

For Immediate Release
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Rotunda Dance Series: Nimely Pan African Dance Company

Presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West,
in partnership with Grants for the Arts and
San Francisco City Hall

Free

Friday, November 6, 2015
12 Noon
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—September 30, 2015—In a return performance at San Francisco City Hall's rotunda, Nimely Napla's Pan African Dance Company will perform a harvest dance, known as the "Farming Ballet," performed by a line of drummers with dancers wearing different regional masks from Liberia, many of them created by Nimely Napla, the group's director, master dancer, choreographer, and costume designer.

Throughout 2015, the monthly Rotunda Dance Series celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. The 1915 Exposition left a lasting imprint on the San Francisco Bay Area, especially in regards to world dance and music. It is only fitting that the highly visible Rotunda Dance Series use this historic anniversary to celebrate the past, present and future of dance in the Bay Area.

The high-profile **Rotunda Dance Series** brings many of the Bay Area's most celebrated dance companies to San Francisco City Hall's rotunda space for free monthly noon-time performances. The series is presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West in partnership with Grants for the Arts and San Francisco City Hall.

About Nimely Pan African Dance Company (nimelypanafricandancecompany.weebly.com)

Nimely Pan African Dance Company is a Liberian folkloric dance company founded by Artistic Director Nimely Napla in Minnesota in 1994 and now based in Oakland. The company has toured nationally, has been invited to perform by the NAACP in Washington, D.C. and for numerous Liberian delegates including Ambassador Rachel G. Diggs and Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Nimely has also received a Certificate of Excellence Award from former Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton.

About World Arts West (worldartswest.org)

For over three decades, World Arts West has supported and presented world dance artists throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. The main presenting program of the organization is the nationally acclaimed *San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival*, which presents over 100 distinct dance forms and thousands of local dancers who are sustaining and innovating within those forms. The organization works year round to advance cultural literacy and build bridges of cultural understanding.

About Dancers' Group (dancersgroup.org)

Dancers' Group promotes the visibility and viability of dance. Founded in 1982, we serve San Francisco Bay Area artists, the dance community and audiences through programs and services that are as collaborative and innovative as the creative process. As a hybrid dance service and presenting organization for the second largest dance community in the country, Dancers' Group's many programs help artists produce work, build audiences, and connect with their peers and the community.

Upcoming final Rotunda Dance Series performance of the 2015 season:

Fri, Dec 4: Hālau 'o Kawainuhi

The 2016 series will be announced later this fall. Visit dancersgroup.org/rotunda for more information.

Calendar Editors please note:

Who: Rotunda Dance Series: Nimely Pan African Dance Company

What: Free monthly dance performance, presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West, in partnership with Grants for the Arts and San Francisco City Hall.

Cost: Free

Where: City Hall, San Francisco

When: Friday, November 6, 2015, Noon

Info: Michelle Lynch Reynolds, (415) 920-9181, michelle@dancersgroup.org, dancersgroup.org/rotunda

Image available for download:

<http://dancersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/NimelyPanAfricanDanceCompany.jpg>

Photo of Nimely Pan African Dance Company by RJ Muna

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