



IMPACT REPORT

2022



A CIRCUS REVOLUTION FOR ALL



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

CircusWA acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Moongar Nation are the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara (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.



Photo: Rachel Collier

WE'RE CONTRIBUTING TO A CONNECTED, INCLUSIVE AND BETTER WORLD...

... where youth of all backgrounds and abilities come to experience collaboration and creativity.

... where an exciting circus arts program stimulates an authentic exchange of ideas and friendship.

... where 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.

... where specialised programs extend accessibility to people of all abilities and transform and empower individuals and communities.

... where aspiring performers can enjoy a welcoming and inclusive environment to showcase their artistic endeavours.

THIS IS OUR CIRCUS REVOLUTION

VISION

A Circus Arts centre of excellence for Youth and Social Circus in Western Australia.

MISSION

To unlock personal and creative potential and deliver social inclusion for all young people through Circus Arts.

VALUES

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.
- Empowerment** We champion diversity, inclusion, respect differences and build trust.
- Collaboration** We develop partnerships within and across communities and the arts sector.
- Optimism** We think and act with confidence about young people and the future.

MESSAGE FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Our Impact Report is an annual moment of reflection - a time for us to look back on the year that was, to assess our own financial and social performance, to hold ourselves accountable, and review what is in store ahead.

A circus applause for 2022

Navigating this year has certainly not been a walk in the park, nor devoid of emotions. We began it with frustration over covid cancellations and income losses. But by quarter time in April we were celebrating a successful fundraising campaign 'Together We Can'. From there to August our students created and presented be'spoke, a collaboration between youth performers and disabled circus students, to tears of applause. This was soon followed by celebrations of our Aboriginal Circus students' achievements as they performed for the first time at the Noongar cultural dance festival Wardarni.

And to finish off the year . . . we are skipping for joy with an investment of \$100k from Impact100 Fremantle to cover a new training program for ambitious young artists. We are now preparing to bring 30 young people into the Level Up Circus Academy training and performance program in 2023 - so much to look forward to and keep an eye out for.

In 2022, CircusWA's Board demonstrated a strong commitment to a growth in philanthropy and sponsorship, which delivered a successful campaign supported by Creative Partnerships Australia. As part of our future planning and operations, fundraising will continue to be a priority for the Board and a key strategy to secure the financial sustainability of the organisation. By articulating why we exist and the incredible value of our work to society, we are working to grow our funding and philanthropic partners. From 2023 we are welcoming our new partners and collaborators to champion who we are and work with us to deliver exciting new outcomes.

Leveling up in 2023

In November 2022 we implemented a new strategic plan. Through review, reflection

and listening to our community, CircusWA identified four equal and interconnected Strategic Priorities that together will deliver our Vision and Purpose.

Our renewed Strategic Plan sets out CircusWA's aims and objectives for the years 2023-2026, so that our members, participants, audiences, partners, funders and supporters can join the next phase of our journey with knowledge and commitment.

