



## Prescott Circus Theatre

800 Pine St. #10 Oakland, California 94607

Phone: 510-967-0355 • E-Mail: [info@prescottcircus.org](mailto:info@prescottcircus.org) • Web: [prescottcircus.org](http://prescottcircus.org)

### **2022-2023 Program Summary**

From August 2022 through July 2023 Prescott Circus Theatre engaged 340 students in grades TK – 12 in nine Oakland public schools and through our community based programs.

#### **Oakland School Residencies**

- Nine Oakland public school programs across five City Council Districts:
  - Afterschool programs: Prescott, Martin Luther King Jr., Piedmont Ave., REACH Academy, Sankofa United, O.A.K Elementary and Grass Valley Elementary
  - School day residencies: Prescott (TK-K), Esperanza Elementary (grades special education, fourth, and fifth), and Montera Middle (grades 6-7 special education classes serving autistic / spectrum students and students with moderate – moderate/severe disabilities).
- December holiday performances at Prescott, MLK Jr., Esperanza, and O.A.K.
- The spring OUSD teacher strike compromised our ability to prepare students and perform year-end culminating shows at most sites. Teaching artists led students through in-class reflections on their personal and group accomplishments in skill building, performances including the Spring Showcase, and the development of new friendships.

#### **Pathways for Older Youth**

- Seven middle and high school students attended semi-regular weekly training sessions that prepared them for community shows and summer leadership roles.
- Our growing partnership with Kinetic Arts Center (KAC), a West Oakland circus school, helped us expand learning and engagement opportunities this year:
  - West Oakland Youth Circus Collaborative, October 4-5. PCT and KAC students came together to create a completely original show in just two days with the aim to build bridges between youth from vastly different social economic backgrounds.
  - December and May reciprocal skill coaching exchange with teaching artists and students in aerial arts and Hambone Body Percussion that concluded with family and friend performances.

#### **2023 Summer Circus and Academic Program. June - July 14**

- 6-week program engaged 30 students, ages 8 – 18, with 80% current and former PCT participants.
- The program provided workforce training, employment, and paid apprenticeships for four older youth ages 15 – 21.
- Culminating family literacy celebration included a student poetry gallery and poetry reading.
- July free performance series at DeFremery Park and the Malonga Theater welcomed 10 community groups and over 625 children and adults.

#### **Community Engagement and Performances**

- February 26 Black Joy Parade included 36 students and 26 family members from all current programs. The group represented as stilt walkers, jugglers, dancers, and supporters.
- April 22, program wide Showcase, *Umbrella People*, at Mosswood Park in partnership with the Oakland Spirit Orchestra and OUSD's Young Adult Program Choir serving young adults with disabilities. The show featured 80 young artists from six school programs who amazing over 400 adults and children.
- Pathways and advancing Prescott Elem. Students performed at 20 public events including Old Oakland's Youth Creative Expo, Chinatown's International Festival, and Free the People Block Party.

## 2022-2023 Program Documentation & Outcomes

### Showcase 2023 Photos

Photos from April 22 production, *Umbrella People*, at Mosswood Park Amphitheater in Oakland with the Oakland Spirit Orchestra and the Young Adult Program Choir

### 2022-2023 Video Footage

Video footage from programs and performances from July 2022 – July 2023.

#### **School program survey results**

- 64% - "Circus helped me get better at teamwork and working with others"
- 50% - "I'm happier at circus since joining the circus (22% "not sure;" 12% blank)"
- 50% - "Since being in the circus, I can make more of a difference in the world"
- 65% - "I learned how to set goals and meet them."

#### **Summer 2023 program survey results**

- 89% - "I feel that I belong, supported, and respected in this program"
- 55% - "I feel like I am more of a leader."
- 63% - "I feel more connected to my community."
- 93% - "This program helps me be more active."



*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, REACH Academy*

*One of the 5th grade teachers shared that one of her students never participated, always froze up or passed on questions in class. After a month and a half of Circus Program, the teacher witnessed her fully participating and having moments of not freezing when all eyes were on her!  
- Aileen Lawlor, Esperanza Elementary*

*Deon stood out with his determination, qualified for all of the skills: stilts, acrobatics, spinning plate and flower sticks. What was even better was how he encouraged and helped other students to develop as well. - Flavio Domeni, Piedmont Ave.*

