



WHO WE ARE

Skilly Circus is a relatively new entity facilitated by Cynthia Rauschert, a variety entertainer and circus arts educator in the San Francisco Bay Area (www.ShesTall.com). After teaching herself to juggle because she couldn't fit a trampoline in to her small NYC apartment Cynthia began delving into the circus arts and subsequently discovered the transformative powers of circus learning as she connected with the tight-knit and supportive circus arts community. Since this discovery, Cynthia has dedicated herself to sharing empowerment through circus arts education- to people of all ages and physical abilities and from there Skilly Circus was born.

WHAT WE DO

Skilly Circus provides circus arts education and empowerment to all ages and abilities through classes, workshops, and camps. Circus learning fosters self-esteem, body-awareness, teamwork and cooperation by way of learning new and exciting activities without the pressures of competition often found in traditional sports and recreational activities and cultivates an inclusive environment in which that which makes us "other" disappears and common ground is found.

In 2007, Cynthia began running her first after-school class in Alameda, CA. That class has grown into what is now the Skilly Circus Ensemble, and two additional community classes have been added, including one for home-schoolers as an alternative to traditional sports and PE. The Alameda Education Foundation invited Skilly Circus to offer classes to AUSD in 2009, offering the opportunity for Alameda's public school children to explore the circus arts right in their own schools.

SKILLY CIRCUS IN THE COMMUNITY

Cynthia and the Skilly Circus Ensemble bring circus arts to the community by performing and teaching at a variety of civic and community events. Skilly Circus believes that by giving young people (and all people) the opportunity to change their roles from student to teacher they will be further empowered and enriched and that ultimately it will benefit all areas of their lives. There is no greater joy than sharing your empowerment with someone and seeing it help them discover their own!

Some of the places we have taught and performed:

- Alameda July 4 Parade (2009 & 2010)



- Alameda Farmer's Market
- Webster Street Jam
- Park Street Fair
- Alameda Towne Centre Summer Series
- USS Hornet 100 Best Celebration
- Kids on the Move America program
- Rhythmix Cultural Works community events

WHERE WE ARE GOING

Skilly Circus has big dreams! Our mission has yet to be fully defined, but for now the clearest insight to our future is that through the circus arts Skilly Circus aims to bring people from diverse backgrounds together in a positive, supportive environment and empower them develop esteem & respect for themselves and one another.

Currently our primary activities are with mainstream populations but my greatest desire is to expand into at-risk and special needs communities- but we have a broad definition of what that means! Some of the areas we plan to explore:

- Special Needs schools/classes
- Senior Citizen facilities
- Hospitals (Cynthia is currently a volunteer clown at Kaiser in Oakland)
- Juvenile Correctional Facilities
- Safe-Centers and Shelters for at-risk youth

We also hope to continue to expand our reach in mainstream populations including:

- Community Centers
- Libraries
- Private and Public Schools
- Boys and Girls Clubs of America
- Religious Organizations
- And more!

Our models include:

- CircEsteem, Chicago (<http://circesteem.org/>)
- Cirque du Monde, Worldwide
(<http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/about/global-citizenship/community/social-circus/cirque-du-monde.aspx>)



- Prescott Family Circus, Oakland (<http://www.prescottcircus.org/>)
- Circus Harmony, MO (<http://circusharmony.org/>)

HOW WE ARE GETTING THERE

- We are currently looking for fiscal sponsorship and eventually hope to attain 501c3 not-for profit status.
- For every five paid students we offer one scholarship (which is completely unfunded, students are invited for reduced or free depending on the situation). This applies to both community and public school classes. The numbers are actually somewhat arbitrary as I find it difficult to say no, and have had two full scholarships in a class of six- but thus far I have only had seven scholarship requests in total as my reach is still very small.
- We have, and will continue to provide services to organizations who come to us with pro-bono or reduced rate requests. Thus far we have donated services to Oakland International High School (a 4-year old school for immigrants in which 40% of the population hold refugee status), Exceptional Needs Network camp programs, and Kids on the Move America in Alameda.
- Cynthia has recently become a volunteer hospital clown at Kaiser in Oakland, CA

CONTACT US

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