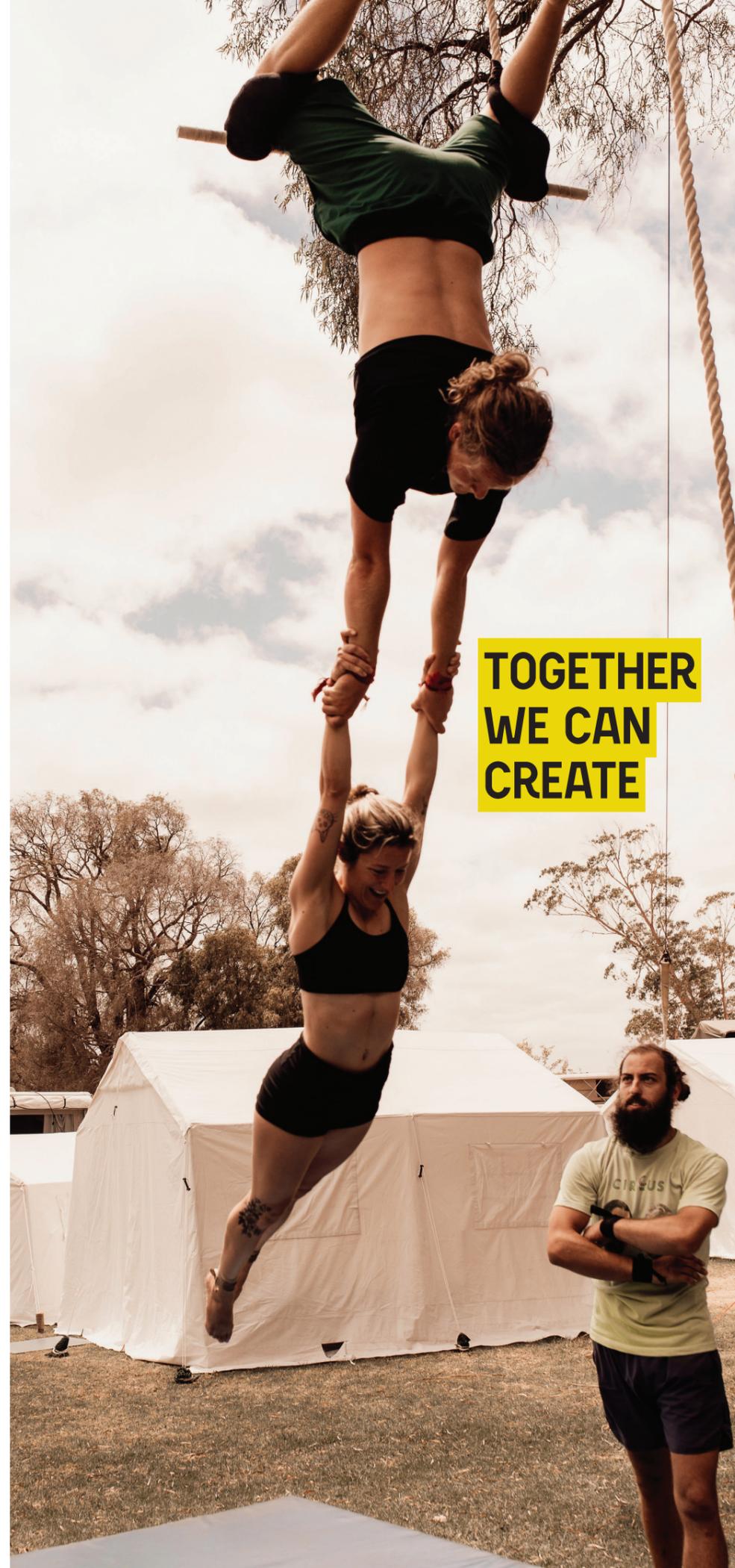
The planning process provided us with an opportunity to review our founding principles, reaffirm our vision and mission, and assess how best to achieve our outcomes focussed goals over the next three years.

Our new planning cycle will see the strengthening of our three key priority programs delivering on the social impact strategies through a theory of change framework. Our priority groups are youth artists, Aboriginal youth and youth living with disabilities. By understanding the unique needs of each of these groups, and through the guidance and support of key partners, CircusWA's programs will continue to flourish and deliver greater outcomes for the young people they serve.

In 2023, we continue to develop new partnerships and expand how we will work to grow opportunities and strengthen the development of circus arts for all in Western Australia. These partnerships will include Theatre Kimberley's Sandfly Circus (Broome), Yirra Yaakin (Perth), SeedArts Australia (Lismore, NSW), Galway Community Circus (Galway, Ireland), DADAA (Perth), Flipside Circus (Brisbane), National Institute of Circus Arts (Melbourne), Flying Fruitfly Circus (Albury Wodonga) and South Australian Circus Centre (Adelaide).

We are taking a consistent and incremental approach to improving and developing our organisational capability, capacity and programs.

Jo Smith
Artistic Director



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

CircusWA has identified four equal and interconnected Strategic Priorities that together will deliver our Vision and Purpose, providing focus for our organisation's activities.

Include

Inspire, catalyse and advocate for youth of all abilities and backgrounds through circus engagement across Western Australia.

Create

Create opportunities for young people of all abilities and backgrounds to participate in Circus Arts programs that are artistically excellent and enhance participants' sense of well being.

Pathways

Create pathways and partnerships to encourage artistic exchange, increase reach and collaboration, and celebrate the unique contribution of Circus Arts in Western Australia.

