



circus
WA

ANNUAL
REPORT
2021-2022

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CircusWA acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nations are the spiritual and cultural birdiyanga (custodians) of the land upon which we train, create and perform.

Fremantle is Walyalup, sited on the banks of the Derbal Yerrigan. We recognise this land was never ceded and acknowledge our first people's continuing connection to boodja (land), kayep (waters) and Noongar (culture).

We pay our respect to Elders past and present.





ABOUT US

CircusWA aims to create work that is of equal artistic and social excellence. We believe it is important to involve all who participate with CircusWA in projects which are entirely inclusive and where the process is safe and nurturing but also where the final product is of high artistic quality.

For us, it is important that artistic ambition translates to participatory processes that allow each person to reach their potential through innovative, inclusive and artistically excellent work that engages with diverse audiences and a wide range of creative collaborators, showcasing circus arts as an exciting, accessible and meaningful art form.

Our Vision

A circus arts centre of excellence for youth and social circus in Western Australia.

Our Mission

To unlock personal and creative potential and deliver social inclusion for all young people through circus arts.

Our Values underpin all that we do and inform our decision making.

- CREATIVITY** We celebrate and nurture cultural and creative experiences.
- COURAGE** We challenge ourselves and others to create change by being courageous.
- EMPOWER** We champion diversity, inclusion, respect differences and build trust.
- COLLABORATE** We develop partnerships within and across communities and the arts sector.
- OPTIMISM** We think and act with confidence about young people and the future.

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

This year has been one of ongoing change and growth for CircusWA. We saw the slowing down of COVID, followed by the drying up of covid relief, and the ongoing impacts on participation and income in the Freo Big Top

With support from Creative Partnerships Australia through their Plus+1 fund, we were able to engage a philanthropy & fundraising specialist to launch a new campaign to raise much needed funds. With energy and commitment from our board, office, and trainers, we raised \$31,250. The campaign has also had a positive impact on our profile and visibility.

Plans for a State Centre for Circus and Physical Theatre continued to progress after the completion of the 2021 feasibility study. Michael Chappell from Pracsys, generously committed his time pro bono across the year to progress conversations. There are a number of exciting discussions underway with opportunities we are following up on this year.

With a desire to have a positive impact on diversifying the makeup of our future artists we launched a focus on three priority programs: *Circus? You can!* for disabled kids and teens; *Aboriginal Youth Circus Development* program in Armadale; and our integrated *Youth Troupe* program.

These programs have been supported by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. Additionally Healthway is an important partner who invests in our outreach programs and grows capacity to embed social emotional wellbeing messages into all our programs.

I would like to thank our three departing board members. Tom Watkins our secretary, has served since 2018 helping us navigate through some turbulent times. Also farewell to Fi Whittles who joined in 2020 to support a growth in Fundraising and Corioli Souter supporting the development of our priority programs.

We look forward to inviting our new board members into the circus and look forward to their skills supporting our ongoing growth into the future.

Gavin Corfield



3960

people engaged with our circus

196

Youth Circus Classes in metro



69

Social Circus workshops

61

priority participants

32

National & State arts networks

23

Independent Circus Artists

21

Youth Circus Performers

6

Festivals performed at

5

Independent Companies

8

project partnerships

3

State & National tours

3

National & State arts networks

Our Circus Impact in numbers



PEOPLE
OF THE
BIG TOP

GROWING CIRCUS ARTISTS

artistic vision

CircusWA aims to create work that is of equal artistic and social excellence. We believe it is important to involve all who participate with CircusWA in projects which are entirely inclusive and where the process is safe and nurturing but also where the final product is of high artistic quality.

It is important that artistic ambition translates to participatory processes that allow each person to reach their potential through innovative, inclusive and artistically excellent work that engages with diverse audiences and a wide range of creative collaborators, showcasing circus arts as an exciting, accessible and meaningful art form.

2021-22 launching our
priority youth programs

artistic process

CircusWA provides a safe space where all young people can play, take risks and learn to connect with others and the world around them as creative, physical and social individuals. By empowering young people through circus arts, we give them agency, share the unique values of the circus community, and create building blocks for long-lasting positive change.

CircusWA teaches a diverse range of skills delivered by specialist Trainers who have or had a performance career. Our circus pedagogy ensures youth are inspired by new and contemporary approaches to training and performance making.

- aboriginal
- disabilities
- emerging artists



A CONNECTED & INCLUSIVE CIRCUS

at circuswa we foster programs where . . .

- youth of all backgrounds and abilities come to experience collaboration and creativity.
- an exciting circus arts program stimulates an authentic exchange of ideas and friendship.
- our community is introduced to the joy and energy of circus arts lending an essential and unique element to the rich canvas of Western Australia's creative and cultural output.
- specialised programs extend accessibility to people of all abilities and transform and empower individuals and communities.
- aspiring performers can enjoy a welcoming and inclusive environment to showcase their artistic endeavours

circus ? you can !

Once a week we open up the big top to children and teenagers with disabilities to enter and explore at their pace the magic of circus. This program's growing success has been supported by DADAA. This year

- eighteen students have engaged with this program.
- one participant was invited to perform at Variety's fundraising gala.
- four participants worked with the youth troupes on a new creative development.

Aboriginal youth circus

With support from the state government and Healthway we have rolled out an exciting new Aboriginal youth program in Armadale. This program is run out of Aboriginal led Champion Centre.

