



# 2023-24 Educator Resource Guide



## Step Afrika!

Oct. 3, 2023 – 12:30 p.m.



With a myriad of offerings allowing your students to explore their identity and the identity of others, this season's Amcor Education Series has a show for everyone.

Thank you for allowing your Fox Cities Performing Arts Center to partner with you to provide your students with engaging educational arts experiences.

For any questions, contact the education sales team at (920)730-3726 or [educationsales@foxcitiespac.com](mailto:educationsales@foxcitiespac.com).

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Education Series  
Title Partner:



Education Series  
Co-Partners:



# Thank you to our series partners for making this performance possible!

Education Series Title Partner



Education Series Title Co-Partners



Community Partner



## A note from our Series Title Partner – Amcor

At Amcor, we make the packaging you use every day on your food and beverages, healthcare products, personal care items and more! As a global leader in packaging design and material science, Amcor is proud to sponsor programs in STEM education and the arts in the communities where we have operations. We are thrilled to support the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center and their efforts to provide enriching educational programming for young people in our area. Enjoy the show!

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# Welcome to the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center!



When entering the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, remember to **show respect for others and your environment** so everyone can fully enjoy and participate in the experience.

- During the performance, the performers can see and hear you, so give them your full attention. Unlike a video, we can not rewind and replay a scene if we miss it.
- **Applause** is the best way to express how much you enjoyed the performance! For other Theater Etiquette tips, visit our website [here](#).
- **Important things to remember:**
  - Student backpacks, gum, drinks and food are not allowed in the theater.
  - Cell phones should be turned off and stowed.
  - Note that recording or taking photos in the theater is strictly prohibited; however, photos may be taken in the lobby.
  - It's a long way down – please do not drop items off balconies.

**Be prepared to arrive early** – You should plan on arriving to the Center 20 minutes before the show. Allow for travel time, parking and trips to the restroom.

Questions about your show reservation? Contact our education sales team at (920) 730-3726 or [educationsales@foxcitiespac.com](mailto:educationsales@foxcitiespac.com).

## Health and Safety

- The Center has created a touchless experience with the Evolv Express Security System. Upon entry, all bags entering the building are subject to search and prohibited items will not be allowed.
- Teachers and chaperones are discouraged from bringing bags, however, necessary backpacks or bags may be searched and tagged before being allowed in the theater.
- We ask that students leave their backpacks at school for Amcor Education Series performances. However, if students do bring them, they are subject to search and will need to be checked at the registration table in the lobby upon entry.

**Accessibility Services** – To best serve the needs of you and your students, please indicate if you have individuals who require special services or seating needs upon making your reservation.

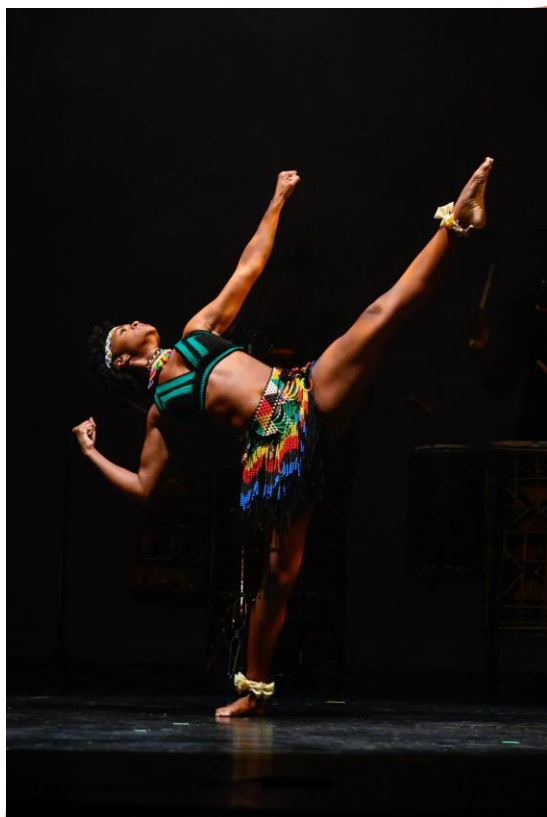
Please see our complete list of policies at [foxcitiespac.com](http://foxcitiespac.com).

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## About the company

Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika! is the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping – a polyrhythmic, percussive dance form that uses the body as an instrument. Under Mr. William's leadership, stepping has evolved into one of America's cultural exports, touring more than 50 countries across the globe. Step Afrika! is one of the top 10 African American dance companies in the world.

## Wisconsin Academic Standards

### DANCE

- Standard DD3: RESPOND – Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work.
- Standard DD4: CONNECT – Students will relate prior knowledge and personal experience with dance to cultural and historical context.

### MUSIC

- Standard MG3: RESPOND – Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work.
- Standard MG4: CONNECT – Students will relate prior knowledge and personal experience with music to cultural and historical context.

### Social Studies

- Standard SS.Georg4: Wisconsin students will evaluate the relationship between identity and place.
- Standard SS.Hist1: Wisconsin students will use historical evidence for determining cause and effect.

# Lesson One

**Objective:** Students will practice a rhythmic activity using an everyday cup.

**Materials:**

- YouTube Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/Y5kYLOb6i5I>
- Tutorial with Pictures: <https://www.instructables.com/The-Cup-Song-from-Pitch-Perfect-tutorial/>
- Empty cups, can be any size but should be made of plastic

**Activity:**

- Ask the students to define what rhythm is. (Rhythm is a strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound). Ask them how rhythm affects music and dance.
- Explain that everyone is going to do an exercise in rhythm using plastic cups. Each student should have one cup each.
- Show the video tutorial on the “cup game”. Students may recognize this cup activity from the movie “Pitch Perfect.”
- Give students time to practice with the video.
- Once they master the cup game, they can play in small groups, passing their cups to the right at the end.

