

# COPING

## UNAPOLOGETIC CONCRETE THRILLS

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FEATURING SKATE LIKE A GIRL ☆



## INCLUSIVE SKATING IN PORTLAND

Explore the collectives, communities, and art that define the vibrant non traditional skating in Portland!

VOLUME 1 | JUNE 2024



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# WELCOME

To our first edition of Coping, your guide to the inclusive skateboarding scene in Portland. Here, we offer a new take on the dynamic world of skateboarding, emphasizing diversity and inclusion. This magazine isn't just about tricks and boards; it's a platform dedicated to fostering an inclusive skate community.

Portland's skate scene is rich with creativity, resilience, and passion. We focus on collectives that uplift marginalized skaters and are part of our local community. Keep up with influential people, must-see events, and the vibrant community life.

As we build this magazine, we invite you to share your stories with us. Our goal is to foster a welcoming environment where everyone feels they belong in skate parks.

The title of this magazine, Coping, is an homage to the edge we grind where tricks come to life, as well as the coping mechanism skating provides through life's challenges. Coping embraces both and celebrates the resilience and creativity of skateboarding.



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**FRONT COVER:** Chloe Levine doing a  
boardslide at Ed Benedict skate park.

**BACK COVER:** Film photo by Rosie Gurnee

Have something you'd like to  
share in the next edition?  
Email [katyahassett@gmail.com](mailto:katyahassett@gmail.com)

# COMMUNITY AND EVENTS

★2024★

## STRONGER SKATEPARK

### ALL AGES/ALL ABILITIES INDOOR SKATEPARK

Queer owned skate shop and inclusive indoor skatepark in Milwaukie, OR. Open skate Tues-Sun, hours on website.

[www.strongerskatepark.com](http://www.strongerskatepark.com)  
6102 SE King Rd, Milwaukie, OR

## PUSH

### YOUTH PROGRAM

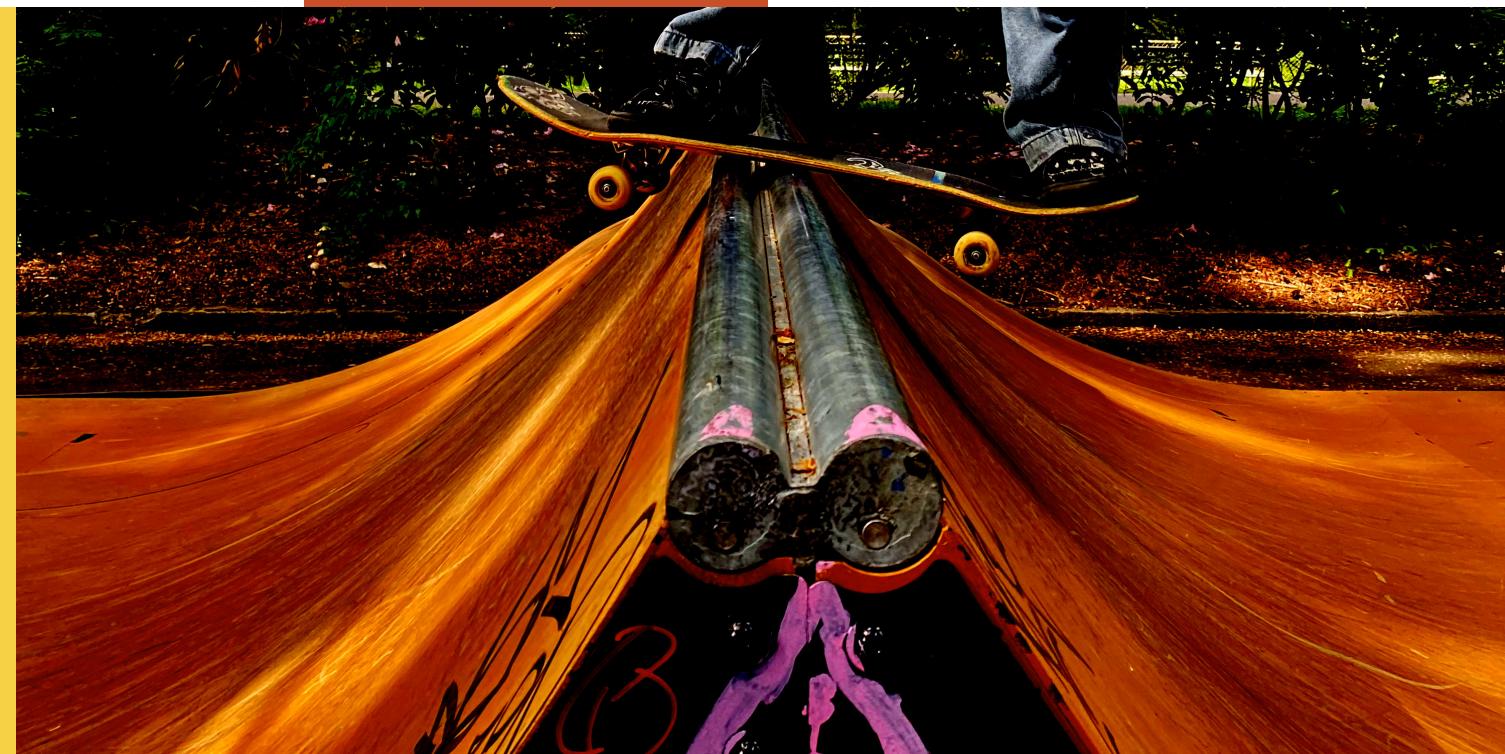
Push Movement provides movement-based youth support and outreach for historically underserved populations in the Portland Metro area.



