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**Vibrant group of Chicago artists announced for
12-week site-specific downtown arts series**
The Living Loop Performing Arts Festival
June 6-August 29, 2014

produced by High Concept Laboratories
and presented by Chicago Loop Alliance

Artists include:

**Adventure Sandwich, Antony Ablan & The Tramps,
Chicago Q Ensemble, Hubbard Street 2, Hugh Lee,
Kalapriya Center for Indian Performing Arts, M.A.D.D. Rhythms,
Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago, Mozawa,
Parlour Tapes +, ROOMS and Solaire**

CHICAGO (March 10, 2014)—**High Concept Laboratories** in collaboration with **Chicago Loop Alliance** (CLA), with the support of a grant from **The Chicago Community Trust**, will showcase and celebrate Chicago's vibrant performing arts community with **The Living Loop Performing Arts Festival**—a free 12-week site-specific outdoor arts series in the Loop June 6-Aug. 29, 2014. Curated in partnership with the **Chicago Cultural Alliance**, **The Living Loop** performances will be presented during the lunch hour every Friday with the exception of July 4, and a special Saturday performance on Aug. 2 instead of Aug. 1. Chicagoans and visitors can learn more about the performers and festival online at www.thelivingloopchicago.com.

The Living Loop artists include: **Adventure Sandwich, Antony Ablan & The Tramps, Chicago Q Ensemble, Hubbard Street 2, Hugh Lee, Kalapriya Center for Indian Performing Arts, M.A.D.D. Rhythms, Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago, Mozawa, Parlour Tapes +, ROOMS and Solaire**. Throughout the festival, they will engage a wide range of audiences in public spaces, making use of unique outdoor locations throughout the Loop. These artists represent a diverse array of mediums, disciplines, styles and cultural influences—from music, theatre and dance, to conceptual performance, circus and more.

Performance schedule:

Friday, June 6 - Hubbard Street 2
Friday, June 13 - Parlour Tapes+
Friday, June 20 - Kalapriya Center for Indian Performing Arts
Friday, June 27 - Mozawa
Friday, July 11 - Hugh Lee

Friday, July 18 - Solaire
Friday, July 25 - Adventure Sandwich
Saturday, Aug. 2 - The Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago
Friday, Aug. 8 - Chicago Q Ensemble
Friday, Aug. 15 - ROOMS
Friday, Aug. 22 - M.A.D.D. Rhythms
Friday, Aug. 29 - Antony Ablan & The Tramps

"Placemaking and place management are key priorities for Chicago Loop Alliance, and The Living Loop is a continuation of our efforts to enliven public spaces downtown," said CLA Executive Director **Michael Edwards**. "High Concept Laboratories has curated an exciting lineup of artists for the summer, and The Chicago Community Trust's generous support ensures the festival will be accessible to all members of our community, as audience members can attend and participate free of charge."

"High Concept Laboratories is thrilled to present the work of this remarkably talented and vibrant group of artists," said The Living Loop Festival Director **Molly Feingold**. "We can't wait to see the exciting new intersections created between audiences and artist as we re-imagine the performing arts outside of the traditional concert halls and theaters and into the streets of Chicago."

About [The Living Loop](#) artists:

Adventure Sandwich is a live action cartoon about the power of the imagination, creative problem-solving, and collaboration. It's made with the help of their audience, and without the aid of green screens or computer animation. Adventure Sandwich was born out of the desire to create children's media that educated as well as entertained without alienating parents, siblings, and others who might watch along with our younger audience members. The goal of Adventure Sandwich is to provide high quality entertainment that sneaks in the valuable skills that are often ignored in test-heavy school systems: emotional and creative intelligence, creative problem solving approached from unique perspectives, and arts education that promotes empathy and connection between collaborators. Visit www.adventuresandwich.org to learn more.

