



Title: Elders Project Company Director

Reports To: Performing Arts Director

Supervises: Elders Project Assistant Director (should position be filled)

Customary Work Hours: School Year Based Schedule

Average Hours: 7 hours per week (rehearsals, performances, administrative tasks) increases as the year goes on

Salary: 13-15k, commensurate with experience

Rehearsals: Mondays 10:30am-12:30pm

Performances: As scheduled on some evenings and weekends

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Destiny Arts Center's mission is to inspire and ignite social change through the arts. For 38 years, Destiny has been committed to supporting young people as they develop their skills as artists, global citizens, and advocates for peace in their communities and beyond. Through dance and martial arts, young people learn to perform and express themselves, overcome challenges, and connect with others. Destiny partners with over 50 schools and organizations each year to bring programs to 5500 young people annually. At our North Oakland arts center, we offer pay-what-you-can afterschool, weekend, and summer programs. in the martial arts and performing arts for young people ages 3-18.

Youth Performance Companies

Destiny offers two audition-based youth performance companies, the Destiny Junior Company (ages 9-12) and the Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company performance company for teens (ages 13-18). Through these companies, youth collaborate with professional artists to add their voices and stories to produce an original evening length dance theater production. A diverse artistic collective of teens and youth, Destiny's performance companies address challenging personal and social issues that impact young people's lives and communities. Their productions include a trademark combination of movement styles, including hip hop and aerial dance, theater, spoken

word, rap, and song. Each year, the companies perform for over 20,000 audience members all over the Bay Area at schools, conferences, and other community events.

Elders Project

The Elders Project provides opportunities for youth and elders (aged 60+) to support and learn about one another and co-create work based on their shared experiences, cultural heritages and personal and social identities that expand creativity and movement possibilities for all ages. In weekly sessions the Elders receive training that increases their physical capacity, knowledge of others, and sense of well being. They are a supportive community as they create art and dance that draws on their life experience.

Bringing these two groups (Youth and Elders) together leads to performances that are tender and inspiring—full of surprises and insights that reflect resilience and wisdom. Each group gains opportunities to see the world from a broader perspective, and youth and elders feel seen and acknowledged in meaningful and unique ways. The Elders Project was created by Risa Jaroslow, Artistic Director of [Risa Jaroslow & Dancers](#) in partnership with Sarah Crowell, former Artistic Director of Destiny Arts Center and former Co-Director of the Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company in 2016.

ELDERS PROJECT DIRECTOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Elders Project company member selection process:

- Director solicits new project participants from the current Elders Project members.
- Director solicits potential participants that are reflective of the diverse communities served by Destiny Arts.
- Outreach can include reaching out to community arts-based coalitions, senior centers, and other organizations that serve diverse communities.
- The Project Director will hold initial interviews with potential participants to clarify commitments and ensure that potential participants agree with the Destiny Mission and Elders Projects goals and responsibilities.
- While the Project Director, in consultation with the Assistant/Co-Director (should the position be filled) invites new participants at their discretion, the Elders Project will remain open to those who express interest in joining regardless of prior dance background.
- Both the Project Director and any new participant may choose to not participate after a trial period of 6 to 8 sessions.
- The Director consults with Destiny Arts leadership about the feasibility of extending invitations to potential participants with specific access and mobility needs.
 - Post interview process: Before finalizing the invitation to join the Elders Project, the Director and Assistant/Co-Director will elicit feedback from the current members of the Elders Project about the proposed new

member(s).

- The Director in collaboration with the Assistant/Co-Director will reach out to the potential new member in a timely manner.

Rehearsals

- Schedule, plan, and run one two-hour rehearsal/weeks to prepare Elders Project members for quality dance/theater performances
- Attend extra rehearsals as needed in preparation for The Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company annual production
- Select and plan all rehearsal content, in collaboration with the members of the Elders Project, which include opening and closing circles, performing arts technique, choreography, and scaffold opportunities for creative expression, exploration and reflection.
 - Rehearsal content should be informed by and honor the knowledge, wisdom, lived experiences and cultural heritage of the Elders Project members and the diverse communities that Destiny Arts serves.
- Adhere to Destiny community guidelines and reinforce them in the rehearsal process.
- Embody Destiny's mission of inspiring and igniting social change through the arts when creating curriculum, choosing music, and performance material
- Take attendance
- Provide mid year feedback to all company members in collaboration with the Assistant/Co-Director

Performances

- Collaborate with Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company for annual production
- Manage and organize community performances as requested
- Direct and manage Elders Project participation in Destiny showcases, as requested

Administration

- Meet regularly with supervisor, Performing Arts Director
- Participate in meetings with Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company Artistic Team
- Oversee the Elders Project Assistant Director, should the position be filled
- Participate in Destiny Teaching Artist trainings regularly

This position description does not promise or imply that the functions listed are the only duties to be performed or that the position may not change, or be eliminated.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Minimum of five years of experience teaching dance, movement, and/or theater.
- Passionate about working with elders and young people.
- Able to manage rehearsals and events in a professional manner.
- A strong commitment to the mission, goals and work of Destiny Arts Center as

demonstrated by prior work experience and or familiarity with Destiny Arts.

- Ability to maintain a high level of professionalism, artistic mastery, and administrative accountability.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills with the ability to facilitate, support and inspire company members and collaborate with colleagues.
- Experience working with diverse populations including individuals with different abilities and access needs.
- Ability to work evenings and weekends, when needed
- Effective interpersonal skills necessary to interact with management, staff, and company members.
 - Experience with conflict-resolution in small groups and among individuals.
- Maintain consistent communication through email, phone and in person.
- Basic computer skills and familiarity with (or ability to learn) Word, Excel and Google Drive.

EOE STATEMENT

Destiny Arts Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, ability, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, prior contact with the criminal legal system, or any other basis prohibited by law.

TO APPLY:

Please send a resume and cover letter to: careers@destinyarts.org.