp to its Kids of the Kingdom summer program for Chicago kids in the Roseland community.





City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) has collaborated with OTC across seven dance downs and awarded OTC's production of *IN THE WURKZ* the CityArts Year of the Theater grant. In total DCASE has worked with OTC to send \$40,000 into communities on the south and west sides.

Photo of OTC collaborators, David Chavez and Carlos Cuauhtémoc Tortolero of DCASE.

The MacArthur Foundation and the Field Foundation jointly launched a program for Media & Storytelling in 2019 that provides grants to strengthen a diverse set of news outlets, reporters, and media makers. They awarded OTC with a \$50,000 grant for production of our documentary *Body of the City*.



The Field Foundation of Illinois awarded OTC its first major grant in 2018 and followed that up with another grant to OTC in 2019. The Field is a natural partner for OTC. Through President Angelique Power's work placing racial equity at the center of the foundation's philanthropic work, she has challenged the sector to "focus on areas that have been disinvested in and lift powerful organizations that have grown in spite of disinvestment." We're grateful for their support across all of OTC's projects in Chicago.



Chicago Dancemakers Forum (CDF) elevates the field of dance by being a catalyst for the artistic and professional growth of dancemakers, providing time and resources for in-depth exploration and creation. OTC co-founder Jamal "Litebulb" Oliver was awarded a Lab Artist grant of \$15,000, used to develop the prototype of *IN THE WURKZ*. CDF is led by Ginger Farley.



The Joyce Foundation awarded The Era and OTC a grant to support the summer camp and stage show work. The Foundation's focus, channelled through Tracie Hall, who leads the Culture program, inspires creativity and cultural stewardship in the next generation, and fosters culturally vibrant, equitable, and sustainable communities.

Shoni Currier is the Director of the Bates Dance Festival in Maine. She was previously the Director of Performing Arts for the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, where she became aware of the work of The Era Footwork Crew. As an advisor to the New England Foundation for the Arts, Shoni supported OTC in its successful, multi-year process of applying for a \$90,000 award to produce and tour *IN THE WURKZ*.





Raphael Xavier is an award-winning artist, a self taught hip-hop dancer and Princeton professor in dance studies. Raph has emerged as an important mentor to The Era as they develop *IN THE WURKZ*, providing advice on the creative direction of the show and educating the team on the professional dance world, given his experience as a National Dance Project past awardee.

The Yard at Martha's Vineyard supports diverse, contemporary dancemakers and related artists in their creative processes through residency and public performance, long term education, and artist driven civic engagement. In June 2019, The Yard invited The Era to participate in a residency at the dance venue, where it workshoped the show for two weeks, in collaboration with Chicago music producers DJ Spinn and Jana Rush, facilitated by OTC and funded by The Yard.



Jenner & Block, an international law firm headquartered in Chicago has been a day-one supporter of OTC, assisting our efforts to register as a nonprofit organization with the federal and state government, and supporting OTC with other legal input and documents. Jenner & Block works with OTC as part of their pro bono practice in Chicago.

JENNER & BLOCK

III. CATALYZE OPPORTUNITIES



The Era Footwork Crew in Martha's Vineyard at The Yard (2019)

"35 years ago I never thought that street dance would go this far to places I have never seen or heard of. Thank you Wills Glasspiegel, The Era, Latisha Waters Dee Nice for sharing your blueprint for saving our youth...take a bow"

— Darnell Payne, Principal At Sullivan School And Founder Of U-Phi-U

Catalyze opportunities for dancers and DJs to support themselves



Kenesha Sheridan dancing in front of Lake Michigan in Chicago (2018)

OTC advocates for and supports the professionalization and employment of artists living in areas where poverty predominates. Finding meaningful, sustainable income opportunities and professional training for artists and dancers living in these areas is fundamental to OTC's mission.

From 2018 through September 2019, OTC invested \$120,000 in over 40 different artists and arts organizations. Grant-writing assistance from OTC has also helped bring grants directly to artists, including Kenesha Sheridan (pictured above), who was awarded a prestigious \$35,000 Dance USA grant for social justice practice in 2019.