## BREAKFAST BOWL

### QUAD/INLINE MEETUPS

Breakfast Bowl is a skate park meet-up hosted by the Five Stride crew & friends at various skate parks in Portland area and at the shop ramp during winter months. These quad skate sessions are open to all ages and skill levels and were started to make space for queer skaters in the skate parks. Check out our IG page (@breakfastbowlskate) for more info



## MONDAYS

### OAKS ROLLER RINK

Roll out with your friends and loved ones to the monthly Gay Skate Session, held the 1st and 3rd Monday night of the month. Everyone is welcome at this all-ages event. All skills levels welcome!

7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.  
12 dollars



## WEDNESDAYS

### PORLAND ALL WHEELS WELCOME

Weekly skate meet-ups at different parks around Portland every Wednesday. Check out their instagram @PAWWSK8 to find details on the weekly skate meets!

## THURSDAYS

### WOMEN AND TRANS SKATES

An exclusive space for skateboarders who identify as girls, women, trans, non-binary, and/or gender expansive to build community through skateboarding.

All skills levels welcome!  
6-9:45 pm @ Nike private indoor park  
Pre-registration required  
[www.skatelikeagirl.com](http://www.skatelikeagirl.com)

## FOLLOW UP!

### INSTAGRAMS TO FOLLOW

@queerskatepdx	@girlsshred
@skatelikeagirlpdx	@bigfootmagazine
@girlsshred	@doloresmagazine
@breakfastbowlskate	@secretrollerdisco
@stronger_skatepark	@fivestride
@pawws8	@gndrshredr

# STARTING FRESH



## BEGINNER'S EDGE

**I**t's vulnerable, intimidating, and nerve-wracking to start something new, especially when you're balancing on wheels. Skate parks can be particularly daunting, frequently filled with experienced skaters who have built a lot of confidence over the years through practice. It is important to know that every skater had to start somewhere.

I used to wish I had started skating at a younger age, but I've realized that learning to skate in my adult life and pushing my comfort zone has translated to many aspects of my life. Embracing challenge has taught me resilience, confidence, and the transformative power of progress.



Throw on some big pants you don't care about -- they will get ripped. Learn how to patch!

Grab some headphones and put on your favorite playlist. Stretch, warm up, scope out the spot.

Knee pads and wrist guards kept me at the skatepark much longer, because the falls were protected.

