

Frequent Flyers® Aerial Dance is looking for a few good Board Members!

Be part of a home grown cutting-edge arts performance and education organization. Frequent Flyers® is a Boulder-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization looking for new members of our Board of Directors. We want people who are interested in being actively involved with this unique, creative, high-impact group that serves the local community as well as a national and international community of dancers, students, audience members and fans.

As interest in aerial arts explodes (with features at the Olympics, the Super-Bowl, the Academy Awards, musical concerts from Pink to Taylor Swift, and more) our relatively small town can claim the distinction of housing one of the first and most spirited of the aerial dance companies in the US! Innovative, breath-taking, gravity-defying, humorous, warm, generous and dedicated to spreading the joy and freedom of aerial dance to people of all ages and backgrounds, Frequent Flyers is among Boulder's most unique cultural treasures.

About Frequent Flyers

Frequent Flyers® Aerial Dance is a performing arts company and school. Celebrating our 29th anniversary in 2017, Frequent Flyers' critically acclaimed performances and engaging classes have reached over 203,000 audience members and students, ranging from age 1 through 94.

Since 2010, we have operated out of a beautiful aerial studio where we hold classes, private lessons, our professional training program, camps and rehearsals. Our offerings range from aerial fitness, beginning fabric and low-flying trapeze to advanced and private lessons; from stilts, hoop and rope to invented apparatus; from our Student Company for ages 8 through adult to our 9-month Professional Training Program, which draws people from all over the world; from team-building events to birthday parties and more. We expanded into a second studio in 2015 to further serve our community.

Frequent Flyers is also home to the world famous *Aerial Dance Festival* that brings artists and audiences to Boulder for two weeks during the summer every year. Now in its 19th season, Frequent Flyers' ADF was the first of its kind and is still the largest in the world. Professionals, students and fans of aerial dance converge to take classes, see performances, and learn more about this beautiful, joyful and awe-inspiring art form.

The Founder and Artistic Director of Frequent Flyers, Nancy Smith, is a pioneering aerial choreographer and performer, who co-wrote the first book on aerial dance and has been recognized widely for her work, receiving top honors in Colorado including: Women Who Light the Community, the Colorado Dance Alliance Cutting Edge Award; the Pacesetters Award; the REAL Award in Culture/Performing Arts; Glenwood Springs Dance Festival's Choreographer's Project Award; and many more. In October, received the "living legend of dance in Colorado" award by the Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library.

Frequent Flyers® professional company will perform at the Kennedy Center with the Boulder Philharmonic on March 28, 2017, as part of the prestigious SHIFT Festival of American Orchestras. The company has performed for Cirque du Soleil and a wide variety of corporate clients locally and abroad.

Community Involvement and Impact

Our strong community outreach program includes the Kids Who Fly program and adjunct workshops in the public school system, which have inspired close to 3,750 at-risk youth to view their world through art and empowerment rather than fear or violence.

Frequent Flyers' positive impact on young people encompasses healthy risk-taking; personal empowerment and self-respect; increased strength and confidence; better body image; broader and more appropriate concepts of physical beauty; reduced stress and improved coping through creative expression; improvement in brain function for kids with certain learning disabilities; and the flat-out delight and freedom of flying.

"I felt free for a moment and I forgot about all my problems and thought about taking advantage of opportunities that life gives me and value them." – Kids Who Fly student

Frequent Flyers' Structure and Budget

Frequent Flyers® is a 501c(3) non-profit organization that was founded in 1988 and incorporated in 1990. It has a small staff of three, including an Artistic Director, Executive Director and Office Administrator/Registrar, with additional program coordination being provided by contracting teachers. The overall budget of the organization is just over \$500,000, and revenue is generated through ticket sales; classes, camps and workshops; performance fees; sponsorships; and fundraising.

Frequent Flyers' yearly fundraising plan includes crowd funding; events; individual and corporate donations; and grants. FF has been and continues to be the recipient of grants from both public and private sources, including long-time support from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, the Sheila Fortune Foundation, the Community Foundation Serving Boulder County, and the City and County of Boulder.

The Frequent Flyers offices are housed in our studio 1 building at East Sterling Circle. The majority of our regular performances are held at the Dairy Center for the Arts, with additional performances at CU venues such as Macky Auditorium and the Charlotte York Irey Theater.

About Board Service at Frequent Flyers

The Board of Directors currently consists of nine people, but the organization is looking to grow that number, to increase both the depth of the Board and the organization's reach in the community. We are looking for active members with passion for the creative and community service work that Frequent Flyers® does, and who have the ability to draw others in to support that work.

Board members have an up-close opportunity to experience the delight and artistic excellence of Frequent Flyers' classes and performances, with an insider's insight into a particularly innovative creative process and the privilege of contributing input on future program growth. Each Board member receives two free tickets to one of our three shows and a free session of classes. In addition, we welcome Board members to any of our rehearsals, lectures, and social events.

Board meetings are held on a monthly basis and we ask that attendance be regular. We also ask that each board member serve on one of our board committees and attend Frequent Flyers events and performances as often as is possible. There is a complete description of board member expectations and benefits, available upon request.

What we need and want in new Board members

We are currently looking for specific skills and characteristics to add to our wonderful group of existing Board members. We have fun and function efficiently at our meetings – willingness to do both is important!

The most important **characteristics** are:

- Active, influential community connections/leadership (especially foundations, corporate giving or education)
- Financial capacity (to make or solicit significant gifts)
- Comfort with exercising connections and making introductions
- Comfort with active fund-raising and ambassador communications
- Strong commitment and follow-through

The most important **skills** are:

- Media and public relations experience
- Understanding of non-profit financials/accounting expertise
- Education and/or arts and culture experience
- Fund-raising experience
- Volunteer recruitment and coordination experience
- Legal knowledge/expertise

See Us in Action

You can watch videos and learn more about Frequent Flyers by visiting www.frequentflyers.org, where you will also find a link to our Facebook page with its wealth of still photographs.

Please indicate your interest in Board service to Executive Director Laura Blegen, Board Chair Mike Boggs, or Founder and Artistic Director Nancy Smith, at the following addresses: laura@frequentflyers.org, boggs@wellsfargo.com, or frequentflyers@comcast.net.

Thank you for considering lending your time and expertise to this trail-blazing local gem.

