



Seattle Thrillers



Photo courtesy of Rachel Wightman



About Us

Seattle Thrillers is a volunteer-run 501(c)3 nonprofit organization governed by a five-member Board of Directors. One of the main activities of the Seattle Thrillers is to participate in the annual Thrill the World dance event, uniting people around the world to perform a special choreography synchronized at the same time to Michael Jackson's "Thriller." This event always takes place on the Saturday before Halloween. The Board and other volunteers work throughout the year researching local class and performance venues, coordinating classes, developing partnerships, teaching, performing, and marketing throughout Seattle and Washington State. Other styles of dance performances by the Seattle Thrillers occur during the course of the year.

The Seattle Thrillers organization is community-oriented. Classes and events hosted by them are free and open to the public. Participants include people of all abilities, religions, races, political persuasions, and economic backgrounds, dancers and non-dancers alike. The organization also works with youths, inviting them to perform the choreography with their peers. This gives them a sense of pride while building their self-esteem and developing spatial recognition, social skills, and teamwork.

The organization receives invitations from the community to teach or perform at schools, festivals, parades, grand openings, theaters, and weddings. They performed for the Sounders fans at the playoffs in 2010 and with the Seattle Symphony: Sci-Fi at the Pops at Benaroya Hall in 2011.

Main Goals

- To break down barriers by connecting people of all abilities, religions, races, political persuasions, and economic backgrounds through dance.
- To help the community by supporting other nonprofit charities through donations, fundraising, and special events.
- To provide a social and entertainment forum for the community.
- To provide an entertaining experience that is great exercise, a lot of fun, and that gives people the opportunity to cross something off of their bucket list. Participants get a sense of community through meeting new people while getting the chance to artistically express themselves.

Seattle Thrillers Board

Sheri Kinley President

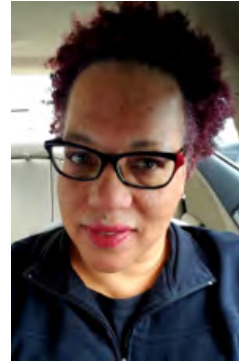


Sheri initially performed with the Seattle Thrillers in the 2008 Thrill The World event and has been organizing the Seattle Thrillers dance troupe since 2009. She is also one of their dance instructors. While continuing to be involved with the Seattle Thrillers she joined the Thrill The World global team in 2018 and is the managing director for the annual global event.

Sheri has been dancing since the age of five. She took lessons in tap and jazz for ten years, and during this time period she performed dance routines weekly on a local television show in her home town.

She has been involved in couples dancing since 2004. A few of the dance styles she enjoys are social ballroom, Latin, west coast swing, east coast swing, country two step, and night club two step. Sheri has performed in various genres of flash mob dances in Seattle and has co-choreographed dance routines that she has performed in Dare to Dance Seattle. Sheri also enjoys hiking in the mountains, going to the beach, and traveling.

Suzanne Simmons Vice President



Suzanne loves to dance, teach, choreograph, perform, and produce events such as cultural festivals, and music and dance performances.

She owned My World Dance and Fitness Studio for 11 years and is currently a certified group fitness instructor. She teaches dance and fitness classes at community centers, retirement communities, and public, private, and charitable events. Her class roster includes SilverSneakers, Senior Fitness, Soul Line Dancing, Fitness Drumming, and teaching the Thrill the World (TTW) choreography to "Thriller." Dancing has been a life-long passion of Suzanne's.

She enjoys the challenge of helping someone who thinks that they cannot dance feel comfortable with movement. She believes that everyone has rhythm, even if it is to the beat of their own drummer!

Suzanne first performed in Thrill the World with the Seattle Thrillers in 2007. She said that it felt a little mischievous being taught the dance in a meeting room at the Capitol Hill Branch of the Seattle Public Library. In a library! She loved every minute of it! When she opened My World Dance in 2008, she offered free rehearsal space to the Seattle Thrillers group.

