



Destiny Arts Center Class Descriptions Winter/Spring 2021

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.

NEW CLASS OFFERINGS!

Company Bootcamp (Fridays 3:30-4:30pm), 10-15 year olds

This class is recommended for young people who are interested in auditioning for either *Destiny Junior Company (DJC)* or *Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company (DAYPC)* next fall. Company directors, Rashidi Omari and Paula Dewart are offering this class as a dance training opportunity for all interested young people.

Instructors: Rashidi Omari & Paula Dewart

Rashidi Omari is the Artistic Director of the Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company (DAYPC) and Senior Teaching Artist at Destiny Arts Center. He teaches dance and spoken word at our North Oakland Center and in school and community spaces throughout the bay area, and presents on Destiny's Creative Youth Development model around the country and around the world. An Oakland original, Rashidi has been with Destiny in various roles since 2003, and became the Co-Artistic Director of the DAYPC in 2010.



Paula Dewart is Associate Director of the Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company and Hip Hop Dance Teaching Artist at Destiny Arts Center. She is an award winning dancer and choreographer with over 25 years of professional performance experience and 15 years of mentoring, developing and teaching the arts to youth throughout Oakland and the Bay Area.





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NEW CLASS OFFERINGS!

Body Percussion and Step (Thursdays 4pm-5pm) **10-18 year olds Thursdays 4:00-5:00pm**



Stomp! Clap! Tap! Body percussion and step tap into the rhythms of our bodies and a lineage of call and response that stretches back to Africa. This class is an opportunity for young people to express themselves through movement and rhythm and learn the rich history of percussive sound.

Instructor: Antwan Davis

Antwan Davis is a teaching artist at Destiny Arts Center, where he teaches stepping and body percussion in schools and dance studios throughout the Bay Area. Originally from Las Vegas after having grown up in Albuquerque, NM. Antwan has been with Destiny since 2017. Antwan is a multi-percussionist who has been engaging audiences for 14 years with body percussion and stepping. He co-founded and performs with the Las Vegas-based body percussion dance company Molodi. He has also performed with the Las Vegas and North American production of Stomp, and has toured nationally with Step Afrika!. "My passion is people, I love connecting, inspiring, sharing and creating with people." – Antwan Davis





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NEW CLASS OFFERINGS!

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.

Various Instructors

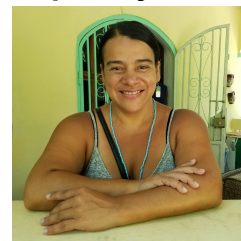
Mar 2021



César San Miguel
(Mindfulness In Movement)

César San Miguel (he/him) draws inspiration for his classes from several years of practicing massage therapy and a 20+ year long study of martial arts. His main discipline is Aikido, a Japanese martial art, in which he currently holds a second degree black belt. Beyond the physical aspects of joint locks and throws, César describes Aikido as "a means of cultivating dignity, clarity, and calm in stressful circumstances." Pairing this deep study with his day job as a certified massage therapist, César is excited to lead you through a subtle exploration of your body and how it moves.

Apr/May 2021



Mariella Morales
(Dances of the African Diaspora)

Mariella Morales, a San Francisco native was introduced to dance at the age of 7 when she would accompany her mother to her dance classes. Her love for dances of the African Diaspora was due to her attendance at School of the Arts (SOTA), where she was introduced to Dunham Technique and African Haitian. Ms. Morales' academic credentials are: received an A.A in Dance from City College of San Francisco (CCSF) in 2004; completed a B.A. in Dance from San Francisco State University (SFSU) in 2007; and earned a M.S. in Kinesiology at SFSU in 2012. Ms. Morales is also a Certified Dunham Technique instructor (2012). She teaches the following dance disciplines: African-Haitian, African-Brazilian, Dunham Technique, Salsa, Yoga, Zumba and Hip Hop.



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Zimbabwean Dance (Mondays) **5 years and up 3:30-4:30pm**



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.

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.





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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.





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



Teen Hip Hop (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: Cristina Balcazar
Assistant: Amalya Altman-Allen



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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



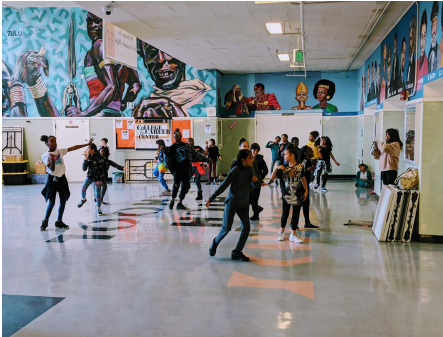


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Youth Hip Hop (Saturdays) **7-9 year olds (10:00am-11:15am)** **10-13 year olds (11:30am-12:45pm)**



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

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.





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Teddy Bear Hip 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

