

Baby Jam Co-Founders Blake Cisneros and Mayrav Kessler



Blake Cisneros

Blake has been involved in African and Afro-Caribbean drum and dance for 21 years. He has studied intensively with drummers and dancers from Cuba, Haiti, West Africa, and Brazil.

Blake has experience working with youth and adults of varying ages and backgrounds, as a drum and dance teacher, and group facilitator. He has lead classes in Washington, New Mexico, New England, California and Hawaii. He has worked with organizations such as the YMCA, Power of Hope, Hawaii Public School District, Arts in Education NM, Western Washington University, REI, Bellevue Community College, University of Washington, and most recently X8 Interactive Drumming.

Blake incorporates his knowledge of ethnomusicology into the lessons, and creates a safe and joyful atmosphere of learning. He also seeks to instill the value of drumming for healing and health, as we move further into a hyper-industrial world, Blake encourages therapeutic applications of the drum. He is passionate and honored to share with others this beautiful journey of rhythm and movement. Blake currently resides in Seattle, WA with his partner May and their 10-year-old son.

Mayrav Kessler

Mayrav has 20+ years of experience in early childhood education. Fluent in Hebrew, May brings a sense of joy and playfulness to the classes. Her background is working with multilingual families as a professional early childhood educator and care provider. Her favorite time in Baby Jam is the story board tales, and getting the group to sing in Hebrew. May loves the positive community connection that our classes create, and hopes to further develop the Baby Jam family network. She is also a budding percussionist with 6 years of intense drum study.

