



Destiny Arts Center Class Descriptions Fall 2020

Destiny Arts Center's programs are all sliding scale/pay what you can. Suggested price is between \$25-\$150 per month. Drop-in classes are \$15/class.

Register online [HERE](#)

Destiny Arts Center's mission is to inspire and ignite social change through the arts.

Community Circles (Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 3:00-3:30pm) ALL AGES

With our new virtual world, we want to give our young people the opportunity to connect with each other. These community circles will focus on mindfulness practices, checking in, community building and de-stressing techniques. All young people who are enrolled in Destiny Arts Center classes are invited to attend on any day.

Led by: Bryan Massengale, Arts Center Coordinator

Bryan Massengale is the Arts Center Coordinator at Destiny Arts Center, where he embodies our culture of welcome, supporting Teaching Artists, families, students, partners and guests to thrive at our North Oakland center. Hailing from Pasadena, California but with deep familial roots in Oakland, he has been with Destiny since 2016. Bryan knows firsthand how important the work of supporting and mentoring youth is through his decades of experience providing direct services to young people in various capacities. Bryan first learned about Destiny while running the after-school program at Oakland's Westlake Middle School. He spent fifteen years working with autistic, blind, and learning-disabled youth at the LeRoy Haynes Education Center and Group Home. There, he advocated for justice-involved youth who had been identified as vulnerable to repeated incarceration, helping them reintegrate into their communities after being released from correctional or foster care facilities. Bryan holds BA in Social & Behavioral Sciences from San Francisco State University.

Anti-Racism Task Force* (Wednesdays 5:00-6:30pm)

12-18 year olds (*Paid opportunity/Application must be submitted for consideration)

Destiny Arts Center's Anti-Racism Task Force is an opportunity for young people to directly impact the direction of this organization. Members of the task force will define what anti-racism looks like at Destiny Arts Center and create recommendations to ensure that Destiny is addressing issues of race and inequity at *all* levels.

Led by: Shanna Bowie, Arts Center Manager

Shanna is the Art Center Program Manager at Destiny Arts Center, where she works to create a safe, artistic environment where youth and their extended families can thrive. Originally from Brooklyn, New York, she has been with Destiny since September of 2018. Shanna believes in the power of art to change the world and help people envision a better future. Shanna has worked for the past decade at various arts and education organizations in the Bay Area as well as advocating for youth leadership development and arts education as an executive committee member with the Arts Education Alliance of the Bay Area. In addition to her work at Destiny, Shanna is a podcaster and comic book writer. Shanna is trained in youth leadership development practices through Be the Change Consulting. She holds a B.A. in Africana Studies from Brown University.

- There will be an Anti-Racism Task Force info session for interested participants on **Saturday, September 26th at 10am.**



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- Register here to attend the info session : <https://destinyarts.zoom.us/j/96604876380>
- Apply to be a part of the Anti-Racism Task Force [HERE](#)

Movement & Wellness (Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm) **Adults (18+)**

This weekly class will be an opportunity for the adults and caregivers in our community to engage in a variety of art forms. Each month, Destiny Arts Center instructors will take participants through a series which will combine movement and mindfulness practices from yoga to dance to martial arts and self-defense.

Various Instructors



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Martial Arts (Monday & Wednesday, Saturdays)



The Destiny Arts Center martial arts program is an all-inclusive program. The program uses martial arts as a tool for emotional balance, community change and leadership. Martial Arts improves physical fitness including strength, stamina, speed, flexibility, movement and coordination. Martial Arts training also benefits for mental health, contributes to self-esteem, self-control, and emotional and spiritual well-being. Ultimately, the Destiny Arts Martial Arts Program is a vehicle to engage youth and support them in being connected, open-minded and safe.

Instructor: Tesfaye Tekelu
5-8 year olds Mon/Wed 3:30-4:30pm
9+ year olds Mon/Wed 4:45-5:45pm

Tesfaye Tekelu is the Martial Arts Director at Destiny Arts Center, where he teaches Aikido and other forms of Martial Arts as well as gymnastics and dance. Originally from Ethiopia, Tesfaye has been with Destiny since 2016. Tesfaye believes that the study of Martial Arts encourages young people to improve their self-confidence, learn important values, develop healthy habits and improve their ability to focus and persevere. In addition to his work at Destiny, Tes is Chairman of the Board and Co-founder of Institute for Social Advancement (ISA) which endeavors to advance youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, conflict-resolution and peace-building, education, gender equality and HIV awareness in both the United States and Sub-Saharan Africa. Tes is also responsible for introducing the discipline of Aikido in East Africa.



Instructor: César San Miguel (Sat)
9+ year olds Sat 10:00am-10:50am
5-8 year olds Sat 11:00am-11:50am

BIO COMING SOON





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Teen Hip Hop & Music Production (Wednesday 3:30-5:00pm) **13-18 year olds**



In this class, teens will learn various hip hop style fundamentals, their historical roots, and how to infuse them with their own personal expression through music production. This class focuses not just on hip hop movement but also creating hip hop music. Dancers will also have the opportunity to create original choreography to their own songs. This class is appropriate for all levels of dance experience.