## Did You Know?

Stepping can be traced back to the gumboot dance of the miners in South Africa. Miners wore rubber boots and created movements and sounds to communicate with each other, since communication between each other verbally was forbidden. These miners worked to unearth gold and diamonds in South Africa during the late 1800s. (Source: <https://encompass.eku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?filename=2&article=1000&context=ekuopen&type=additional>)

# Lesson Two

**Objective:** Students will learn some traditional African dance movements, as the styles of dance performed by Step Afrika! are greatly influenced and inspired by African tradition.

**Materials:**

- Dance Video: <https://youtu.be/y3W-YIoW8Bw>
- Lesson Taken From Kennedy Center Education Digital Learning: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/dance/five-ish-minute-dance-lessons/fiveish-minute-dance-lessons/african-dance/>

**Activity:**

- Ask students what are some reasons to dance? Examples could include for fun, to convey stories, to get stronger, etc.
- Discuss with your students why dancing is important to African culture:
  - Community
    - Dance is an expression of communal life. It helps people know their roles in the community, passing on values and a sense of identity.
  - Social Events
    - Dances are performed for various life events like births, deaths, coming of age, etc.
  - Expressing skills
    - Warrior dances train young men in strength, agility, balance and timing. Everyday work actions are included in the dances based on their job duties.
- Have everyone stand up and create some space around them. Play the dance video with the students learning these traditional moves.

## In The Spotlight

In the early 1900s, African-Americans began to attend colleges in greater numbers and decided to create their own fraternities and sororities to support the students in various ways and serve the surrounding communities. Stepping became a way that members of these student groups expressed pride and love for their organizations. Stepping is a percussive, highly-energetic art form that developed through song and dance rituals put on by these African-American fraternities and sororities. Stepping can be described as when your body becomes the instrument in creating polyrhythmic sounds using footsteps, claps and spoken word.

(Source: <https://www.stepafrika.org/arts-education/stepping/>)

# What's Next?

Don't let this experience end with the drop of the curtain. Keep the conversation going with your students and reflect on the performance that you just attended.



## Here are a few questions to get the conversation started!

What was your favorite part of the performance?

Which style of dance resonated with you the most?

How did they use their movement to communicate to the audience?

How did the Step Afrika! dancers show teamwork? In what ways did they show off their individuality? How can you be both a good team member and your own unique self?

What moment do you remember most from the performance? What was happening?

If you were going to tell a friend about the performance, how would you describe it in one sentence?

What surprised you about the performance? On the following page, write or draw something that surprised you or made you curious.

# My Reflections

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**amcor**

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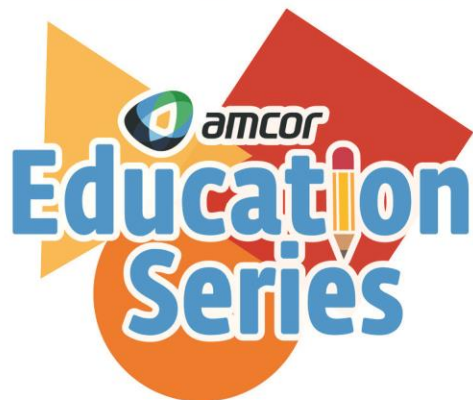


**Kimberly-Clark**



**Miller**

**SCHNEIDER**



# Student Showcase



What was a light bulb moment for your students?  
 What was something new they learned?  
 Was it anyone's first time to the Center?  
 Share with us!

After your class attends the show we would appreciate photos, letters, posters and cards to share what your students are learning with our partners.

The Center's education programs are not possible without the support of our Annual Partners and grant funders. They enjoy learning about the schools and students that participate in the education programs so we would appreciate your help in telling the story.

Items may be sent via email to [sstelzl@foxcitiespac.com](mailto:sstelzl@foxcitiespac.com) or mailed/dropped off at:

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center  
 Attn: Sammi Stelzl  
 400 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54911

Thank you for your help in sharing the great work you are doing in the classroom with our partners!



Please note items will not be returned and will be shared with our partners and/or used in Center marketing materials.

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# Resources

## Books

- "Soulstepping: African American Step Shows" by Elizabeth Fine
- "Steppin' On the Blues" by Jacqui Malone
- "African Dance: Drumbeat In Our Feet" by Patricia A. Keeler, Júlio Leitão
- "African Dance: An Artistic, Historical and Philosophical Inquiry" by Kariamu Welsh-Asante
- "African Culture: The Rhythms of Unity" by Molefi Kete-Asante and Kariamu Welsh-Asante
- "African Proverbs for All Ages" by Johnnetta Betsch Cole

## Online

- Step Afrika Website: <https://www.stepafrika.org/>
- Background on Stepping: <https://dancespirit.com/the-art-of-stepping-and-how-its-brought-people-together-for-more-than-a-century/>
- Kennedy Center Lesson – Elements of dance: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/lessons-and-activities/lessons/6-8/elements-of-dance/>
- Kennedy Center Lesson – Intro to Stepping Part 1: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/video/education/dance/introduction-to-stepping1/#:~:text=In%20this%20lesson%2C%20Mr.,musicality%20in%20their%20own%20space.>
- News Clip on Step Afrika: <https://youtu.be/YILT6VLY0o>
- Step Afrika Resource Guide: <https://www.stepafrika.org/app/uploads/03-Step-Afrika-Educational-Performance-Guide.pdf>

This resource guide was created for you by the programming team as part of The Boldt Company Beyond the Stage Education program. To download copies of this resource guide or to find additional resources for this performance or view past resource guides, please visit [foxcitiespac.com](http://foxcitiespac.com) and click on the education tab.

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