Come into the park with some small progress goals. Tricks help other tricks, so starting from the very foundation basics is key to keep growing in skating.

Get comfortable balancing!

## THE RIPPLE EFFECT

The power and growth from skateboarding translate both on and off the board. Overcoming challenges in skateboarding and seeing yourself make it happen bolsters self-esteem and resilience into other areas. Skating also fosters creativity and problem-solving skills.

You have to think on your feet (pun intended) and this has inspired my creative and innovative thinking into personal design projects.

While it's hard to recognize progress over time, when I look back at videos from four years ago when I was first starting blows me away.

Katya





**SUPPORT  
INCLUSIVE  
SKATING**

## THERE

A COLLECTIVE DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING QUEER AND TRANS SKATEBOARDERS OF COLOR (QTPOC)

There Skateboards gives a voice to the world's underrepresented skaters by creating unique artwork and sponsoring the marginalized.



## GLUE SKATE

A QUEER SKATEBOARD COMPANY FROM NYC FOUNDED IN 2020

Glue skateboards is a queer skateboard company from New York City founded in 2020. It was started by Leo Baker, Cher Strawberry and Stephen Ostrowski. Glue is a cornerstone built to best represent the team and further promote inclusivity within the skateboarding community.



## MEOW

INSPIRING CREATIVITY,  
EMPOWERING DIVERSITY,  
AND SHREDDING  
STEREOTYPES

Meow's mission is to inspire and empower skateboarders of all backgrounds, abilities, and genders. Through Meow's products, events, and advocacy efforts, they strive to push the boundaries of what is possible within skateboarding, all while embracing and celebrating the diversity that makes our sport so incredible.

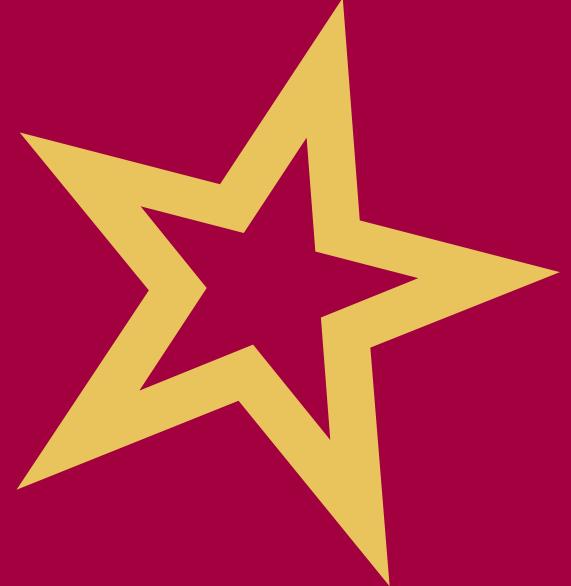


# SKATE LIKE A GIRL

FOR TWENTY YEARS, SKATE LIKE A GIRL HAS PROMOTED INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY IN SKATEBOARDING. OVER TWO DECADES OF POSITIVITY AND ACTION, SKATE LIKE A GIRL HAS GROWN ITS CHAPTERS AND MISSION TO INCLUDE AND FOSTER WOMEN AND/OR TRANS PEOPLE BY CONNECTING WITH SKATEBOARDERS AND SUPPORTING SOCIAL CAUSES LARGER THAN SKATING ITSELF.



Photo by Lindsey Palish



# CARVING SPACE

# SKATE LIKE A GIRL

**NIKE SB INTERVIEW WITH KRISTIN EBELING AND KIM WOOZY ABOUT THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH SKATE LIKE A GIRL, THE COLLABORATION, AND THE FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM.**