OTC also uses social media to shine light on the history of footwork practitioners, including weekly "footwork friday" spotlights on dancers and DJs across generations in the footwork world. To follow, visit OTC on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

IN THE WURKZ brings footwork to the stage



The Era Footwork Crew in preparation for *IN THE WURKZ* (2019)

IN THE WURKZ by The Era Footwork Crew is a new dance project supported by OTC, based on the lives and dreams of dancers on the west and south sides of Chicago. This hour-long show unveils a history of footwork dancing, tracing its development across 30 years of black Chicago history.

IN THE WURKZ was recently awarded one of the most prestigious American awards for new dance – a \$90,000 National Dance Project grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA). This grant supports The Era's creation and touring of *IN THE WURKZ*, bridging Chicago footwork with concert dance venues across the country and beyond, including the Bates Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow, Wesleyan University and others.

IN THE WURKZ has also been supported by the City of Chicago's "year of theater grant," the Joyce Foundation, Field Foundation and Chicago Dancemakers Forum.

[Watch a preview](#) for the show. *IN THE WURKZ* will be on tour in 2020-21.

Footwork at the MCA



I am the Queen at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago (2018)

In 2018, OTC had a unique opportunity to assist the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) in Chicago in curating and programming a footwork night at the museum. The MCA wanted to present an event dedicated to Chicago footwork, and sought assistance in deciding how best and most comprehensively to represent it. OTC helped the MCA program the evening across their event spaces, bringing footwork dancers and the public from all sides of the city together.

[The Chicago Reader](#) remarked:

“In particular, ‘Prime Time: FOOTW3RK’ emphasized the presence of women, a demographic largely overlooked within the footwork community until recently... The event also illuminated the strong sense of community in Chicago footwork”



Empire dancers at ABC News in Chicago (2018)

“To host a footwork event at Navy Pier was so epic to me. For those that don't know, footwork is global, but something hits different when the City of Chicago accepts it!!!”

— De'one Johnson, Host Of The July 11th 2019
OTC Navy Pier Dance Down

Help Chicago to recognize its own cultural assets

OTC's projects help bring resources and value to Chicago footwork, including from places that traditionally have not been in dialogue with footwork.

Since launching in August 2017, OTC has:

Created the opportunity for dancers and footwork artists to appear on broadcast television, including TV spots on ABC, FOX and in an online documentary on Mic.com.

Established partnerships with leading civic institutions, including the Department of Cultural Affairs, Chicago Summerdance, the House Music Festival in Millennium Park, and Social Works / Chance the Rapper.

Mobilized support for the development of three economic assets for the footwork community – the summer camp, the stage show *IN THE WURKZ*, and the documentary film, *Body of the City*.



Bringing Out Talent, led by Shkunna McGee; August, 2018

Media and press coverage for OTC and collaborators

OTC's work focuses on issues of representation for young black Chicago residents. Contesting violence and racism means emphasizing positive, true-to-life representations of black artists and educators across media platforms.

[The Chicago Reader](#) featured OTC: "We're just identifying something good that has been ongoing, that has been keeping people alive, and trying to get other people to recognize the importance of that and the importance of the community that has created this process." (2019)

Open the Circle teaches footwork because footwork saves lives

This Chicago nonprofit, linked to the Era dance crew, works to spread a local Black subculture that can knit together youth communities.

By Jacob Arnold

Sign up for our newsletters



OTC's footwork summer camp at Empiire Dance Institute, featured as part of a short documentary [via Mic.com](#). "The Era is using dance to save Chicago's black youth from violence" (2018)

Empiire Dance Institute, led by LaTisha Waters and Dee Nice, performs [on Chicago ABC7](#) to promote the final day of SummerDance, which included a dance down at Millennium Park (2018)





Bringing Out Talent, led by Shkunna McGee. Picture [from Chicago Fox32](#) to promote the final day of SummerDance which included a dance down at Millennium Park (2018)

The Era and Bringing Out Talent, [on ABC7 show Windy City Live](#) in Chicago to promote the OTC-supported footwork workshop and dance down at the 4th Annual Chicago House Music Festival (2019)



Chance the Rapper re-tweets the “Prime Time: FOOTW3RK” event at the Museum of Contemporary Art [to millions of followers](#) (2018)



Body of the City, a feature-length documentary



OTC supports the professional development of dancer / filmmakers like director Brandon Calhoun (2017)

Filmed over the last decade, *Body of the City* frames the lives and artistry of dancers and DJs in Chicago’s footwork dance world across several generations, starting with a dance called “the holy ghost” from the west side of Chicago.

