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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Marcus Performing Arts Center Presents Inaugural Native Heritage Celebration on Friday, September 26

Free public event on MPAC Outdoor Grounds to celebrate and honor Wisconsin's eleven Indigenous Nations

MILWAUKEE (September 10, 2025) – The [Marcus Performing Arts Center](#) (MPAC) is proud to present its inaugural [Native Heritage Celebration](#), a special community event honoring the rich histories and cultures of Wisconsin's Native American tribes. The celebration will take place on Friday, September 26, on the MPAC Outdoor Grounds and is free and open to the public.

As part of the [2025/26 Culture Collective](#), the Native Heritage Celebration will feature traditional smudging, youth drumming, panel discussions, **a keynote presentation from acclaimed Apsáalooke hip hop artist Supaman**, and a "Living Village," showcasing artifacts and traditions from several tribes, offering attendees a meaningful opportunity to learn and connect with Native communities. Event highlights include:

- **10:30 a.m. – Student Matinee:** A special performance for K-12 students by Apsáalooke hip hop artist **Supaman**, followed by guided tours of the Living Village for students. Advance reservations are required and open to schools only. To register, [click here](#).
- **2:00 p.m. – Living Village:** Open to the public, the Living Village offers a hands-on cultural experience featuring artifacts and demonstrations from Wisconsin's Native American tribes.
- **5:00 p.m. – Event Program:** The free program in Peck Pavilion will include traditional smudging, youth drumming, a keynote presentation and performance from Supaman, and panel discussions. Immediately following the program, all are invited to a reception on the MPAC Outdoor Grounds.

"The Native Heritage Celebration invites all of us to connect with Wisconsin's Native communities, learn from their traditions, and celebrate the vibrant cultures that make our state unique," stated **MPAC President & CEO Kevin Giglinto**. "This event reflects MPAC's commitment to presenting inclusive programming that uplifts all voices and brings our community together through the arts."

The event is free and open to the public. There are no tickets required to attend, and complimentary parking will be available in the MPAC Parking Structure beginning at 2:00 p.m.

The Native Heritage Celebration has been planned by a dedicated committee representing a range of Native communities and local partners. Committee members include Averie Anderson (Menominee & Oneida Nations of Wisconsin) of the Milwaukee Turners; Dr. Brad Kroupa (Arikara) of the Forest County Potawatomi Foundation; Tracie Sparks (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin) of Kunik; Dan Terrio (Stockbridge-

Munsee Band of Mohicans) of Milwaukee County; and Tashina Williams (Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans) of Potawatomi Hotel & Casino.

“Wisconsin is home to one of the largest concentrations of Indigenous Nations east of the Mississippi River, encompassing eleven distinct nations, each with rich cultural traditions. The Forest County Potawatomi Foundation is proud to be part of the Native Heritage Celebration, a special opportunity for everyone to learn from, experience, and honor the remarkable cultures of our Native communities,” stated **Dr. Brad Kroupa, Executive Director of the Forest County Potawatomi Foundation**.

Participating organizations and makers in the Living Village include Kimberly Crowley, black ash basket maker from the Ho-Chunk Nation; Marin Webster Denning of the Oneida Nation; All Bead Up – Menominee, Oneida, and Sioux Nation beadwork artists; Waking Women Healing Institute; Mariah Skenandore, Local Indigenous Artist and Designer; Milwaukee Public Museum; Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center; Rachel Jeske, “The Moccasin Lady;” University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Native Student Services; Southeastern Oneida Tribal Services. Additional organizations and makers to be announced.

Event sponsors include Forest County Potawatomi Foundation (Freedom Sponsor); Potawatomi Casino Hotel and International Institute of Wisconsin (Peace Sponsors); Forest County Potawatomi Community, Milwaukee County Office of Equity, and Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians (Dream Sponsors); Urban Indigenous League and Amplifying MKE Pathways (Participating Sponsors). For additional sponsorship opportunities, contact give@marcuscenter.org.

About Supaman

As a member of the Apsáalooke Nation, Supaman makes his home on Apsáalooke lands in Montana. “Supaman” is Christian Takes Gun Parrish, a Native American dancer and innovative hip hop artist who has dedicated his life to empowering others and spreading messages of hope, pride, and resilience through his original art form.

He is the recipient of the 2017 MTV VMA Award for “Best Fight Against the System” and is also a Native American Music Award (NAMMY) winner, North American Indigenous Image Award winner, and seven-time Tunney Award winner. He received the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Award in Canada for Best Video, as well as awards for Best Hip Hop Album and Best Producer for the Indigenous Music Awards.

Supaman's videos have received millions of views on YouTube and Facebook, leading to extensive tours throughout the U.S. and internationally. He is currently on tour across the country, sharing the good medicine of resiliency, love, laughter, and inclusion.

His one-of-a-kind presentation blends Native culture, comedy, and urban hip hop in a way that dazzles audiences and captivates listeners. For this, he has earned the respect of his community and his generation. With communicative talent and compassion flowing through his music, Supaman connects with people from all walks of life. His ability to motivate, encourage, and inspire through dance and hip hop keeps him at the forefront of his field and provides a powerful platform to educate on Indigenous issues.

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About Marcus Performing Arts Center

A mission-based non-profit organization located in downtown Milwaukee, the Marcus Performing Arts Center (MPAC) brings high-quality arts and cultural programming to Southeastern Wisconsin. MPAC strives to act as an

energizing force that connects the community to the world through collaboration, innovation, social engagement, and the transformative power of the performing arts. Through multiple performance series, community events, and educational experiences, MPAC brings a diverse range of celebrated artists to the region. A fixture in Milwaukee for over 55 years, MPAC is proud to be part of the Milwaukee Theater District as well as a dedicated War Memorial facility. Learn more at www.MarcusCenter.org.