## HOW'D YOU GET INVOLVED WITH SKATE LIKE A GIRL?

**Kristin Ebeling:** I had originally heard about Skate Like a Girl when I was skating in an indoor skate park when I was about 14. I had heard about it but for the first four or five years of skating, I thought I was the only girl ever to do it. A few girlfriends of mine, like started skating with me but they definitely quit within like six months or a year or whatever, right? So I'm kinda lone wolfing it and then I see on MySpace one day that there was an event happening run by Skate Like a Girl and it was at the skate park that I went to. I was like, 'What? Who is running an event at my local skate park? I'm for sure the only girl that goes there—what the hell is this? I remember thinking, 'Skate Like a Girl? That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard,' and I probably used worse language than that, to be honest. I was a 17-year-old with a lot of internalized sexism going on being the only girl in a male-dominated space for many years. So anyways, I rocked up to the skate park there were girls ollieing the 8-stair

*—keep in mind I've still never ollied that 8-stair in my life—*

there was a girl doing a nollie flip, girls ripping the bowl, there was a woman on the microphone... there were all different folks. It looked like they had invaded my skatepark. I was like, 'What the hell is this?' My

jaw was on the floor. I always tell people that's the day that I sold my soul to Skate Like a Girl—sign my name in blood, whatever you need.

Basically, from there, I signed up for everything. I was like, You need help running a skate clinic? I'm there. You want a new sticker design? I'm down. I made flyers. I did everything. The cool thing is that the leaders of the organization were rad. There's a 17-year-old kid that rips on a board and like desperately needs our community. Let's mentor her and basically tell her the world's her oyster, whatever you want to create is cool. So they were so supportive. They helped me start Wheels of Fortune, which is crazy. I met Skate Like a Girl when I was about 17 and I started Wheels of Fortune when I was 19 when I was in college. They helped me plan skate trips, they helped me make merchandise. I wanted to make

videos—every single thing I wanted, they were like, 'Go for it' That was my introduction to Skate Like a Girl. Slowly, over time, I was like, 'I want to make this my job,' and I figured out how to do that about eight years ago.

**Kim Woozy:** Well, my story is not going to be as heartwarming. [laughs] I had already been in the skateboarding industry. Lisa Whitaker (Meow Skateboards founder) had told me about Skate Like a Girl and told me to check it out. My first introduction was I believe Wheels of Fortune Six. It's when I was running Mahfia TV. I showed up and thought,

'This is crazy. This is amazing.' Also, I didn't see many people taking photos, so I wanted to do that. At the time, Mahfia TV had channels for different partners, brands, and crews. So I met Kristin and Nancy (Chang) who was one of the board members at the time, so we created a channel for Skate Like a Girl

**"I felt like I had just walked into a dream and it was a dream—a dream I didn't even know was what I needed to be my reality."**



Film photo by Eve March

for any content or anything related to it and stayed in touch that way. After being in Southern California for about ten years I moved back to the Bay Area and Kristin and the crew came down. The Bay Skate Like a Girl chapter was pretty loose and informal at the time. I had gone to a few events but Kristin and her crew had come up to give a training—to give the chapter a boost and say, ‘Let’s get our shit together.’ I attended that and thought it was awesome. All the pieces—the way it was run—I had never experienced anything like that before. That really gave the chapter a boost but I was still really focused on Mahfia.

The chapter eventually got shelved due to people being busy and no one being able to step up to lead it. Eventually, Skate Like a Girl decided it was a liability, there was no insurance policy, so it was shelved for a year and I wasn’t skating with anyone at the time, then I met Ashley Masters who is now the Bay chapter director at a



“work in skateboarding” panel and we got to talking and thought we could take it on and run the chapter. I spoke to Kristin and she said that she could mentor us and help make it happen. Ashley and I got on calls with her once a week for a few months and then we were able to get it to a point where we had volunteers, then part-time, and now full-time employees.

I always wanted to be a part of this culture but generally, people working in the industry and the pros would stick together and everyone else was outside the bubble. The most I ever skated was when I met the Bay crew and went to

**“For me, the biggest difference between Skate Like a Girl and working in the skate industry was being invited to skate, which is the craziest part.”**

their sessions. Ashley and I realized that if we didn’t put our energy into the chapter, no one was going to make it happen. All I ever wanted as a 15-year-old living in Fremont, California was to have people to skate with. Now I move back to the Bay, there’s the sick park, and still, no one skate with me. So it was like, ‘Well, selfishly, we’re doing this ourselves.’

