

like, 'What I would tell them is that they should have fun. If they're not having fun, they should do something else.'" He remembers the parent seeming a bit shocked, but, for him, Cyr's advice would eventually inform his new gym's entire ethic. Acro Enso is all about prioritizing collaboration over competition.

"We are setting into place some guidelines," said Thrift. "We're going to be creating [curricula] for our kids' classes for the parents to view, to see exactly what their kid is going to be offered and what they're going to gain. It'll be clear that it's not competitive. It'll be a collaborative effort. It'll be about building themselves and their body and building their ego, building who they are as people." There won't be a strong focus on teams or tournaments, she added. Instead, she foresees "open stage" nights, where kids and parents will be encouraged to show off the skills they're developing.

## GOING PRO

At the same time the new gym emphasizes accessibility and a non-competitive spirit, Luciano and Thrift said they also prioritize high-level skill. They said they aimed to hire the best local instructors they could find, and they searched

Acro Enso is located at 601 E. Fourth St. A grand opening is scheduled for April 6, including an open house from 6-8 p.m. and a dance party until late, with DJs Bazooka Zac and Enigma Beats. For more information, visit [www.acroenso.com](http://www.acroenso.com).

around the country for guest instructors.

On a recent Sunday, Sam Tribble—a chiseled gymnast and coach from Los Angeles with a warm smile and an easy demeanor—walked three students through some beginning Cyr wheel exercises.

"It takes a little bit of time to learn," said Luciano. But Tribble, who's been coaching people on Cyr wheel for at least 10 years, has broken the process down into steps. After he covered a few basics, it didn't take long for his students to pick up a few moves, like walking in the wheel as it rolls across the floor.

"We're going to have a curriculum that really develops people, and it really can turn you into an acrobat," said Thrift. "If a child decided they wanted to train for Cirque du Soleil one day, then this would be a great facility for them to come and start that training."

"And if they just want to come and have fun, that's also what we're about," Luciano added. □



Cyrus Liciano left his post as an IGT game designer and is now Acro Enso's executive director.

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# Lady Luck

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