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Navy Pier Releases 2019 Summer Programming Calendar of Free Arts and Cultural Events

Iconic Chicago lakefront destination's annual summer programming to feature robust roster of free events and series, including Pier Fitness, LatiNxt, Water Flicks, Chi-Soul Fest, Navy Pier Pride, Water Colors and more

CHICAGO – As the summer season approaches, Navy Pier is pleased to announce the highlights of its 2019 summer programming schedule, featuring a robust lineup of free events and program series spanning from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. As part of this year's lineup, the Pier – which draws nearly 9 million annual guests, with high visitorship in the summertime – will welcome back many of its popular programs in music, dance, fitness, theater and festivals, including *Pier Fitness*, *LatiNxt*, *Water Flicks*, *Chi-Soul Fest*, *Navy Pier Pride*, *Water Colors* and more.

“For the third consecutive year, Navy Pier invites Chicagoans and guests to the city's treasured lakefront for 14 weeks of summer fun,” said Navy Pier Chief Program and Civic Engagement Officer Michelle T. Boone. “With a wide and diverse assortment of free programs presented each day, guests can expect to be treated to the best in local art, entertainment, music and more.”

The season will kick off with ***Live on the Lake!***, the popular live concert series in the *Miller Lite Beer Garden*, on Friday, May 24. The series will continue every weekend through Sunday, September 1, spotlighting local musicians and cover bands. ***Wave Wall Wax***, a live DJ series hosted at the Wave Wall platform, will be offered every Saturday from May 25 through August 31. The Pier's signature ***Aon Summer Fireworks*** will also return to the Chicago sky every Wednesday and Saturday night from May 25 through August 31.

On Tuesday, June 4, guests are invited to take their workout regimens outdoors with ***Pier Fitness*** every Tuesday evening through August 13, with the exception of July 2. The series includes high-energy exercises as part of Rush Hour Workouts, followed by mindful stretches and poses at Sunset Yoga – both offered at the City Stage in *Polk Bros Park*, against the stunning backdrop of Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline.

Back by popular demand is ***LatiNxt Presented by Xfinity***, a two-day music festival featuring Latinx bands and musicians. Catch this unique Pier-wide event celebrating the blend of traditional and modern day Latin music on Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15. That Saturday also marks the kickoff to the Pier's three-part ***Quinceañera*** celebration, offering local Latina girls turning 15 an opportunity to commemorate their special milestone with a free photoshoot in their gowns and a festive celebration with family and friends as they enjoy classic Latin American music performances at the Wave Wall platform. The celebration will continue on Monday, July 15 and Thursday, August 15. Also returning to the summer programming lineup is ***Chi-Soul Fest***, a two-day festival showcasing the city's top talent in soul music. Held on Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22, this one-of-a-kind event will feature a musical act at each performance stage.

On June 21, Navy Pier will also welcome back two of its popular music programs, ***Wigglegorms*** and ***Make Music Chicago***, in *Polk Bros Park*. *Wigglegorms*, a children's music series presented in partnership with the Old Town School of Folk Music, will be offered every Friday thereafter through August 23, with the exception of July 5.

Water Flicks returns to the Lake Stage in *Polk Bros Park* every Monday from June 24 through August 12. This year, bring your blankets, lawn chairs and capes as the Pier presents “the summer of superheroes,” a showing of D.C. and Marvel film favorites, including *Black Panther*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, *Wonder Woman*, *Aquaman* and more.

On Saturday, June 29, join the Pier for a celebration of love at **Navy Pier Pride Presented by American Airlines**. This all-day, Pier-wide event will feature LGBTQ programming, including music, dance, arts and crafts, storytelling and more.

As Chicago’s top **4th of July** destination, Navy Pier is once again expected to draw thousands of guests to the lakefront to catch the city’s longest fireworks display, **presented by Miller Lite**.

On Thursday, July 11 and Friday, July 12, support young local musicians, dancers and spoken word artists as part of **Fresh Fest! Presented by Allstate Insurance Company**, a two-day, Pier-wide youth talent showcase. July 12 also marks the start of **Water Colors**, a live jazz music series, presented in partnership with the Jazz Institute of Chicago and other specials guests. The series will be held in *Polk Bros Park* every Friday through August 23.

The following week, **Chicago Shakespeare Theater in the Park** will kick off its popular summer tradition of bringing Shakespeare to life in parks across the city, starting with *Polk Bros Park*. Catch *A Comedy of Errors* from Thursday, July 18 through Saturday, July 20 at the City Stage. July begins to wind down with **Tap Fest**, an annual tap showcase of professional tap dancers presented by the Chicago Human Rhythm Project in *Polk Bros Park* on Wednesday, July 24.

In August, the Pier will host two special events in addition to the several ongoing series – **After School Matters Showcase** on Tuesday, August 6 and **Noche Caribeña** on Saturday, August 10 – both in *Polk Bros Park*. All summer programming will conclude on September 1.

[Click here](#) to view the full Navy Pier summer programming calendar. Please note that all events and programs are subject to change.

Navy Pier’s free summer programming is a part of the non-profit destination’s ongoing commitment to offer guests free, one-of-a kind arts and cultural programming, designed to inspire, educate and connect communities across the city and globe. For more information, visit www.navypier.org.

PHOTOS: [Navy Pier](#) | Credits included within file labels

VIDEO: [Navy Pier](#) | Courtesy of Navy Pier

About Navy Pier

Located on Lake Michigan, Navy Pier is one of the top-attended nonprofit destinations 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. The Pier recently celebrated its 100th anniversary with the unveiling of the iconic *Centennial Wheel*, *Polk Bros Park*, *Fifth Third Bank Family Pavilion* and *Peoples Energy Welcome Pavilion*. In 2019, Navy Pier continues to usher in its second century with ongoing pier-wide redevelopment efforts – including a 220-room Hilton hotel with rooftop bar, a marina and more – in addition to free, year-round arts and cultural programming designed to inspire, educate and connect communities across the city and globe. [Click here](#) to donate to Navy Pier, a 501(c)(3) organization, in support of free public programs. For more information, visit www.navypier.org.

Navy Pier Mission Statement

Navy Pier is the People’s Pier, Chicago’s lakefront treasure, welcoming all and offering dynamic and eclectic experiences through partnerships and programs that inspire discovery and wonder.