Sustain

Ensure long term organisational capacity and sustainability.

ARTISTIC VISION

Artistic Policy

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 and 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.

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 are highly skilled in teaching and performing their skill areas. Our circus pedagogy ensures youth are inspired by new and contemporary approaches to training and performance making.

**TOGETHER
WE CAN GROW**



2022 IMPACT OVERVIEW

We believe that circus can change lives and communities for the better.

3960

people engaged with our circus

96

Youth Circus Metro Classes

69

Social Circus Workshops

32

National & State Arts Networks

23

Independent Circus Artists

21

Youth Circus Performers

6

Festival Performances

5

Independent Companies

8

Project Partnerships

3

State & National Tours

3

National & State Arts Networks

180

Students attending weekly Big Top skills training programs

12

Outreach programs for at-risk youth

20

Youth performer participants

**Circus? You Can!
8 kids, 1 class/week**

**Aboriginal Youth Circus
28 kids, 1 class/week**

**Youth Troupes
21 kids, 2 classes/week**

**3 WA Partnerships
1 National Partnership**

DADAA - Flipside - Fliptease - Maxima

3

New productions and developments

THEORY OF CHANGE

Circus is a powerful agent for social change by promoting resilience, self-confidence, self-efficacy, and the ability to work well in a team. Our programs create pathways for young people of all abilities and backgrounds to participate in the arts in a way that is inclusive and enhances participants' sense of wellbeing.

We envision and expect that the accomplishment of the activities detailed in this strategic plan and our theory of change will lead to the following long-term impact.



VISION

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



to... Activities

- Create Youth Circus and Social Circus programs and productions aligned to three priority groups:
 1. Youth artists
 2. Aboriginal youth
 3. Youth living with disabilities
- Deliver Youth Circus programs for young people which focus on the artistic, social and personal development of participants.
- Deliver Social Circus programs that operate under the 'Circus for All' philosophy which aims to help disadvantaged, at-risk and vulnerable people develop self-confidence and social skills, using Circus Arts as a vehicle to tap into their strengths and hidden talents.

so that we... Action

- Inspire, catalyse and advocate for youth of all abilities and backgrounds through circus engagement across Western Australia.
- Create accessible opportunities for young people to participate in circus arts programs that are artistically excellent and enhance participants' sense of well being.
- Create pathways and partnerships to encourage artistic exchange, increase reach and collaboration, and celebrate the unique contribution of circus arts.
- Ensure long term organisational capacity and sustainability.

leading to... Outcomes

More WA youth will have:

- Increased confidence and empowerment, believing they can achieve extraordinary things.
- Improved physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Increased participation in community and cultural activities.
- Inclusion in community and social life with a stronger voice and greater visibility.
- Increased sense of place and belonging.
- Increased capacity to shape and express cultural identity.
- Improved social, personal and life skills.
- Career pathways and opportunities increased and strengthened.
- Reduced financial barriers for engaging in the arts.

Our community will benefit from:

- A larger, diverse and more connected Circus Arts and physical theatre community.
- Artistic work and cultural events that cultivate engagement across diverse audiences.
- A deepened understanding and recognition of the capabilities of people of all abilities and backgrounds.
- Increased investment in First Nations arts and cultural expression.
- Increased opportunities to see and engage with young artists living with disabilities.
- Increased empathy, understanding and tolerance of difference.
- Increased exposure to and awareness of complex societal issues.

CircusWA and the arts and culture sector will benefit from:

- Accessible, catalytic support to generate transformational community-based art and culture.
- Increased attention and investment on building capacity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Artists and communities become social change-oriented.
- Increased collaboration among community, organisations, and the government to increase capacity.
- Stability of cross-sector partnerships and collaboration beyond project periods leading to increased employment and economic opportunities, and meaningful work.



enabling... Impact

- Young people are thriving and healthy, with increased health and wellbeing.
- Youth develop meaningful relationships, a sense of belonging, recognition and civic engagement as they contribute to and are recognised by an inclusive community.
- Social cohesion is fostered, grown and maintained to ensure equal opportunities for all young people so that they can achieve their full potential in life.
- Social participation creates mutual trust among youth and the community, and a culture of activated and informed civil society is grown.
- Partnerships, collaboration and resource sharing are heralded as an axis of sustainable, positive social and artistic impact.
- Engaged audiences develop into stakeholders in the local and national arts ecosystems.