In September 2019, *Body of the City* was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation and Field Foundation in Chicago. The film will be released in 2021 at community screenings, film festivals, museums, educational institutions and online.

Body of the City is a collaboration among many, including directors Brandon Calhoun, filmmaker and footwork dancer, and Wills Glasspiegel, filmmaker and scholar. OTC is co-producing *Body of the City*. Plans are to distribute profits back to the individuals in the film and use additional monies to fund OTC’s work into the future.

V. FINANCIALS: REVENUES & EXPENSES

“Footwork camp is a blessing. OTC is teaching kids who never did this before the art and history of footworking. My kids are getting better and better with each class and showing more confidence when they dance. We sometimes forget about our roots, so thanks for taking us back.”

— SHKUNNA STEWART, PRESIDENT OF BRINGING OUT TALENT DANCE TROUPE

Chief Manny from The Era Footwork Crew (2017)

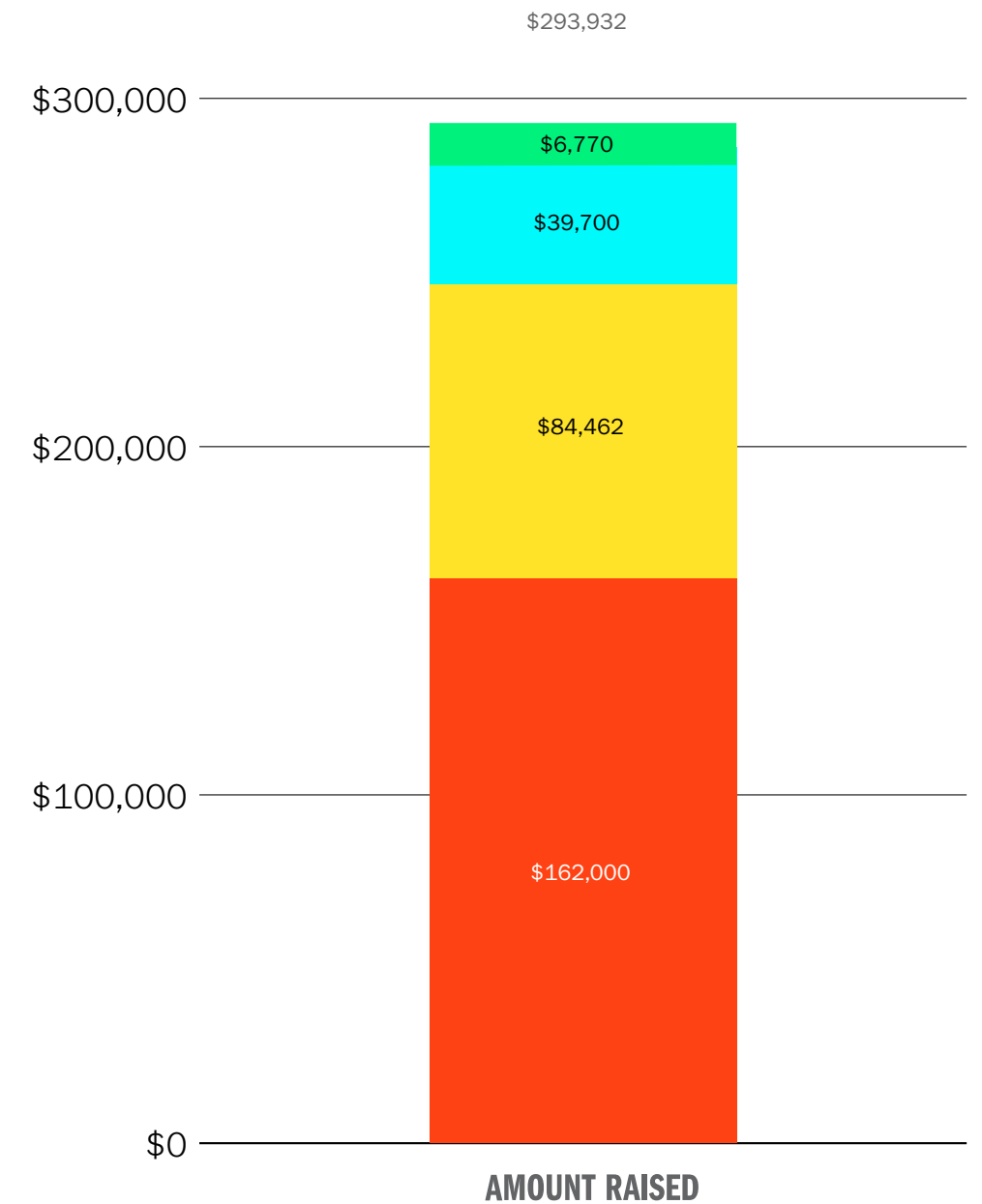
Financials: Revenues

Open The Circle has raised over \$290,000 since August 2017 and catalyzed an additional \$75,000 in grants and opportunities for others in the community.

OTC revenue by source¹

August 15, 2017 - September 30, 2019

- Corporate Grants
- City Contributions
- Individual Contributions
- Foundation Contributions



