



STEP AFRiKA!

**VIP GALA
2023**

JUNE 5, 2023





STEP AFRIKA! VIP GALA 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

C. Brian Williams, Founder and Executive Producer
Lamar Lovelace, Executive Director
Artis Olds, Director, Arts Education and Community Programs
Margo Cunningham, Marketing Manager
Kristen Taylor, Company and Communications Manager
Misha Michel, Arts Education and Production Assistant

ARTISTIC TEAM

Mfoniso Akpan, Artistic Director
Conrad Kelly II, Assistant Artistic Director
Ariel Dykes
Kamala Hargrove
Akievia Hickman
Jabari Jones
Isaiah O'Connor
Na'imah Ray
Valencia Odeyka Emonni Springer
Ericka Still
Brie Turner
Joseph Vasquez
Pelham Warner
Robert Warnsley

STEP AFRIKA!'S VIP GALA 2023 SPONSORS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Bank of America



**Reginald J. Brown
and Tiffeny Sanchez**



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- English Hudson Consulting
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- Connie and Patricia Williams

PERFORMER

- Anonymous
- Lamont Akins
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- Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey
- Natasha Watkins

PATRON

- Ashley Adams
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- Althea Evans
- Kaya Henderson
- Karen Magee
- Chester McPherson
- Lapine Group
- Blonka Winkfield



"Step Afrika! effortlessly combines entertainment and education"

- Aryanna Alvarado, The Arbiter

OUR MISSION:

Step Afrika!'s mission is to preserve, expand and promote an appreciation for stepping through professional performances and to educate, motivate and inspire young people in and out of school through arts education programs that emphasize teamwork, commitment, and discipline.

OUR VISION:

As one of the most celebrated African American dance companies in the world, Step Afrika! fortifies our relationships in the communities we serve and highlights our mission to preserve and promote the tradition of stepping. It is our vision to expand programmatic efforts to reach larger audiences.

OUR VIP GALA 2023:

Join us for our annual gala and bolster our work to encourage and inspire young people in schools where the need is greatest.

"Holding the attention of an auditorium packed with kids is no easy task, but Step Afrika! makes it look that way"

- Sam Watson, Door County Pulse



Step Afrika! — We're proud to support you

Bank of America is proud to support the work that enables Step Afrika! to instill their core values of teamwork, commitment, and discipline in thousands of students in the District of Columbia and beyond. Wishing you continued success with the VIP Gala!

Visit us at bankofamerica.com/about.



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"The dance is strong magic. The body can fly without wings. It can sing without voice. The dance is strong magic. The dance is life."

— Pearl Primus






Thank You Step Afrika! For Motivating And Inspiring Us All.

The Brown-Sanchez Family



Happy Homeownership Month!

June is National Homeownership Month, and the DC Housing Finance Agency is here to help you get the financial assistance you need to become a District homeowner!

-  Find a DC Open Doors-approved lender
-  Contact a Community Based Organization
-  Register for homebuying seminars
-  Review program requirements
-  Get down payment & closing cost assistance

Available at:

www.dchfa.org/homeownership



DCHFA is a proud sponsor of Step Afrika!



"I am honored to be a part of this incredible dance community and to support **the amazing work of Step Afrika!**"

– Troy L Patterson



CONGRATULATIONS STEP AFRIKA!

