



Prescott Circus Theatre

1675 7th St. #24925 , Oakland, CA 94615

Phone: 510-350-7207 • E-Mail: info@prescottcircus.org • Web: prescottcircus.org

Prescott Circus Theatre 2023-2024 Overview

Oakland Youth and Community Engagement

From August 2023 – July 2024, Prescott Circus Theatre engaged 353 students in grades TK – 12 at nine Oakland public schools and through our Circus Pathways for Older Youth program. We also conducted weekly circus workshops for 18 young adults with disabilities through OUSD's Young Adult Program.

Oakland School Residencies

- Nine Oakland public school programs across all seven Oakland Council Districts:
 - Six 1-2 semester long afterschool programs: Prescott, East Oakland Pride, Piedmont Ave., REACH Academy, and Sankofa United
 - One, 8-week afterschool pilot program with Bella Vista Elementary
 - Two school-day residencies: Esperanza Elementary serving 132 students including two lower grade special education classrooms and Montera Middle serving 31 autistic / spectrum students and students with moderate – moderate/severe disabilities.
- Prescott, Sankofa, REACH, and Esperanza students all conducted November demonstrations and December assembly performances, fulfilling one of our goals to coordinate more performing opportunities in the schools.

Summer Circus and Academic Program. June 3 – July 14

This year's 6-week summer program engaged 28 core students, ages 7 – 16, in daily performing arts and academic activities. All but four student were '23-'24 school program or Pathways participants, a much higher rate than past years. The program culminated in a Family Literacy Day and a four-show performance series.

Pathways for Older Youth

Pathways programming increased in depth and breadth this year. We served a consistent group of 10 students in grades 6 – 10 through weekly rehearsals to prepare for community shows and leadership opportunities. We continued the West Oakland Youth Circus Collaborative with Kinetic Arts Center in October – December that included a collaborative show and reciprocal skills workshops. All Pathways students continued in the summer with four as paid apprentices.

Community Engagement and Performances

- Our program-wide Showcase, *We Can Play Here*, took place on May 4 at the Santa Fe School Campus in partnership with the Oakland Spirit Orchestra and OUSD's Young Adult Program Choir serving young adults with disabilities.
 - 50 young artists performed for over 150 adults and children
 - Six school programs prepared acts with teaching artists around the themes of play and affirming children's place in the world.
- Pathways and advancing Prescott Elem. students performed at 25 public events including Lend-A-Hand Foundation's Holiday event, Fairyland's Black History Month series, and the Legal Services for Children's Fundraiser.
- Black Joy Parade on February 25th included 54 students and 47 family members from six schools and our Pathways program. The group represented as stilt walkers, jugglers, dancers, and supporters.
- July 2024 Summer performance series consisted of three shows at the Malonga Theater and one at DeFremery Park. The shows welcomed over 600 children and adults from over 11 organizations including camps, child care centers, and senior centers.

Organizational Development and Changes

- In September / October, Zahra Mahloudji, our Managing Director of eight years, began her transition away from PCT onto new opportunities and we welcomed our new Program Manager, Ella Rochelle Lawton.
- On November 29, we held a fundraising open house at Nido's Backyard that welcomed 96 guests. While the event was not especially lucrative, guests overwhelmingly enjoyed the event and it helped build our donor base with over 30 new-to-PCT attendees.
- On February 15, we hosted an open Board of Directors meeting with seven community members. As a result, we welcomed two new members to our Board of Directors: Keinan Woodson, a former PCT student who now works for Disney, and Michelle Butler-Robinson, a retired Associate Director with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at UC Berkeley.
- In February, we also initiated an ongoing 2024 Community Survey that continues to receive responses and feedback about our arts education and production programs.
- In December, the lease to our West Oakland office space was terminated. We have since been residing in a portable on the OUSD Santa Fe campus, office for Special Education. This relationship facilitated the partnership with the Young Adult Program.
- We onboarded five new part-time employees for our winter / spring and 2024 Summer Circus and Academic Program. They included a bi-lingual teaching artist from Chile, two former PCT alumni, and an African American teacher who served as our new summer Academic lead.
- *2023-2024 CPA reviewed financial statements are available upon request*



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2023-2024 Program Outcomes and Documentation

[2023 West Oakland Youth Circus Collaborative, 5 minute video](#)

A five-minute documentary about the 2023 collaborative production between Prescott Circus Theatre and Kinetic Arts Center. Filmed and edited by Youth Beat, and Oakland youth media training program.

[2022-2024 Program and Performance Footage](#)

Video footage from programs and performances from July 2022 – February 2024.

Spring and Summer student survey responses and teacher testimonies

Spring school program students:

64% reported that circus helped them get better at teamwork.

58% reported being happier at school since joining the circus.

65% reported that they learned how to set goals and meet them.

73% report that in the program, they have a chance to learn from their mistakes.

Summer program students:

85% reported they feel they can make more of a difference in the world since coming to circus

75% feel more connected to their community as a result of the program

89% feel a better understanding of themselves and what they can do

93% feel a sense of belonging in the program

“Students showed a level of care, trust, and support for one another which grew over the time we were together. The circus classes enabled them to face their fears, work diligently towards goals, and confidently reached milestones. It was truly amazing to see.”

Anese Henesley, Teaching Artist. REACH Academy, October 2023 - May 2024

“Most of all I think some people became better friends, and envision themselves as leaders among younger students in the group. For example Dahlia would help other student learn skills like spinning plates and flower sticks. Aniya stepped in to do clowning and fill in roles when other students weren’t around. Tyson often wanted to lead and teach us new games.”

Maggie Lally, Teaching Artist. Sankofa United, October 2023 – May 2024

“The school day circus residency was a great equalizer for my students. Some students struggled academically more than others, but everyone was on the same level in the circus. Struggling students were like, "I get to really shine here!" After the weekly circus class with Coach Cesar, they came into class with energy, better ability to focus, positive, and motivated.”

Saul Nevarez, 4th Grade school teacher. Esperanza Elementary, October 2023 - May 2024.

2023-2024 Prescott Circus Theatre



Left to right:

REACH Academy spring performance; REACH students in training; Manzanita Elementary performance

Esperanza Elementary circus class; Summer students at St. Vincent Day Home; W. Oakland Youth Circus Collaborative

Black Joy Parade; Pathways Summer students leading a workshop for youth at Sheldon Elem. in Richmond