MISSION

To unlock personal and creative potential and deliver social inclusion for all young people through Circus Arts.



Photo: Travis Hayto

SPOTLIGHT ON PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The 'art' of circus is as much a focus as the skills and tricks we teach. We celebrate everyone's unique abilities reflecting creativity in new and exciting ways.

Guided by our priority groups - youth artists, Aboriginal youth, and youth living with disabilities - we design performance programs to grow skilled and diverse circus artists in WA.

Our performance program is developed in response to our young people's world view, and works to ensure their voices are represented in all aspects of planning and delivery.

**TOGETHER
WE CAN BE
STORYTELLERS**

BIG TOP SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMS

CircusWA is a Training and Development Centre for circus skills and performance outcomes all taught out of our traditional Big Top centre. Programs are developed for people interested in a recreational activity - stay fit while having fun - or for people who are seeking circus or physical theatre as a career. During holidays we deliver workshop programs and masterclasses with visiting artists. We accommodate toddlers through to adults. Currently our student age range is from 18months to 62yrs.

180 Participants per term





YOUTH PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS



Eclipse Development

Visioning a future through new physical and visual aesthetics

Partnership with MAXIMA Circus and National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA)

In December 2022, our youth performers began an engagement on a new work for the future - Eclipse. Directed by Ben Sheen (NICA) and Meredith Kitchen (Associate Artist SA Circus Company) In 2022, the first phase of this production was created with NICA's graduating students.

It offers a vision of what our future could, should, would and might just be! Eclipse will explore themes of unity, diversity, harmony, balance, trust, compromise, our humanity, and our fragility.

Across 2023 and 2024 the work will be developed with the CircusWA youth performers and NICA's graduates. Eclipse will be co-directed by Ben Sheen (NICA) and Meredith Kitchen (SA Circus).

11 youth performers

1 new partnership with NICA

1 new exchange with SA Circus Centre



Mentally Healthy WA

Through Act Belong Commit funding we are supporting the development of physically and mentally healthy young people as future artists.



Uglieland 1922

Re-creating 1920s Uglieland Carnival

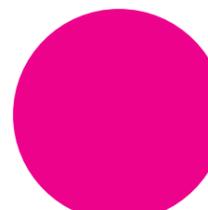
In 1920's post war Perth the Ugly Men's Association ran events to raise money for war widows and their children. For fourteen years In Perth near Elizabeth Quay and in Fremantle near the Train Station, they ran successful carnivals bringing to the people jaw dropping circus acts, freaks, boxing matches, puppet shows and market stalls. As day turned to night a dance stage would be built and hum to the rhythms of feet exploring new youthful dance forms. There they danced the night away with The Charleston, Turkey Trot, Black Bottom Dance and other wildly energetic dances of the time

The site in Perth was referred to as White City and in Fremantle as Uglieland. Attending these carnivals was a melting pot of communities from around Perth, many of whom lived on the Fringes of society. They were events loved by the masses, but derided by the upper class as an immoral space which allowed "...youths, with their hats on... to perform intricate and ... immodest steps with young women whom, probably they have never seen before..." (The West Australian, 1928)

In 2022, the youth troupes performers collected stories from 1922 and brought them to life at Elizabeth Quay as a part of the Boorloo Heritage Festival.

Youth Performer Participants - 15

Audience - 800



DISABILITY CIRCUS PROGRAMS

Circus? You Can! | Skills & Training

A circus training program designed for children and youth living with disabilities.

With professional development support for our trainers from Circus Stars (NSW) and Indelibility Arts (Qld), our trainers will grow their capacity to work with disabled youth and improve our understanding of what we know is possible to achieve. With ongoing access to knowledge and access support from DADAA (Perth), this program will be held in WA.

8 children and youth



**TOGETHER
WE CAN**



be'spoke (A work in development)

Reflecting the stories of teens living with disabilities

The participants of Circus? You Can!, began exploring performance making in 2022 alongside our Troupe performers. The disabled students came to be known as our story tellers and the work took the lead from their reflection on their life. Under the direction of Natano Fa'anana the troupe performers and Story Tellers created a beautiful multi-media presentation for City of Fremantle's 10 Nights in Port.