Instructor: Raquel Jete
Assistant: Amalya Altman-Allen

Raquel Nicole Jetè is a Teaching Artist at Destiny Arts Center, where she teaches Theater and Hip Hop Dance. Raquel believes that is imperative for our youth to be exposed to as much culture and diversity as possible for the enrichment of their lives. That is why she incorporates music and dance from all over the world into her curriculum to diversify the perspectives of students who may not be exposed to much outside of their local communities. Raquel has an extensive Musical Theater repertoire including: AIDA (Aida), RAGTIME (Sarah), SISTER ACT (Deloris Van Cartier) and much more. She has also performed all over the world including Greece, Spain, Italy, France, Russia and the Caribbean, as a singing entertainer. She has graced the stages of APOLLO Theater in Harlem as well as The Metropolitan Room – New York, where she headlined her own concert. Raquel is a graduate of AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Musical Theater. She has trained in New York and Los Angeles and has been teaching at-risk youth Performing Arts classes since 2008.





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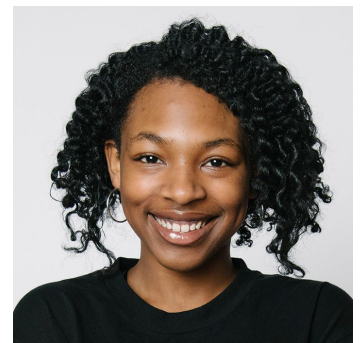
Youth Hip Hop Dance (Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm) 8-12 year olds



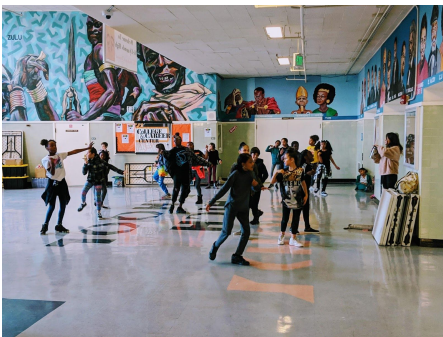
In this class, students of all skill levels develop technique, learn exciting choreography and improve confidence in moving their bodies. Classes will focus on hip hop fundamentals and history while also encouraging personal style, building community and increasing physical strength, flexibility and stamina.

Instructor: Arayah Fleming

BIO COMING SOON



Youth Hip Hop (Saturdays) 7-9 year olds (10:00am-11:15am) 10-13 year olds (11:30am-12:45pm)



This hip hop class engages young people of all skill levels in developing various hip hop techniques and learning new choreography with focus on hip hop performance. It is recommended for youth interested in building choreography and performance skills. Youth should understand that this class requires commitment and consistent attendance is important to building their dance skills.

Instructor: Paula Dewart



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Paula Dewart is a hip hop Teaching Artist who teaches dance to youth all across the Bay Area. Born, raised, and trained in both Oakland and San Francisco, Paula uses her background in ballet, modern, and hip-hop to create dynamic experiences for her students. Paula started out in the Bay Area dance community at a young age and performed in many companies such as City Shock, No Label, and SoulForce before she found her dance home with Allan Frias' Mind Over Matter. She has performed with artists including LL Cool J, Amerie, and E40. Paula has been with Destiny since 2004. Paula believes in the transformative power of the arts, and in particular, movement and dance as a form of self-expression.



Teddy Bear Hop (Saturdays)

3-4 year olds (10am-10:50am)

5-6 year olds (11am-11:50am)



In these classes our youngest students explore the building blocks of hip hop movement vocabulary through a variety of age-appropriate creative activities. Each class session will also focus on building community through fun and engaging games. These classes are designed by their experienced, dedicated and loving teaching artists to translate complex movement vocabulary into exercises and choreography that work for developing minds and bodies.

Instructor: Arayah Fleming
Assistant: Ania de Jesus



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Zimbabwean Dance (Mondays)

9-13 year olds 3:30-4:30pm

5-8 year olds 4:30-5:30pm



Our Zimbabwean Music and Dance program is headed by teaching artist Julia Tsitsi Chigamba, to share the beauty and wisdom of her culture. Julia has taught Zimbabwean music and dance to youth and adults for over 20 years and Destiny is blessed to have her as part of our teaching artist community. Her classes are high energy, inclusive of all levels and they give ample opportunities for creative expression through dance, song and instruments.



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Instructor: Julia Chigamba

Julia Tsitsi Chigamba, grew up in the cultural traditions of Shona music and dance, guided by her parents who are both from a long line of musicians and storytellers. Julia is the first master Zimbabwean dancer to make her home outside of Zimbabwe. Two years after moving to the U.S., she established the music and dance company the Chinyakare Ensemble in Oakland, California, to share the beauty and wisdom of her culture. Julia and the Chinyakare Ensemble have continued to perform throughout the Bay Area and across the U.S. Julia has taught Zimbabwean dance in schools throughout the greater Bay Area since 1999, and currently teaches dance at Destiny Arts in Oakland.



Instructor: Kanukai Chigamba

Kanukai Chigamba is the Assistant Teaching Artist for the Zimbabwean Dance Class at Destiny Arts Center, where she assists Ms. Julia by drumming and dancing during classes at the arts center and in schools across Oakland. Originally from Harare, Zimbabwe, Kanukai has been with Destiny since 2018. Kanukai believes that many Zimbabwean traditional dances are deeply rooted in their everyday life. She also knows that when working with young people, it is easier when they can connect with the culture they are being introduced to. She feels creating this connection between her own personal and the students' experiences based on what we do every day and connecting it back to the choreography is such a beautiful process to witness.