**SINCE BEING INVOLVED WITH SKATE LIKE A GIRL, WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST**



## THINGS YOU FEEL THAT YOU’VE ACCOMPLISHED OR WHAT CHANGES HAS IT FACILITATED IN SKATING?

**Kristin:** The proudest moments that I have are just casually when I’m out skating in Seattle, and I’m at the skate park looking around, and I see young men that are leaders and they’re inclusive, they’re ripping, and they used to do our teen volunteer program. They got their 50 community service hours through volunteering with us when they were younger. Then I see a little girl that did our skate camps and I see a dude that’s a donor and maybe someone rocking a Skate Like a Girl shirt. Then I see someone roughly my age skating. Anecdotally, being a part of a skate community where I feel like everyone’s all in—not just about creating space for little girls or women, queer, or trans people. To me, the toxicity that exists in skateboarding and in our world doesn’t actually benefit anybody. It hurts some people more than others. I don’t think it’s a net positive for anybody. It’s really cool to be a part of a skate community that’s bought into the idea of inclusion. We were filming a little piece and had to close the skate park to be able to film it. Kim had to be the person to go over to the people that were skating in the park and say, ‘Hey, guys, sorry, the skate parks closed.’ It was a bunch of dudes and Kim told me she was nervous to kick them out but they immediately were like, ‘Oh, it’s for Skate Like a Girl? We love Skate Like a Girl!’ That to me is the thing that makes me feel the best.

Doing this for almost two decades... it’s doing something and it’s done something. In a broader context, a couple of things I feel like we’ve really led the charge on is like really being intentionally inclusive of trans people. We’ve been calling our sessions women and/or trans sessions, we’ve done queer and/or trans skate camps going back to 2018 and earlier. So I feel like we’ve been ahead of the curve on stuff like that and just seeing the larger skate community use words like “non-traditional skaters,” I feel like we’ve been thought leaders in some

of the framing around that and making sure that like our community isn’t just here for girls because, yes, we started just doing skate stuff for girls and women, but then we realized fuck, trans people need space, queer people need space, we need to be partnering with Unity and organizations like FroSkate to join forces to not recreate the same harm that we experienced coming into skateboarding—keeping the door open for the next generation of people who aren’t having space.

**Kim:** Normalizing beginner status. That’s why I didn’t skate for the longest time. All I saw working in the industry



Film photo by Eve March

were pro skaters and team managers who had been skating forever and were former sponsored skaters. This was pre-Instagram, so it felt like if you're not good don't skate. Whereas, with Skate Like a Girl we've normalized "Skate slow and live"... helmets, wrist guards, pads. With our WT camp helmets are required, because it's YMCA's policy and we didn't have to fight anyone. Everyone's like, "Yeah, let me get more pads!" That part's pretty cool because it not only helps more people see themselves because there are a lot of people who don't want to be gnarly and break their bones and would love to benefit from the joys of skateboarding, and also, I think it's more sustainable for people in general, you know? A lot of people think they can't skate because they don't want to get injured and we're like, 'Great, you don't have to if you take it slow and be safe.' It's not necessarily the coolest thing ever, but it's also no longer "If you don't have a broken bone, you're not a real skateboarder."

## LOOKING BACK AT THE PROGRESS SKATE LIKE



Skating the Laurelhurst spine

## A GIRL HAS MADE OVER 20 YEARS, WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IT GO OVER THE NEXT 20?

**Kristin:** I want it to feel more sustainable. I want more of the skate industry, pro skaters, and people to start to open their eyes to see the benefit of skateboarding—not being a cool popularity contest and be more about how skateboarding was when we first started. Something for freaks and geeks. I would hope that we can continue to influence the culture to be more inclusive.

But really, I don't want to know where Skate Like a Girl's going, because I'm getting old I'm a white person. You know what I mean? I want people to be able to influence the work that we do and for them to speak up and share their experiences that are different than mine. I want to open the door for those people the way Skate Like a Girl opened the door for me.