With the support of Telethon7 be'spoke will continue to be developed to full production for the end of 2023 or beginning 2024

12 youth performers and 4 disabled youth

Audience 600



ABORIGINAL YOUTH CIRCUS PROGRAMS

Funded by the Targetted Participation Program, a joint fund from the Dept of LGSC and Healthway, this 15 month program was developed in partnership with the City of Armadale's Aboriginal led Champion Centre.

We delivered a circus and dance training program underpinned by cultural stories.

This program was held and guided by the community for whom it was designed and delivered at the centre in Armadale and supported locals and Aboriginal artists in the rolls of Program Coordinator, Circus and Dance trainers, Elders and story tellers.

28 weekly participants

280 students in schools



How the Animals Stole the Fire

The story of how the animals stole the fire from the moon was re-told through dance and circus.

Directed by Derek and Damon Nannup

Asst Directors and Lead Trainers Nathan Kell and Sarah Healy

This story was performed 3 times at Armadale's Kambarang Festival, Wardarnji Noongar Festival of Dance, and at the Freo Big Top.

Wardarnji Dance Festival

Presented by Fremantle Arts Centre



YOUTH CIRCUS COMPANY EXCHANGE

Flipside is Queensland's premier youth training company based in Brisbane. Across 2022 our two companies developed an exchange which included:

- CircusWA's training tour to Brisbane
- Flipside's performance tour of We Live Here to Perth
- Mentorship for Directors and Dramaturgs in physical theatre research and development - launching a new production be'spoke

The outcome was an opportunity for two groups of fabulous young and ambitious circus students from across the country to spend time developing skills, being inspired by each other and opening up new worlds and possibilities to each other.

We Live Here

by Flipside Circus

Presented by CircusWA at Awesome Arts

"We Live Here is a stripped back and beautiful homage to the people of Hummingbird House – a youth hospice that provides a comforting and warm home for families undergoing medical treatment..... the show is a gorgeous representation of courage and love." (The Fourth Wall)

Our exchange with Flipside has been supported the WA's State Government via the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and by Healthway with the Act Belong Commit message



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



PARTNERS

CircusWA is a youth-centred artistic organisation that generates pathways to the participation and enjoyment of Circus Arts in Western Australia.

Through our Social Circus practices we generate unique ways of working with diverse communities in our state. Through partnerships and exchanges we compile and utilise research and experiences of National and International companies to strengthen our practices.

Thank you to the following organisations and individuals who partner with us.

PARTNER COMPANIES

FLIPEASE

This is a circus production company with a focus on developing unique productions to suit events or for stage productions. They fill the streets, halls and parks of greater Perth with circus exuberance. They are also a very important feeder company to whom our new emerging performers can work and develop their skills and gain work in WA.

In February 2022 we co-choreographed a performance using aerials and acro for one of our young disabled circus student and three professionals. This work was created to be performed at VarietyWA's annual charity ball for children with disabilities.

RESIDENT COMPANIES OF THE FREQ BIG TOP

CircusWA supports local production companies by offering them a space to train and rehearse in for highly subsidized rates. In exchange the companies' artists offer their time to our youth performers developing training and performance opportunities for them as well as directorial advice. Our Resident Companies since 2021 have been:

Acrobatch

We supported 2 successful grant applications

MAXIMA Circus

We presented their 2022 regional tour of Catch!

Yuck Circus

TOGETHER
WE ARE A
COMMUNITY



FUNDING & PHILANTHROPY

In 2022, CircusWA's Board demonstrated a strong commitment to a growth in philanthropy and sponsorship, which delivered a successful campaign supported by Creative Partnerships Australia. As part of our future planning and operations, fundraising will continue to be a priority for the Board and a key strategy to secure the financial sustainability of the organisation.

Together We Can Plus1 Campaign

circuswa.com/together

In late 2021, CircusWA launched our flagship 2022 fundraising campaign, TOGETHER WE CAN.

Our funding priorities are for our three youth programs that support the growth of WA youth programs for children living with disability, Aboriginal youth, and all aspiring young artists.

Our fundraising aims were to engage our current community, and identify and reach new supporters to grow awareness of CircusWA's programs and impact in our local and wider WA communities.

