



## CONTACT

Jon Kaplan  
(312) 595-5136  
[jkaplan@navypier.com](mailto:jkaplan@navypier.com)

Payal Patel  
(312) 595-5073  
[ppatel@navypier.com](mailto:ppatel@navypier.com)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NAVY PIER DEBUTS NEW ARTS, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING** *Enhanced programs and activities offer something for all ages and interests as part of Navy Pier's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

**CHICAGO** –Beginning the week of July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Navy Pier will be more entertaining, engaging and enriching than ever. As a marquee initiative to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Navy Pier will debut bold, new arts and discovery programming, featuring free, community and cultural programs throughout the year. From music and dance, to health and fitness, Navy Pier will offer something for all interests, tastes and backgrounds.

The new programming – made possible by the \$20 million gift from the Polk Bros. Foundation announced in 2013 – is a featured element of the year-long Fifth Third Bank Centennial Celebration at Navy Pier. It will build on the decades-long, critically acclaimed programming offered at Navy Pier by the Tony Award-winning Chicago Shakespeare Theater and renowned Chicago Children's Museum.

Leading the vision and direction of the new programming is Navy Pier's first guest Artistic Director, Steve Abrams. As a driving force in Chicago's diverse cultural landscape for the last three decades, Abrams brings an innovative arts background to Navy Pier. His prior experience includes senior and executive leadership roles at Steppenwolf Theatre Company and the Harris Theater for Music and Dance at Millennium Park.

In his new role, Abrams has successfully spearheaded the "Navy Pier Pride 2016" event on June 25, the largest-ever LGBT celebration outside of the Lakeview community. Now, Abrams is curating a multitude of other cultural events and activities, some recurring throughout the summer, including:

#### Health and Fitness:

- ***Stroller Derby***, presented in partnership with Fitness Formula Club  
**Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 10 a.m., July 6 – September 21**

Get outside and get moving with outdoor workout classes at Navy Pier!

Take your fitness outside AND bring your kids! *Stroller Derby* is a comprehensive, total body class that takes fitness to a fun new level. Use your stroller as a prop and your child as a resistance tool. Of course, those without strollers or children are welcomed as well! Enjoy the pier as your playground with a guided workout, led by a Fitness Formula Club pro! All classes are held on Navy Pier's South Dock, at the Wave Wall, and are free and open to everyone.

- ***Rush Hour*, presented in partnership with Fitness Formula Club:  
Bi-weekly on Tuesdays, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m., July 12 – September 20**

Let the music move you and help you burn major calories with these high-energy cardio dance favorites. Zumba is a fusion of Latin and internationally-inspired rhythms and movements, while WERQ pulls from all your favorite current chart-topping music videos and song lyrics. Both are in an easy-to follow dance format. Feel the burn!

Each bi-weekly class will alternate between Zumba and WERQ.

- July 12 – Zumba
- July 26 – WERQ
- August 9 – Zumba
- August 23 – WERQ
- September 6 – Zumba
- September 20 – WERQ

All classes are held on Navy Pier's South Dock, at the Wave Wall, and are free and open to everyone.

#### Dance:

- ***Pier Dance***  
**Thursdays, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m., July 14 – September 22**  
*Pier Dance* will give guests the chance to dance to a variety of live and recorded music under the open skies on the East End of the Pier **every Thursday, beginning July 14, from 8 p.m. – 10 p.m.**, and continuing throughout the summer. This is partner dancing at its most mesmerizing...on our beautiful lake, on a summer night, as only experienced on Navy Pier. Remember, no one watches, everyone dances!

#### Music:

- ***Chicago Beatbox LTD***  
**Saturday, July 16, 2 p.m.**  
Feel the beat with Yuri Lane, Chicago's legendary "Human Beatbox," as he hosts and performs in a showcase of extraordinary talent. Beatboxers, rappers, break-dancers, and musicians meet with tap dancers, storytellers, slam poets, and singers for acts both spontaneous and rehearsed. The creative magic culminates with Maestro Yuri Lane

conducting a Beatbox Symphony of sound when all the performers solo and harmonize in a symphony of sound like no other!

“Navy Pier has offered award-winning programming throughout its 100-year history, and we believe these new programs will make Navy Pier even more vital and relevant to the life and culture of Chicago as we enter our second century,” said Marilyn Gardner, President and Chief Executive Officer for Navy Pier, Inc., the non-profit organization that operates Navy Pier. “Already the proud home of one of the finest theaters and children’s museums in the country, the Pier’s new arts and discovery initiative will take our cultural and community programming to the next level.”

For more details on these and other events during the Fifth Third Bank Centennial Celebration<sup>®</sup>, please visit the Navy Pier website at [www.navy pier.com](http://www.navy pier.com) or the Navy Pier Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

### **About Navy Pier**

Located on Lake Michigan, Navy Pier is the top-attended leisure destination in the Midwest, stretching more than six city blocks and welcoming more than 9 million guests annually. Originally opened in 1916 as a shipping and recreation facility, this Chicago landmark showcases more than 50 acres of parks, restaurants, attractions, retail shops, sightseeing and dining cruise boats, exposition facilities and more. In 2016, Navy Pier celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a series of special events and programming, the grand opening of its new *Centennial Wheel* and ongoing pier-wide redevelopment efforts as part of the “Fifth Third Bank Centennial Celebration.” Navy Pier, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, maintains and oversees Navy Pier and its redevelopment into a bolder, greener and more contemporary urban space. For more information, visit our website at [www.navy pier.com](http://www.navy pier.com).