## IS IT FAIR TO SAY THAT SKATE LIKE A GIRL IS MORE OF A TOOLSET? GIVING PEOPLE THOSE TOOLS TO GO CREATE WHAT THEY WANT AND NEED, RESPECTFULLY OF COURSE.

**Kristin:** Yeah. I want to be part of the canvas that helps other people create shit. We're kind of like a library, I guess and I want to be a resource for anybody that wants to make their dreams come true.

## HOW CAN PEOPLE SUPPORT SKATE LIKE A GIRL?

**Kristin:** You can volunteer, you can donate, you can follow us on Instagram, and you can buy a pair of Dunks! But honestly, start your own project! Any way to buy into the commitment to make sure that skateboarding for everybody is important to me. Whatever that means to you.

**Kim:** I agree with that. If you're a fan of what we're doing take that on and like do your own version of it because that's going to further the movement. Donating is great, but taking your own initiative is the end goal. As Kristin said, she doesn't know where it's going to go. We always joke and say we hope to [not?] have jobs in the future. If we could get there... if anyone could show up to any skate space and feel included and not feel like they need a special session to make them feel included, that's the goal.

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NIKE SB interview with Kristin Ebeling and Kim Woozy

# MURAL SPOTLIGHT

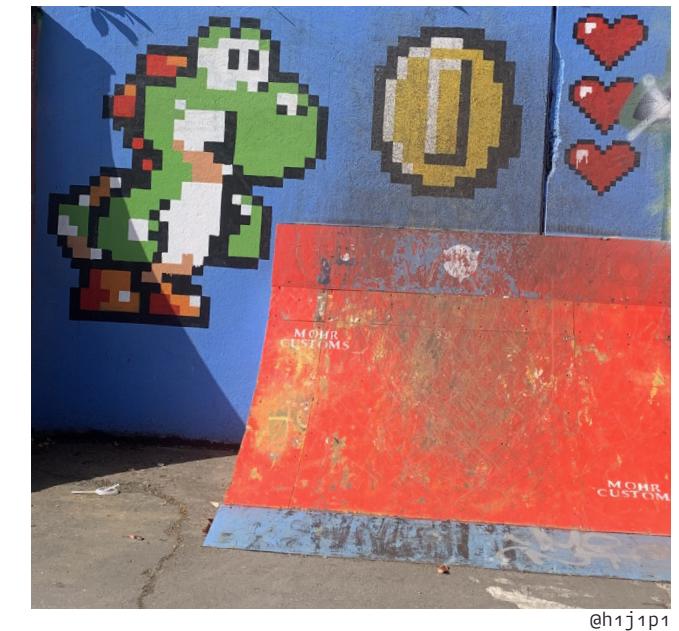
AT THE COURTS DIY SKATEPARK



@biglarry4ever (left mural)