\$31,370 raised

160 donations

157 individual donors

1 corporate donor

2 new foundations

Continuing Support

The impact of all those who support us so generously is helping to shape the future for WA youth. Whether you choose to support a specific area of our programs, make regular donations or give major gifts, your support is vital and we extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Giving Day

One donation = Twice the impact

Giving Day, aka our biggest fundraiser to date, happened on Sunday 15th May, with all donations doubled thanks to the generosity of Creative Partnerships Australia.

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.

All donations are helping create a more inclusive and diverse circus future here in WA through our programs for Aboriginal youth, children living with disability, and all aspiring young artists.

Some of the key highlights of the Together We Can campaign and Giving Day included:

- A powerful and striking Case for Support and website launched March with authentic, consistent messaging that united all our marketing and communications efforts and showed the depth and breadth of CircusWA's youth programs and how donors funds will be used.
- Our digital marketing and fundraising strategy leveraged the network of our current community and strengthened relationships with our existing followers. We shared content that inspired and informed with impactful photos and videos showing the diversity and inclusivity of our programs and was a powerful way to grow our audience and raise visibility.
- 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.

Level Up Circus Academy

Impact100 Fremantle Grant Winners \$100K

Level Up Circus Academy is our newest ambitious program - WA's first circus academy offering youth of all abilities and backgrounds access, inclusion, and opportunities for cultural and artistic training in the heart of Fremantle.

With guidance from Flipside Circus (Qld), Flying Fruitflies (NSW) and the National Institute of Circus Arts (Vic) Level Up Circus Academy it will be the first of its kind in Western Australia. The program is unique not only because it creates an accessible training program to develop new artists right here in WA, but also by the way we choose participants and define 'excellence' based on diversity of experiences, backgrounds and abilities.

And what an incredible night we had at the Impact100 Fremantle Awards, being awarded the major \$100,000 grant for 2022.

We thank all the donors whose hearts and minds were moved by our vision for the new Level Up Circus Academy. This much-needed funding will support our young artists and help be the fuel needed to change community perceptions and attitudes towards young people, people with disabilities, Aboriginal youth, and diversity of human experiences.

Our heartfelt thanks to all at Impact100 Fremantle, Fremantle Foundation, and the generous donors who joined forces and through the power of their collective giving are supporting us to create a ripple of impact.

Congratulations to all the finalists - Zonta House Refuge Association, Foodbank WA and Waves of Wellness Foundation for your powerful storytelling and important missions.

creative
partnerships
australia

A [C] F

Fremantle
Foundation
Philanthropy for WA

STEP BY STEP

A glimpse into the incredible support of our government and corporate partners whose commitment to CircusWA is invaluable. We thank them for believing in us and our mission.

1980s

State Government gifted Fremantle's Old Customs House to the visual and performing arts sector.

1992-2001

Circus artists launch a training centre and with Government support establish a training and development program.

WA Circus School is incorporated in 2001.

2001-2014

Healthway begins ongoing funding for WA Circus School's community programs promoting 'Be Active'.

Lotterywest pledges ongoing funding to purchase new equipment and grow the delivery and quality of programs.

Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) provides support via subsidised rent and one-off project grants for youth performances and projects for young artists.

2015-2016

New philanthropic engagement with The Fremantle Foundation.

The Merenda Family Fund generously funds four Hilton Aboriginal youth to attend circus training programs.

WA Circus School becomes CircusWA.

2017

CircusWA moves to the Freo Big Top in Princess May Park with financial support from the City of Fremantle, DADAA, Lotterywest, DCA Strategic Initiatives grant, funding from the Federal Government's Better Communities Programme supported by Josh Wilson MP, and a successful community crowdfunding campaign.

2018-2020

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC, formerly DCA) continues supporting program development with a Strategic Initiatives business development grant, plus a grant funding the annual Youth Troupe program.

Lotterywest COVID-19 Relief Fund grant received in 2020 helps alleviate significant impacts from the pandemic.

2021 & THE FUTURE

DLGSC Strategic Initiatives grant supports engagement with consultants Pracsys to develop Feasibility study and Case for Support for a State Centre for Circus and Physical Theatre.

Youth Troupe program supported with second year of program funds from DLGSC.

Annual funding from Healthway supports outreach programming.