Antony Ablan & The Tramps formed in 2011. This wildly eclectic and dynamic group has created music that can be best described anywhere from "exotic and beautiful" to "wooden electric". The band has headlined Chicago's most notable venues, from Schubas to Lincoln Hall to The Empty Bottle. They embarked on their first national tour in the fall of 2011, earning notoriety for their explosive live shows all the way down to Texas and back. Upon returning to Chicago, they created a completely independent, full-length album containing 63 minutes of original music that takes the listeners through wide open prairie scenes, bustling big-city streets, ragged American-gypsy grooves, intimate soulful pleas and soaring climatic instrumentals. Antony & The Tramps have become one of Chicago's favorites and they continue to expand their popularity in the Midwest and beyond. Visit www.antonyandthetramps.com to learn more.

Chicago Q Ensemble is a string trio committed to innovative collaborations, community engagement, and the work of living composers. The ensemble has been presented in concert throughout Chicago, including recitals at the (Un)familiar Music Series, Chicago Cultural Center, Green Mill, Chopin Theater, Northwestern University, DePaul University, Ganz Hall, and the Music Institute of Chicago. They have premiered works by Brian Baxter, Seth Boustead, Amos Gillespie, Eric Malmquist, Matthew Pakulski, Kyle Vegter, Amy Wurtz, and award-winning jazz arranger Joe Clark. In 2011, they teamed up with composer and video artist Patrick Liddell (aka Ontologist) to create a multimedia concert piece. In 2012, they completed a residency at the Poetry Foundation which included six sold-out performances of Fjords, a major collaboration with shadow puppet company Manual Cinema, composer Kyle Vegter, and poet Zachary Schomburg. Visit www.chicagoqensemble.com to learn more.

Hubbard Street 2, founded by Julie Nakagawa and Lou Conte in 1997 and now led by Terence Marling, prepares dancers ages 18 to 25 for careers in contemporary dance, and identifies next-generation choreographers. While members, talented young artists receive professional experience in a dynamic environment that fosters artistic growth while allowing them to hone multiple techniques. To date, 12 members of HS2 have advanced to Hubbard Street's main company, with numerous others joining top dance companies worldwide. HS2's dancers reach thousands annually with diverse programming that includes valuable arts education and appreciation in schools, site-specific work in museums and cultural institutions, and evening-length repertoire performances. HS2 has been honored to perform at many prestigious venues including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Joyce SoHo and North Carolina School of the Arts, and overseas in Germany, Luxembourg, South Africa and Switzerland. Visit hubbardstreetdance.com to learn more.

Hugh Lee is an upcoming lyricist from Chicago known for his tongue in cheek lyrics, biting satire and witty punch lines that make his listeners smile, wince or have an outburst of nostalgia. He has made his way performing in various venues in Chicago. From an early age, Hugh studied the fundamental aspects of artistry and how to hone his aural skills and time keep abilities. Studying performers like Prince, Michael Jackson, R. Kelly and Musiq Soulchild, he learned the singing patterns and variations used in pop chart songs. Later, he would go on to study rappers like LL Cool J, Biggie Smalls, and Jay Z for several different styles of figurative language and ways to express images in a vivid manner. Visit www.facebook.com/HughLeeLive to learn more.

Kalapriya Center for Indian Performing Arts is a vibrant performing arts organization that promotes Asian Indian dance and music through performance and education. Artistic Director Pranita Jain, who holds a Masters Degree in dance ethnography, believes that world cultures do not exist in a vacuum—they are constantly evolving, influenced by current issues and cross-cultural exchanges, and to grow and remain relevant in today's transnational society is to stay open to these influences in order to evolve as a culture or art form. Kalapriya specializes in Bharata Natyam, an ancient dance form that uses stylized hand gestures, theatrical facial expressions, intricate footwork and complicated rhythms and counter rhythms to visualize poetry, mythology and universal themes. Kalapriya is home to a professional company of dancers whose performances have been seen nationally and internationally. The company is also home to a dance school offering beginning to professional-level training to students of all ages. Visit www.kalapriya.org to learn more.