@gnarly\_x\_carly



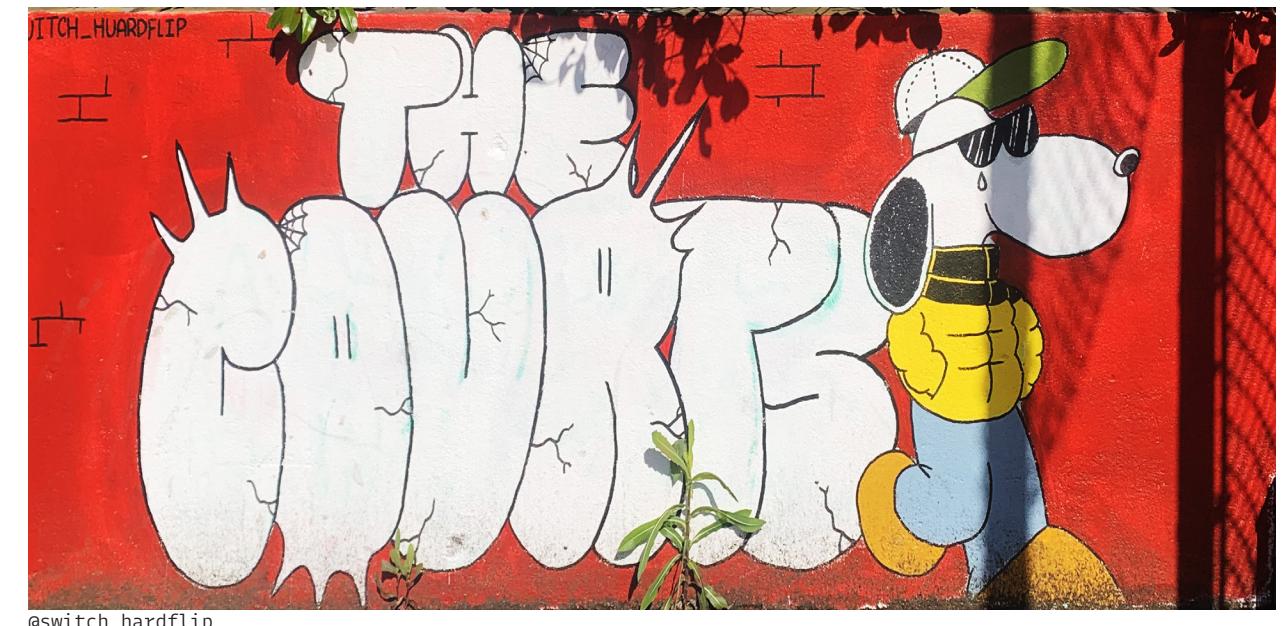
@h1j1p1



@thevioletaveline



@treesammich



@switch\_hardflip

# ART IN SKATE

## ADDING VIBRANCY TO SKATE PARKS THROUGH ART.

In March, Chloe Levine and I saw an opportunity to paint a mural at one of our favorite DIY spots downtown. We went for it without ever doing a mural before. We got our supplies, sketched out a vision, and went for it. If you asked us three years ago, we wouldn't even be skating here. Skating has taught me to send it in every way, and I'm so glad we did.

Through this experience we not only got to paint our own mural, but we met other artists, more skaters, and a chance to add our splash on a spot we love. I'm really grateful for this experience, please enjoy these progress photos.

We love to connect with artists, so if you're reading this and interested in collaborating, you can reach out to the email on the back page!



Our finished mural! We're on instagram @onlybonnnez (Chloe) and @tidalgrime (Katya)



## THANK YOU,

I'm so glad you're here. It's with great excitement, nerves, and pure stoke to present this magazine to you! This is my first magazine or anything of the sort (besides funky zines Let me know if that's your thing too). I want to be a part of the movement towards more inclusive skating, and creating accessibility to events that support marginalized skaters. Skating can be intimidating, but there are so many people who love to skate without the misogyny, let's get on boards! If bringing non-traditional skaters together through art, events, and fun times appeals to you and you'd like to work together in any capacity, please do not hesitate to reach out!

A little about me. I grew up in Boston and moved out to Portland in 2018. I'm currently at Portland State for graphic design, and I absolutely love to create. Nothing brings me more joy than bringing art into this world in any capacity. I think our brains being able to produce what we see and feel is pretty much the raddest thing about being alive. Anyways, I'm always looking to meet like-minded people and find ways to make skating more approachable to marginalized skaters. I would love to continue making these fun zines, but I need help with content!

If there are any accounts or collectives that should get a shoutout please let me know. I know there are so many rad people out there and I would love to come together and create bigger and reach more people beginning their skate journey in Portland.

If you have any feedback, questions, concerns please reach out to my email. And lastly, a huge shoutout to all those who made this magazine happen. Shoutout covergirl chloe, absolutely stellar roller skating from Celine, and stunning photos from Rosie, Eve, and Lindsey. Big love, here's to *the summer of skate*.

<3 Katya



Film photo by Ari



Film photo by Rosie Gurnee

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June 6 2024

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