– Ann Belkov and Jerry Lewis



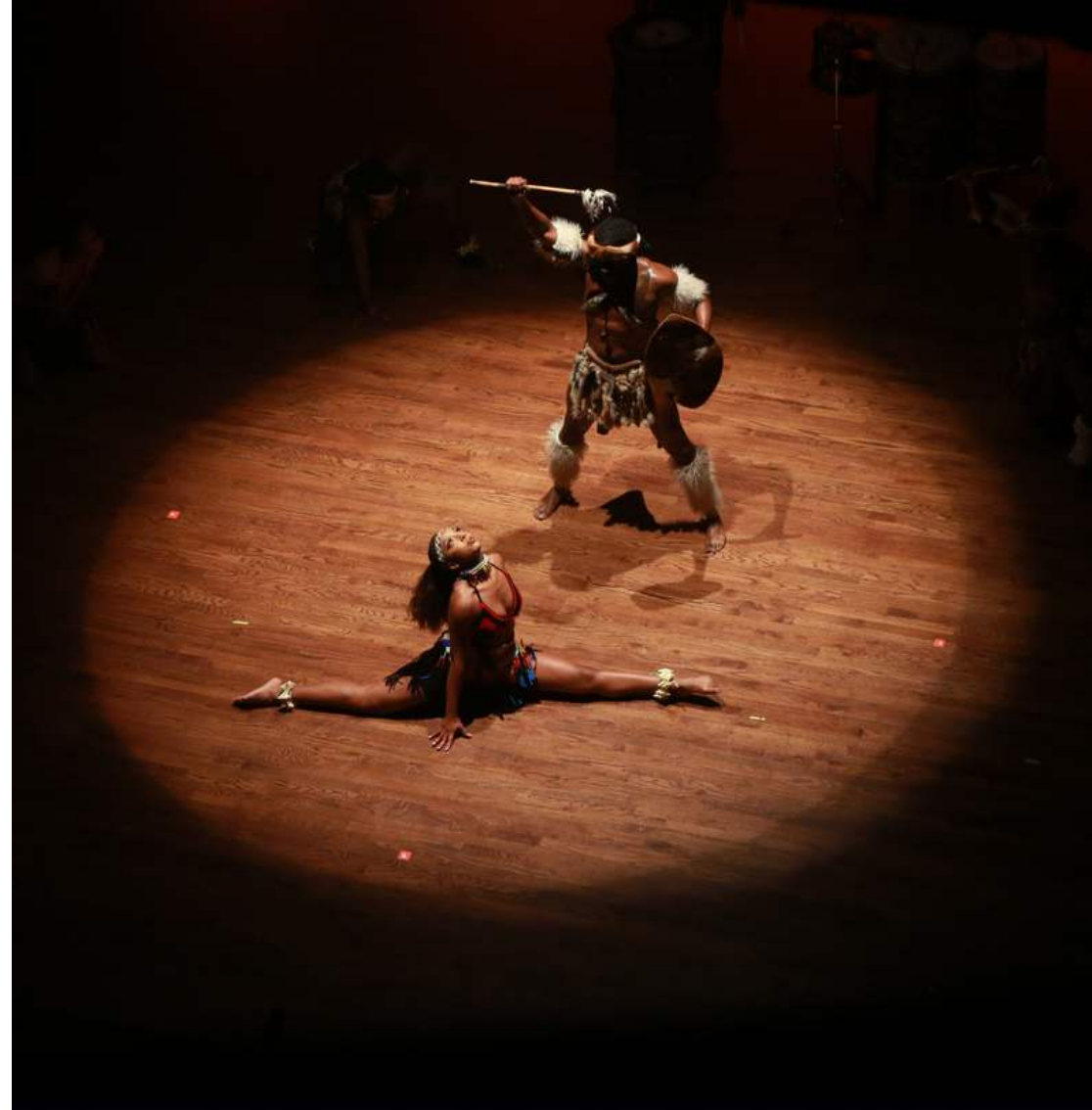
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**Washington Gas proudly
supports Step AFriKA!**



**Washington
Gas**

CELEBRATING **175** YEARS



Congratulations to Step Afrika! on raising
the bar yet again with an exceptional
performance season.

- John Hill



The **Power** to Inspire

We applaud artists and performers whose talent moves us and brings new ideas to light.

We're proud to support Step Afrika! and their commitment to inspiring the communities we serve.

pepco.com



Proud to support the incredible performers and teachers of Step Afrika!

- Conrad Woody and Monica Davis



"The Steward Family Foundation and World Wide Technology (WWT) Foundation donate thoughtfully and consistently to important causes. We are excited about our partnership with Step Afrika! and the award-winning arts education programs that serve youth in Washington, DC and beyond."