M.A.D.D. Rhythms is a phenomenal TAPdance collective whose "SOLE" purpose is to spread the Love and Joy of TAP worldwide. What started as Bril Barrett's formula for giving back, is now a full-fledged performing arts company, quickly gaining a reputation for representing the true essence of tap: RHYTHM! The company is composed of young, versatile tap dancers from all over Chicago. They have performed in Dance Africa Chicago, Dance Chicago, The Stars of "Dance Chicago" in Istanbul, Turkey, M.A.D.D. Rhythms Canada's "Release Yourself" and "Great Feets of Rhythm", Downbeats Canada's "Embrace the Rhythm", Miami's Art-Deco Festival, An Expo for Today's Black Woman, Kwanzaa Festival, The African Festival of the Arts, St. Louis Tap Festival, Boys and Girl's Clubs National Conference, the Chicago Historical Society's Summer Performance Series, and DuSable Museum's educational theatre series. They have also produced 9 full-length productions, created The Chicago Tap Summit and educated over 200 students via The M.A.D.D. Rhythms Tap Academy. Visit www.maddrhythms.com to learn more.

Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago perpetuates and showcases the splendor of Mexico's traditional dance, music, dress and history; and cultivates and promotes public awareness and appreciation of this rich cultural heritage. Fast costume changes, ringing music and festive dancing have characterized the Company's performances for almost three decades. An extensive repertoire presented in lavish costumes, worn by young, energetic dancers make MFDC's program an exciting, colorful, and yet educational experience. Visit www.mexfoldanco.org to learn more.

Mozawa, an international company of artists, creates art works which are diverse in their artistic scope and cultural explorations. Each Mozawa production is designed to intermingle classical and popular forms of theatre, opera, music, film, dance, design, fashion, and visual art. Dedicated to the

evolution of traditional art forms, Mozawa challenges audiences to broaden their perception by expanding artistic possibility. It is their goal to awaken audiences with hybrid forms of artistic expression. Mozawa artworks are collaboratively created by its company members, who stem from all artistic disciplines. The company is also committed to partnerships with artistic and social institutions that share the same core values of creating artistic and cultural hybrids which investigate and celebrate the human experience. Visit www.mozawa.org to learn more.

Parlour Tapes + is Chicago's first contemporary art music tape label. Chicago is abuzz with sounds and Parlour Tapes+ aims to capture these rustlings, large and small, on quarter-inch oxide-coated magnetic tape. Cassette tape. Parlour Tapes + is also, per its growing interests, a media and performance collective that mounts unlikely concert-happenings and publishes an online magazine. It is also-a group of performing, composing, improvising rug-cutters who create and realize new work themselves. The group aims to fuel creative thought with stimulating, encouraging, and at times completely over-the-top projects to nurture the earnest and unbridled fulfillment of artistic desire. Visit <http://parlourtapes.com> to learn more.

ROOMS is the husband and wife team of Todd Frugia and Marrakesh. They have been creating work together for more than a decade as ROOMS in the U.S. and abroad. ROOMS is dedicated to exploring and strengthening the relationship between artist and audience by experimenting with the creative process and expanding the vocabulary of language and experience. Through the manipulation, reorganization, and skewing of specific images, sounds, and motion, ROOMS strives to stretch beyond notions of 'narrative' and drift into varying presentations and modes of thought and being. Visit www.ROOMSgallery.com to learn more.

Solaire is a spectacle of movement and multimedia performance. They meld styles to bring stage arts to the people of Chicago in an accessible and inspiring way. By integrating a variety of movement tools with dance and choreography, they create visual themes to reach their audience at its heart. Silk veils flow and catch visuals. Fire lights up the stage. Hoops whorl and circle. Aerial rigging lets them fly. Costuming transforms for glamour and aesthetic. Music inspires and dances them forward. Visit www.solaireexperience.com to learn more.

About High Concept Laboratories

High Concept Laboratories is an arts service organization dedicated to supporting working artists and engaging the Chicago community with arts and culture through the production of dynamic events. For more information, please visit highconceptlaboratories.org.

About Chicago Loop Alliance

Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA) creates, manages and promotes high-performing urban experiences, attracting people and investment to the Loop. For more information, please visit www.LoopChicago.com.

About the Chicago Community Trust

For 98 years, **The Chicago Community Trust**, our region's community foundation, has connected the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago. In 2013, the Trust, together with its donors, granted more than \$130 million to nonprofit organizations. From strengthening schools to assisting local art programs and building health centers to protecting the safety net for those hardest hit by the recession, the Trust continues to enhance our region. To learn more, please visit the Trust online at www.cct.org.

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