

# Girls Garage

[www.girlsgarage.org](http://www.girlsgarage.org)

1380 Tenth St.  
Berkeley, CA 94710

## About

Girls Garage is a nonprofit design and building program and dedicated workspace for girls\* and gender-expansive youth ages 9-18 in Berkeley, CA. Through classes in carpentry, welding, architecture, and activist art, we support and equip a community of fearless girls who are building the world they want to see. Established 2013 by Emily Pilloton-Lam.

*\*“Girls” refers to gender-expansive youth (cis girls, trans girls, non-binary youth, gender non-conforming youth, gender queer youth, and any girl-identified youth).*

## Programs

Through after-school and summer pathways, Girls Garage provides free and low-cost programs in carpentry, welding, architecture, engineering, and activist art to a diverse community of 200 girls per year. Integrating technical skills, college/career guidance, and community leadership, our programs equip girls with tools to build the world they want to see. In our 3,600-square-foot workshop and under the guidance of our highly skilled all-female staff, we invite girls to bring their creative voice and put technical skills to work on real-world building projects that live in our community. All teen programs are free, and financial support is always available for younger girls.

## Who We Serve:

- 82% of teen girls identify as girls of color in 2020
- 63% teen girls come from low income households in 2020
- 30+ cities represented
- 476 girls served since 2013
- 100% of teen girls attend GG for free
- \$267,000 in scholarships offered in 2020

## Press + Media Coverage

Book:

- [Girls Garage Book: How to Use Any Tool, Tackle Any Project, and Build the World You Want to See by Emily Pilloton-Lam](#) (published by Chronicle Books, 2020)

Video Features:

- [Girls Garage on the TODAY show](#)
- [Time Magazine: Melinda Gates + Girls Garage](#)
- [ABC7 Bay Area News Video Feature](#)

Articles + Essays:

- [ForbesWomen Feature](#)
- [National Endowment for the Arts Feature](#)
- [Fast Company Op-Ed: Emily Pilloton](#)

## Awards + Recognition

- [2020 Diablo Magazine Agent of Change](#): Emily Pilloton-Lam

## Contact Information

Girls Garage: [info@girlsgarage.org](mailto:info@girlsgarage.org)

Communications Manager, Bethany Kaylor: [bethany@girlsgarage.org](mailto:bethany@girlsgarage.org)

*\*To access Girls Garage-approved photos and video clips, please email Bethany at [bethany@girlsgarage.org](mailto:bethany@girlsgarage.org)*

## Staff Bios:



**Emily Pilloton-Lam (Founder + Executive Director)** is a designer, builder, educator, and founder of the nonprofit Girls Garage (formerly known as Project H Design). Using architecture and design as a vehicle to transform communities and classroom pedagogy, she works alongside youth ages 9-18 to co-design and build public architecture projects. Her work seeks to change the authorship of our built environment and cultivate power in underestimated communities, specifically young girls, undocumented youth, and communities of color. Emily holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from the University of California Berkeley, and a Master of Fine Arts in Architecture, Interior Architecture, and

Designed Objects from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is currently a Lecturer in the College of Environmental Design at the University of California Berkeley, and is the author of three books, *Design Revolution: 100 Products that Empower People*, *Tell Them I Built This: Transforming Schools, Communities, and Lives With Design-Based Education*, *Girls Garage: Use Any Tool, Tackle Any Project*, and *Build The World You Want To See*. Her work is documented in the full-length film "If You Build It," and has been featured on the TED Stage, The New York Times, The Colbert Report and presented to the Obama Administration's Office of Science and Technology Policy at The White House.



**Kristy Higaes (Director of Development)** is an educator, writer, and arts administrator who's worked for over twenty years serving schools and communities in Oakland. She's inspired by the intersection of arts, education, community, and impact. Her passion and vision have been motivated by her work with Bay Area teens at The Crucible, an industrial art school in West Oakland, where she worked for twelve years. In 2010, Kristy was honored with a Jefferson Award in Public Service, for her work at The Crucible, which included managing educational programs, teambuilding, volunteer and workforce development programs, studio operations, public art, and events.

She was a YBCA Equity Fellow in 2016, and created a photojournalism exhibit, interviewing and documenting residents in Oakland, along International Boulevard. Kristy enjoys working with her fellow artists, educators, and activists, to bring relevant and innovative new programs to the greater Bay Area. In 2017, Kristy was selected as a fellow through the University of Pennsylvania, Executive Leadership Program to explore Arts and Culture Strategy.



**Bethany Kaylor (Communications Manager)** is a writer and illustrator in South Berkeley. With her free time, Bethany paints dogs, plays ultimate frisbee, and hangs out at public libraries. Her short stories and essays can be found on *Salon*, *DIAGRAM*, *Mid-American Review*, *Entropy*, *LitHub*, and *CrimeReads*. She holds a BA in Comparative Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Oregon. Bethany is our multi-talented Communications Manager, combining engaging and authentic words and pictures to tell the Girls Garage story.