

**Thank you for joining the Play Mountain Place Board of Trustees
for the 2024 Annual State of the School!**

Thursday, May 16, 2024 – 7:00-8:00pm, via Zoom*

* Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89038312303>



(Left to right) Christina Hill, Kristin Hall, Jan Kirsch, Ann Rosato, Director Joe Ringlehan, Bhaskar Krishnamachari, Former Staff Representative Ayla Stern, and Sebastian Garcia-Vinyard

Come hear about our current work* and, by consensus, approve us to continue for another year.

Please email any questions for the Board to Ann Rosato, Board President: ann@playmountain.org

Ann Rosato, President

Committee Membership: Executive (Chair), Nominating, and involvement with all

Associated with PMP since 1968: Student, 1968-79; Teacher, 1981-85; Parent, 2002-2012; Board Member, twice in the 1980's & 1999-present
Most recently focused on financial processes, fundraising, long term planning, Board development, leadership planning, ongoing support of the Director, and getting ready to celebrate Play Mountain's 75th anniversary!

"I'm on the Board because this place is family to me, and I have a lot of connections to the people and the space. I want to see PMP maintain its amazing philosophy, and this is what really draws me. The empowerment of children, and of all people, to be in control of their own education, their feelings and their minds, and to encourage learning and education in an atmosphere that is exciting and full of wonder, how learning should be. I also see my involvement as a political statement about the freedom to think, to learn and to grow."

Jan Kirsch, Vice President

Committee Membership: Executive, Leadership & Strategic Planning (Chair), Personnel Practices

Associated with PMP since 2002: Parent, 2002-08; Board Member, 2003-present

Most recently focused on leadership development and planning and strategic thinking and planning.

"I deeply believe in the philosophy of Play Mountain Place and am convinced that the world needs adults who start out as PMP kids. I am committed to working for its stability and evolution for many years to come. I bring my decades of work in the education and non-profit arenas and my current studies towards a PhD in Leadership and Change to my support of this amazing place through the work of the Board."

Kristin Hall, Secretary

Committee Membership: Executive, Leadership Planning, Development

Associated with PMP since 2005: Parent of two alum; Board volunteer, 2016; Board member, 2017-present

Most recently focused on leadership planning and fundraising.

"As a parent, I was drawn to Play Mountain Place because of its deep respect for children. I believe that Play Mountain Place plays an essential role in helping kids grow into thoughtful, compassionate, and engaged adults. I am excited to help ensure that it continues to be a strong and healthy organization for years to come."

Christina Hill, Treasurer

Committee Membership: Finance

Associated with PMP since ~1982: Student ~1982-88; Parent; Board volunteer, 2022; Board member, 2023-present

Most recently focused on work with the Finance Committee.

"Having been a student, parent and now an auntie at the school has enriched my life in so many ways. Taking on a new role as Treasurer this year will allow me the opportunity to participate on the Board in a different way. I am looking forward to another successful school year where children are encouraged to discover the next version of themselves."

Bhaskar Krishnamachari, Member

Committee Membership: Personnel Practices, Development

Associated with PMP since 2006: Parent of two alum and one current student; Board volunteer, 2016; Board member, 2016-present

Most recently focused on helping with financial aid, other financial planning, and serving on the Nominating and Personnel Practices Committees.

"Being a parent at Play Mountain Place has been a truly life-changing experience for me, both personally and professionally (as an educator). I am deeply committed to helping Play Mountain Place thrive and to bringing its inspiring philosophy and practices to the wider world."

Sebastian Garcia, Member

Committee Membership: Development

Associated with PMP since 2013: Parent; Board volunteer, 2021; Board member, 2022-present

Most recently focused on work with the Development Committee and fundraising.

"Bringing our kids to Play Mountain Place and becoming part of this extraordinary community is one of the most consequential decisions I've made as a parent. My family has benefited enormously from that decision and serving on the Board gives me the opportunity to give back to this wonderful school."

Play Mountain Place

A Leader in Humanistic Education since 1949

Vision

We envision a just world where children are treated with respect, allowed to play freely, and trusted to direct their own learning.

Mission

To provide children with a play-based, child-directed, non-authoritarian educational environment and to provide parents with tools to build respectful communication within their families.

Core Values and Practices

Play Mountain Place, founded in 1949, is one of the earliest humanistic alternative schools in the U.S. We remain committed to upholding the long-held and deeply rooted traditions of our school, as expressed in our core values and practices.

1. We love and respect children. Our teachers create a nurturing environment for children to learn and grow without punishment, manipulation, or shame.
2. We encourage children to express their full range of thoughts and feelings in ways that are physically and emotionally safe. We believe that children develop self-regulation, responsibility, and empathy by experiencing the effects of their own words and actions on others and, in so doing, learning to respect the feelings and limits of others.
3. We facilitate peaceful conflict resolution and problem-solving by helping children learn and practice listening and negotiation skills throughout their day. Our teachers dedicate time and attention to helping children find their own voice and their own solutions to their problems and conflicts with each other.
4. We encourage cooperation rather than competition within children's play and in relationships with each other, including by supporting decision-making through consensus.
5. We foster self-motivated learning and critical thinking by trusting and helping children to pursue their own interests, at their own pace, in their own way, without external rewards or punishments. Teachers meet regularly with parents to discuss each child's learning and development, rather than using traditional grading or ranking methods.
6. We nurture and enhance curiosity, learning, and creativity by providing an environment with opportunities for children to play freely, challenge themselves physically, and explore and enjoy the natural world. We believe that play-based learning and exploration best supports children's intellectual, emotional, and physical development.
7. We believe children learn to recognize and stand up against unfairness when we help them understand, respect, and genuinely value differences between their own and others' cultures, identities, family backgrounds, and experiences.
8. We believe our work with children requires that we — parents, teachers, and other adults —work deeply and thoughtfully to build our own knowledge and skills in respectful communication, setting limits, and problem-solving. Our school provides a range of programs aimed at helping parents and teachers to build such skills.
9. We believe in sharing our philosophy and practice outside our community to advance our vision of a just and peaceful world.

*** Regarding our current work:**

Play Mountain Place (PMP) was founded in 1949 by Phyllis and Manny Fleishman, partially in response to the time of war from which the world was emerging and Phyllis' belief in what was necessary for building a world of peace.

Out of this belief evolved the foundational values and practices of PMP that have been in place for decades: the child-centered approach to learning, the implementation of the anti-bias curriculum, and the commitment to maintaining a diverse community. The role of the Board of Trustees has been to safeguard these values and practices, and to respond to the contemporary world in which we live.

Since July 2021, the Board has been embarking on a next phase of evolution of Phyllis' work, in the context of our local and global community striving toward a just and equitable world. We hope you'll join us to hear about this and the full range of our work over the last year.