She now helps produce the annual dance performance to "Thriller" by teaching the dance, grant writing, performing, and serving on the Board. She also loves to choreograph new dances when the group is invited to perform at events outside of the Thriller realm. Life is good. We have dance!



Karen Vogel **Secretary/Treasurer**

Karen has been a loyal Thrill the World dancer since 2008. Despite awkward balance and no dance training, she loves to perform. As the newest Board member, she has a wealth of professional experience, including building a patient advocacy business after decades of insurance account management. Currently she volunteers for the Phinney Neighborhood Association, Seattle Theatre Group, and retirement villages. She is an advisor for the SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors) program to assist WA residents with Medicare navigation, and she teaches on healthcare financial management topics.



Karen has written three books (on Amazon) with personal stories and advocacy tips for family and self-empowerment. One book even includes a chapter about the Seattle Thrillers and how the organization inspires community involvement. Karen developed a senior-friendly version of the dance (with less jumping) that she taught to the agility-impaired at the Greenwood Senior Center in Seattle. She is now adapting these moves herself as her joints become less nimble (who can relate?)

Karla Mohtashemi **Board Member**

Karla is the CEO of Healthitude LLC, owner of Avalon (private) gym, and co-founder of Healthitude Wild Adventure Club. Karla has performed with Thrill The World since 2009.



As a professional ballroom dance instructor for many years, Karla was immediately impressed by the manner the dance was taught. It ensures that everyone can perform the dance, simply by talking through the moves. A few years later, Karla taught her ballroom dance team to do the dance and then became a Thrill The World instructor around the Seattle/Burien/Tukwila and Des Moines area. The joy of dance is certainly a huge motivator, however, the fact that Seattle Thrillers has supported a meaningful charity each year "seals the deal." Thrill The World is a fantastic way to bring joy into the lives of many people and bring each other together in the Universal language of dance.

Darlene Ripley **Board Member**

As a child, Darlene watched old movies where everyone danced and was in awe of dancers. She was unable to take lessons, so as a teenager she danced in her room when her parents were not home.



As an adult, she joined Jazzercise classes and adult jazz classes. Many years later, she and her husband took ballroom and Latin dance classes. They danced every Saturday afternoon for seven years at Muckleshoot Casino that always had good dance bands.

About 10 years ago, she and her husband started attending a local Renton dance studio, and one night her husband saw a flyer about the Seattle Thrillers. Once in those classes they were directed to a flash mob dance group on Capital Hill.

After joining The Seattle Thrillers, not only did they dance in Thrill the World in October, but also danced at weddings, birthdays, office parties, and various other venues.



Statistics and Facts

Seattle Thrillers Organization:

- Hosts 100 to 270 dancers in Thrill the World locally in any given year, rain or shine.
- Has been participating in the global event every year since inception, 2007.
- Donated over \$20,000 to other charities.
- Performed with over 22,000 dancers in 33 countries on 5 continents, synchronized at the same time.
- Has been involved in setting and breaking world records with Record Holders Republic and World Record Academy in earlier years for their worldwide simultaneous performance.
- Has partnerships with, or has had partnerships with, Seattle Parks and Recreation, 4Culture, Friends of Normandy Park Foundation, Zombie Fest Northwest, My World Dance & Fitness, Healthitude Fitness & Nutritional Coaching, and Napolitano Skin & Body Studio.
- Was granted 501c3 status in 2022 and Washington State nonprofit in 2023.



Photo courtesy of Tuffer Harris

Contact Information

[Click here to Email Seattle Thrillers \(seattlethrillers@gmail.com\)](mailto:seattlethrillers@gmail.com)



Photo courtesy of Tuffer Harris

Web and Social Media

Click the hyperlinks below for:

[Seattle Thrillers NonProfit Site \(seattlethrillers.org\)](http://seattlethrillers.org)

[Seattle Thrillers Meetup and Dance Information \(seattlethrillers.com\)](http://seattlethrillers.com)

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