¹: Does not include donated services

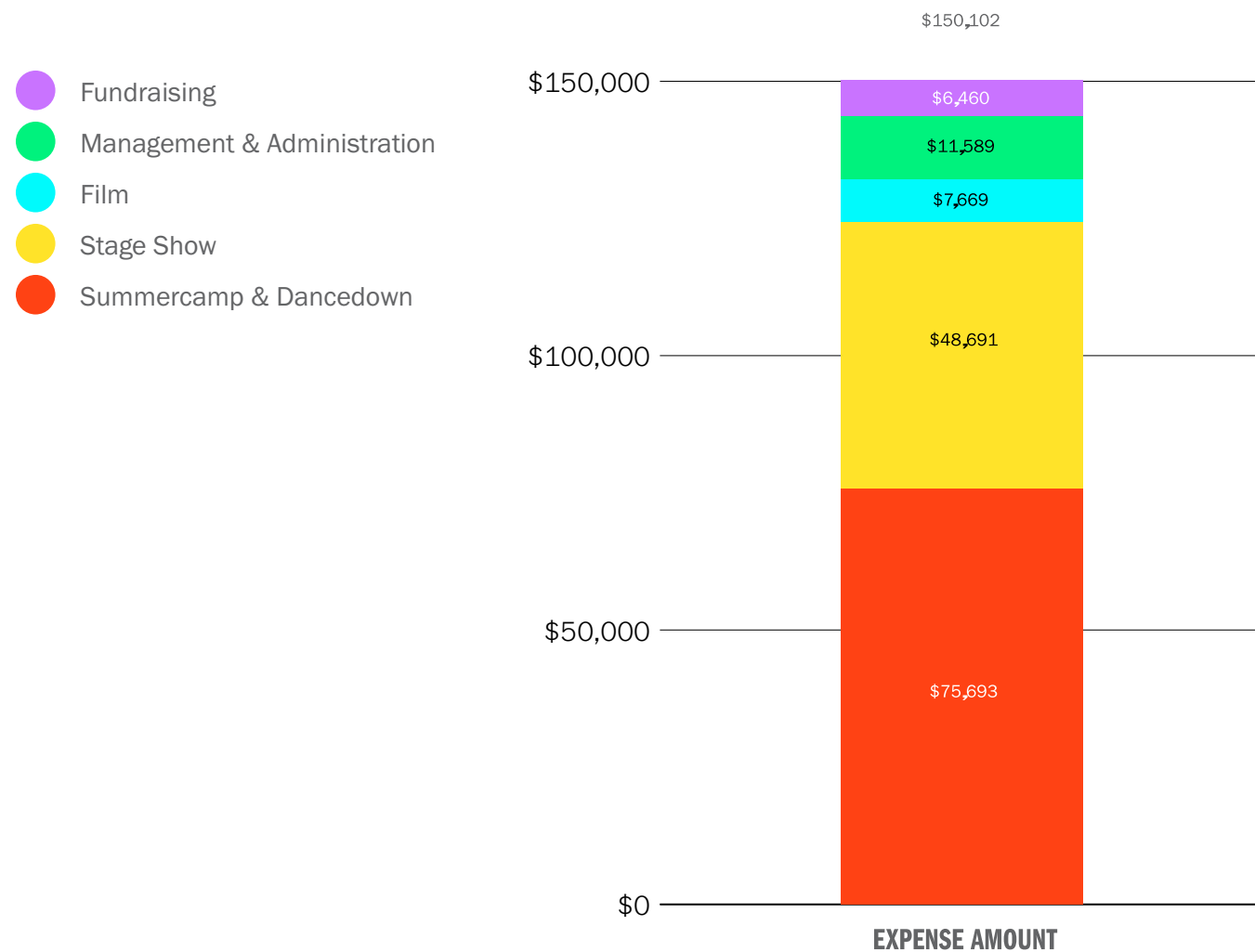
Financials: Expenses

Open The Circle had expenses of over \$150,000 since founding in August 2017.

- **81% of expenses have gone directly to members of the footwork community in 2018 and 2019 through September 30th** – a total of over \$122,000.
- **88% of all money spent went towards OTC’s program work**, as opposed to management, administration, and fundraising in 2018 and 2019 through September 30th, 2019.

OTC expenses by category

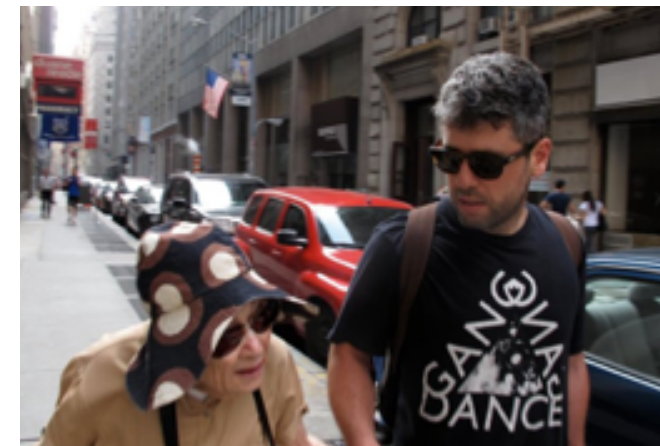
August 15, 2017 - September 30, 2019



Board Members

Jamal “Litebulb” Oliver

Co-executive director Litebulb is a dancer and dance activist at the forefront of footwork culture in Chicago. Known for the intricacy and velocity of his moves, Litebulb has performed with leading artists like Chance the Rapper and DJ Rashad. Since 2009, he has traveled to international stages, from New York PS-1 to the Barbican in London. In 2014, he co-founded The Era Footwork Crew (The Era). Now touring global venues and Chicago schools with The Era, Bulb’s practice is both intensely local and broadly international. He has received awards and grants for his innovative work, including recognition as a dancer of the year in Dance Magazine, a major arts grant from Chicago Dancemakers Forum and University of Chicago/ Arts and Public Life, and as a choreographer of the year by New City magazine. He also appeared in a dance cameo with fellow footworker P-Top in the movie, Manglehorn, with Al Pacino. Litebulb was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, where he lives and



Delorth “Dee-Dee” Stallworth

An ardent advocate for social justice and equity through the arts, Dee-Dee holds a bachelor's degree in criminology, law and justice, with a minor in sociology, from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). DeeDee is a Foster Care Case Manager at Lakeside Community Committee working to provide the families of neglected and abused children with a continuum of services designed to facilitate a positive foster care relationship. DeeDee is also pursuing a master's degree in social work at Chicago State University (CSU) and will graduate in 2020. Dee-Dee is a lifelong south side Chicago resident.

William "Wills" Glasspiegel

Co-executive director Wills Glasspiegel is a documentary filmmaker, artist and scholar writing about the cultural history of Chicago footwork in his PhD dissertation in African American Studies and American Studies at Yale University. He has produced public radio segments for *All Things Considered* and *Morning Edition*, and was recognized as a co-recipient of a Peabody Award in 2014 for his contributions to the public radio program *Afropop Worldwide*. Wills’ documentaries and collaborations have been featured in a variety of publications including CNN, *FADER Magazine*, *Dazed Magazine*, *Pitchfork*, *Nowness*, and *DIS Magazine*. Wills is from Chicago.



