



## Art-Reach and PSCA Offer Circus-Arts Workshop



Art-Reach is proud to announce our newest and one of our most unique partnerships to date. The Philadelphia School of Circus Arts (PSCA) is now a roster artist for the Art-Reach In-Facility Program and will be offering a hands-on circus arts workshop. What do circus arts have to do with the Art-Reach mission, and what can this school do for our members? Plenty!

Much like theatre and dance, circus arts use movement and performance to entertain and build confidence, and it is all done in a safe, non-competitive environment with experienced teachers. Although they incorporate many elements of gymnastics, circus arts are distinguished from gymnastics and other sports since they are based in expression and there is no ideal body type. You certainly do not have to be a daredevil with dreams of joining Cirque du Soleil to benefit from circus arts. Alice Dustin, for example, is a 67-year-old former art professor who has been learning trapeze at PSCA and particularly excels at aerials. Through circus arts, people of all ages and levels of ability have the opportunity to try something that they never thought was possible. “Giving yourself a chance to open up to a new skill can be groundbreaking for a lot of people. It’s a benefit to your personal growth. It’s empowering,” says PSCA Founder and Director Shana Kennedy.



*"The circus skills learned really encouraged my daughter's self-esteem and faith in herself." ~ Jennifer Moscovici, parent*

I learned firsthand that PSCA has something inspiring and magical to offer to Art-Reach members when I first stepped foot into the PSCA studio in Germantown. I was astounded by how beautiful and serene the space was. Ropes, hoops, trapezes and colorful ribbons hang from the ceiling, and the back wall is a floor-to-ceiling window overlooking a lush garden. Although I cannot even do a cartwheel and have not come close to having circus skills, the equipment looked inviting and surprisingly approachable. Soon, a class of about 10 four-year-old boys and girls marched into the room looking confident and took hold of the low-hanging trapezes while teachers spotted them as they hung by the knees, stood on the bars and then dismounted like pros.

Art-Reach members can have a private 75-minute workshop with up to 24 participants at a discounted rate. In the PSCA workshop, you will be invited to climb ropes, hang upside-down, walk a tightwire, juggle and build people-pyramids. Teachers will work with the Art-Reach staff and our member liaisons to develop a program that is appropriate for your group and meets the member's needs and goals.

"To watch the classes, workshops and camp is to instantly know that learning in its broadest and happiest sense is going on," says PSCA staff member Pam Rogow. The same was true for me, and I left eager to tell Art-Reach members about this great opportunity and eager to sign myself up for a beginner's workshop.

For the full description of an Art-Reach experience with Philadelphia School of Circus Arts visit their [Hands-On Circus Arts Workshop](#) listing on our In-Facility Roster. To schedule a visit complete the [In-Facility Request Form](#) or contact the Program Department at 215-568-2115 x4 or x5.

--Rachel Robbins, Art-Reach Program/Development Assistant