- Twenty-five kids attend a weekly program
- six local schools engage through incursions.
- twenty kids visit the big top each holidays
- attended one performance by Black Swan Theatre company



YOUTH TROUPES

directors: Ben Kotovski-Steele; Sarah Healy; Steph Pick

guest directors: Natano Fa'anana (be'spoke) & Nel Simpson (Uglieland)

Through our tiered and integrated troupe program we are supporting young people to grow artistically, personally and professionally, giving them the opportunity to become strong, committed and capable humans for the future, as artists and leaders. This year the troupe have performed in a total of five shows and begun one new creative development with four of our disabled youth students.

guest trainers / intensives:

Alice Kell (choreography) & Will Tredinnick (physical theatre)

performance development group

Across the past 12 months our young performers in this development group had a year of exploring object theatre and expanding their circus skills with partner acro and physical theatre. They performed in the following shows:

- Uglieland
- Long Table Dinner
- Melville Mid-Winter Festival

colliders

Our Colliders troupe have been strengthening in skills around ideation, creating choreography and interpreting stories into physical theatre. This year they have focused on ensemble creations and performed at the following:

- Uglieland
- Long Table Dinner
- 10 Nights in Port

sliders

Usually our Sliders tour to the Eastern States. Due to covid this did not occur. The troupe developed solo, duo and ensemble works at the following events:

- Uglieland
- Fairbridge
- Long Table Dinner
- 10 Nights in Port





Leighton Beanland, Zoe Davidson, Ish Ryden-Hale, Rachel Handelman, Luke Forrester, Simon Wood, Brooke Duckwork, Steph Pick, Genevieve Moran, Sarah Healy, Ben Kotovski-Steele, Jess Smart,

Trainers 2021-22

Chloe Shadlow, Aidan Bayliss, Gaea Anastas, Nathan Kell, Brenna Day, Nel Simpson





PARTNERSHIP
FUNDING
& DIRECTION

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

31,370

dollars
raised

160

total
donations

157

individual
donors

1

corporate
donor

2

new
foundations

Our fundraising aims were to engage our current community then identify and reach new supporters to grow awareness of CircusWA's programs and the impact we are having in our WA communities.

We took our community on a 4-week journey leading up to our Giving Day - with Giving Day taking over our communications calendar for two weeks - sharing our ambitions and stories of how CircusWA is cultivating and enhancing the cultural and artistic landscape of WA and how our community could support us.

Thanks to the support of our generous friends, local organisations and partners we successfully met – and exceeded! – our matched funding goal. Our ambition was to raise \$25k and we raised \$31,370, 125% of our target.

We successfully implemented the four pillars of our Giving Day:

1. To engage our existing community and supporters
2. Build excitement and momentum
3. Create a brilliant and engaging brand strategy from direct mail, to EDM and social media
4. Engage and motivate our whole CircusWA team, including board members, trainers, volunteers, youth troupe and key stakeholders

Our Giving Day created a sense of urgency that maintained optimum momentum and enabled us to generate results in a creative and vibrant way, matching the creativity and vibrancy of our organisation.

We have increased our visibility with Foundations, doubled our prospect list, grown our e-newsletter distribution and established an ongoing giving program.

GOVERNANCE

board

Gav Corfield,
Sarah Green,
Andrea Rowe,
Tom Watkins,
Corioli Souter,
Fiona Whittles,
Natalie Bell,

Chair
Vice Chair
Treasurer
Secretary
General
General
Generl

employees

Jo Smith,
Zoe Davidson,
Gyano Tabeshfar,
Samantha Re,
Rachel Handelman,
Rainer Kosok,
Artistic Director (full time)
Admin Assistant
Finance Officer
Coordinator Aboriginal Prog
Coordinator outreach
Venue Manager

contractors

Sarah Waddle, Philanthropy & Fundraising
Ben Kotovski-Steele, Head Rigger
Lynne Wilkey, Designer
Tashi Hall, Photographer
Dan MacBride, Photographer



FINANCIAL REPORT

WA CIRCUS SCHOOL INC
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	188,533	79,669
Trade and other receivables	4	2,575	16,066
		<u>191,108</u>	<u>95,735</u>
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	51,110	54,927
		<u>51,110</u>	<u>54,927</u>
Total Assets		<u>242,219</u>	<u>150,661</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	58,388	36,689
Income Received in Advance		138,451	15,882
		<u>196,839</u>	<u>52,572</u>
Non Current Liabilities			
Loans Payable - Related Party	7	12,000	12,000
		<u>12,000</u>	<u>12,000</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>208,839</u>	<u>64,572</u>
Net Assets		<u>33,380</u>	<u>86,090</u>
Equity			
Accumulated surplus/(loss)	8	33,380	86,090
Total Equity		<u>33,380</u>	<u>86,090</u>

WA CIRCUS SCHOOL INC
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue from continuing operations		525,038	364,451
Employment Costs		(253,100)	(251,803)
Cost of sales		(94,747)	(61,724)
Gross Profit		<u>177,191</u>	<u>50,924</u>
Other Income	2	9	206,159
Depreciation		(3,816)	(4,015)
Employment costs		(184,967)	(168,522)
Establishment expenses		(2,491)	(2,186)
Finance costs		(5,811)	(5,113)
General expenses		(16,406)	(24,201)
Insurance		(15,324)	(19,221)
Legal and professional fees		(1,095)	(1,766)
		<u>(229,910)</u>	<u>(225,025)</u>
Profit for the period		<u>(52,710)</u>	<u>32,058</u>

The above Statement of Profit or Loss is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

WA CIRCUS SCHOOL INC
STATEMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

The Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The Committee of the WA Circus School Incorporated declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, present fairly the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
2. In the committee's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

The Declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee.



Gavin Corfield
President



Andrea Rowe
Treasurer



PROJECT FUNDERS



Mentally Healthy WA



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries

PARTNERSHIPS



Fremantle
Foundation
Philanthropy for WA

creative
partnerships
australia



Make culture happen



MAXIMA
Circus Beyond Limits