Janeca Holbrook

Janeca Holbrook is a lifelong Chicagoan, deeply involved and committed to the mental and physical well-being of her community. Using her experience and education, including a Bachelor's degree in psychology, and Master's degrees in psychology and health care administration, Janeca brings life-saving skills and assistance to her fellow residents in underserved neighborhoods throughout the city. She is currently a behavioral health specialist with Next Level Health Care Chicago, where she uses an integrated physical/behavioral health care coordination model to provide training and resources to clients and their families. Her work on a resource guide for Chance the Rapper's non-profit Social Works was talked about on Good Morning America. Throughout her career, Janeca has led group counseling, community treatment, crisis intervention and psycho-social rehabilitation interventions.

**Jose Ochoa**

Treasurer Jose Ochoa brings over 15 years of education, management, and executive leadership experience to OTC. Most recently, Jose was the Chief Operating Officer of 160 Driving Academy – the nation's largest adult CDL vocational institution. Prior to this, he was a senior associate with McKinsey & Company, where he worked with various public sector organizations. Jose's career started as a high school chemistry and biology teacher at Hirsch Metro High School in the Chicago neighborhood of Chatham. He then served as the Academic Dean of Chicago Hope Academy on Chicago's west side prior to going to graduate school. He received his undergraduate degree in Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry from Yale University and received a Master's in Business Administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Jose was born in Bogota, Colombia, raised in Joliet, IL and currently resides in Chicago.

OTC is grateful to our community for their generous support.

Ted Adler | Arjun Ahluwalia | Richard and Jill Almeida | Alexis Almeida | Jane and Howard Alt | Drew, Jocelyn and Cameron Alt | Val Alt and Saul Sutchter | Amber Angel Sophia Attebery and Family | Baskin Family Foundation | Michael Beharie | Marc and Susan Belgrad | Richard Berger | Rise Birnbaum | Justine Boney | Jeff Burns Chuck Cartwright | Denise Cheung | City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events | Chicago Park District | Karen Cho | Paul Christensen | Phil Coletti Elizabeth Coon | Anne Connor | Pamela Dailey | Mort & Reva Denlow Craig DePreister | Destiny DeShawn | Latesha Dickerson | Bruce and Jane Dresner Braden Weeks Earp | Ginger Farley | Brian Fedotin | The Field Foundation of Illinois Dana Foster | Lizzie Fulton | Paul and Cathy Fulton | Bob and Sue Glasspiegel | Claire Glasspiegel and Robert Spencer | Ryan and Karla Glasspiegel | Harry Glasspiegel and Nina Questal | Katie and Alden Griffith | Steve and Lynn Gryll | Lois and Marty Hauselman | Links Hall | Paul Hiller | Jenner & Block | The Joyce Foundation Paulette and David Kessler | Jean-Yves Leloup | Jill and John Levi | Ben Levi | Jim and Sandi Lewenauer | Meg Lippert | The MacArthur Foundation | Abina Manning | David and Melina Marcus | Sean Mattison | Dawn and Brody McMurtry | Matt Mehlan Gary Mellman and Sybil Circle | Silas Meredith | Sarah Moros | New England Foundation for the Arts | Jerry Newton and David Weinberg | David Nuzum | Sean and Sarah O'Mealia | Michael Orlove | Zac Peeples | Elliot Poindexter | Cynthia Raskin Adam Reynolds | Billie Rice | Catherine and Bart Rocca | Rothkopf Family Charitable Foundation | Gray Rothkopf | Liba Rubenstein and Micah Fitzerman-Blue | Christopher Santoso | Patric Schatzman | Susan Schulson | Bobby Shady | Tarra Sharp | Barbara Sideman | Nathan Silver and Linda Starr | Barney and Betsy Silver | Carol Smoler Jessica Spec | Jim Stewart | Arthur Susman and Carole Stone | Andrew Towne Caroline and Josh Traube | Neal Uppal | Lauren Uyeshiro | Clara Valenstein and John Krzywicki | Badhri Varanasi | Rob Wile | Roger Yaseen | Charles Yawson | Jim and Nancy Youngerman

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Instagram: Otcprojects

Facebook: Facebook.com/OpenTheCircleNfp
Email: Team@Otcprojects.org



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