STEP AFRIKA! & STRATHMORE
PRESENT

STEP **X** PLOSION



Mon, Jun 19, 7pm

MUSIC CENTER AT STRATHMORE

Celebrate Juneteenth with Step Afrika! Featuring dynamic performances from some of the most exciting and innovative step teams, and special guest DjG, the Disk Jockey General! Plus, don't miss the DC-area premiere of the Black Lives Matter inspired work, *The Movement*.

Featuring:

- Blue MaDness from Bowie, MD
- Brooklyn Divas from Brooklyn, NY
- Dem' Raider Boyz from Greenbelt, MD
- Fatal Attraction from Baltimore, MD
- VSU NPHC All-Stars from Petersburg, VA

Tickets at
STRATHMORE.ORG/STEP

STRATHMORE

STRATHMORE.ORG | 301.581.5100



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**First to tomorrow.
First to 5G.**

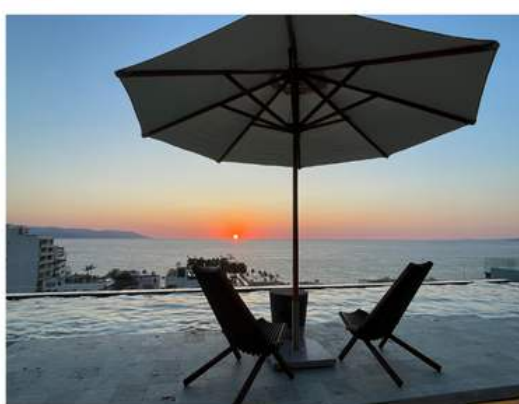
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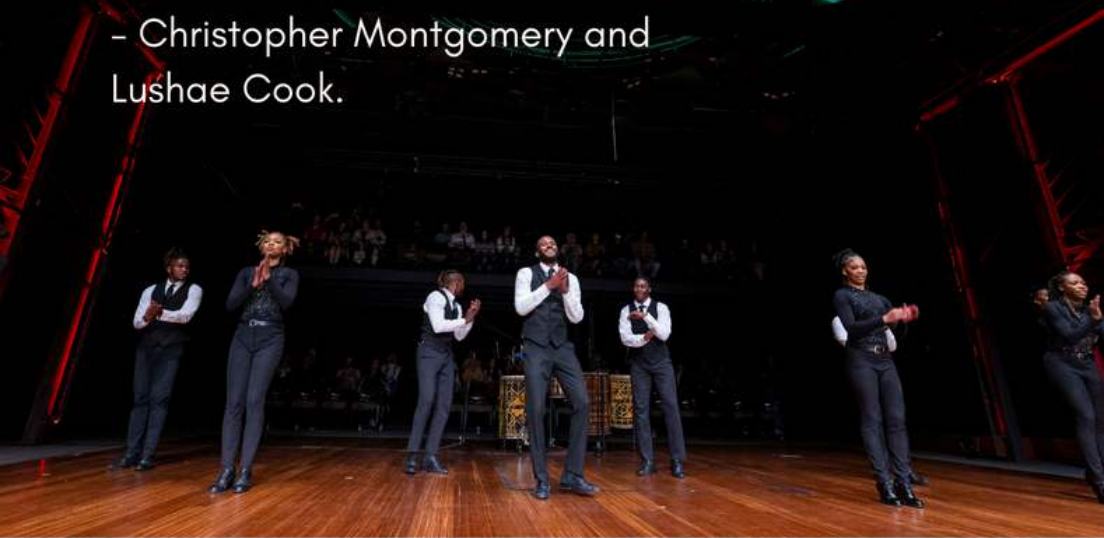



VALUES PARTNERSHIPS
IS PROUD TO SUPPORT
STEP AFRIKA!
AS IT APPROACHES ITS 30TH YEAR OF
ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL EXCELLENCE.

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Congratulations to Step Afrika! on the 2023 VIP GALA!

- Christopher Montgomery and Lushae Cook.



STEP AFRiKA! BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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