Creative Partnerships Australia awards Plus1 funding matching up to \$25,000 of philanthropic contributions.

Governance & Leadership

CircusWA is a non-profit incorporated association, governed by a volunteer Board of Management made up of circus artists, arts industry specialists, skilled business people, and people with diverse ages and social backgrounds.

The Board of Management of CircusWA is committed to identifying and managing areas of significant risk to protect the safety and interests of the organisation, staff and the Board. The eight-member board meets six times per year with four subcommittees who meet additionally: Finance, Fundraising, Organisational Capacity and artistic programming.

Day-to-day management of CircusWA is the responsibility of the Artistic Director together with a team of artistic and administrative staff. Circus values and competencies are reflected in the CircusWA team. We are creative problem-solvers, hard-working, collaborative, adaptive and community-minded.

Financial Overview

Over the next triennium, the key financial priority for CircusWA is to continue to grow and diversify income streams.

In 2022, the organisation established a Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC) to:

- Oversee growth and solidify income, including earned income streams such as term and holiday programs, workshops, team building, festival activities and training space hires.
- Continue to develop and invest into philanthropic and fundraising efforts. NB: By percentage 2021/22 is higher donations - this is due to the support from Creative Partnerships Australia.
- Support programs which respond to the strategic directions of the organisation with capacity to attract strong support through funding and partnerships.
- Regularly assess budgets.
- Risk review and annual auditing processes.

Board of Management

Gavin Corfield – Chair

Gavin followed his children to CircusWA as a student and joined the board in 2018. He has been chair of CircusWA since 2019. Gavin is a Mathematics graduate of Cambridge University and after 6 years in the not for profit sector working for “Youth Hostel Association” in the UK, now works as a software engineer for Rio Tinto.

Sarah Green – General Member

Sarah is Executive Director at NeuroCircus and Artistic Director at Kaleido Company. She is a psychological scientist and performing artist, specialising in circus arts. She has produced, directed and performed locally, regionally and internationally. Sarah also teaches circus with a focus on the therapeutic benefits of circus.

Andrea Rowe – Treasurer

Andrea is the CFO for TAMS Group, a marine services business operating across Australia and PNG. She is the co-owner and Director of The Freo Merchant, a hospitality business in Fremantle. Andrea is a CPA and holds a Bachelor of Accounting. She is currently completing a Graduate Diploma of Applied Corporate Governance and Risk Management.

Natalie Bell – Secretary

Natalie has more than 20 years experience in the screen production and live performance industries. Currently the Head of Production at Prospero Productions, Natalie oversees the management of productions and strategic planning. Previously she was the Executive Producer of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre. Natalie holds a Bachelor of Arts (Media Studies) and a Graduate Diploma in Producing and Screen Business from the Australia Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS).

Richard Longbottom – General Member

Richard is People and Culture Manager for Wide Open Agriculture, Australia's leading ASX-listed regenerative food and agriculture company. Prior to this his career has been in the creative sector in Australia and internationally, beginning as a dancer with the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Richard was General Manager of Tasdance (TAS) and Executive Director of Co3 Contemporary Dance (WA). He has held multiple roles in the community and education sector at WA Ballet, Co3, and Dancenorth. In New Zealand, Richard consulted in Strategy and Investment.

Renee Taiatani – General Member

Renee is a Maori woman raised on Whadjuk boodja with strong cultural and social values that influence both her personal and professional pursuits. Beginning her career in the Community Services sector, she focused on youth and families within cultural and arts. Renee managed programs in circus and arts programs which engaged at-risk and marginalised youth. Renee has an Honors degree in Anthropology and Sociology and is currently a community development officer in local government.

Liz Ledger – General Member

Liz Ledger is an experienced leader, project manager, marketing and communications specialist. Currently employed as the CEO at the Town of Claremont, Liz has 30 years in local government. With degrees in Arts Management and Business, Liz has initiated community development programs Liz is driven by making a positive difference to either the community she serves or the people she works with, and believes creativity is fundamental to this process.

Adelaide Harney – General Member

Adelaide Harney is a Lighting Designer and Theatre Maker who has worked and created in Australia for 6 years. A graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts in Production Technology, she started her theatre career in Naraam (Melbourne) designing and managing live performances. She moved to Boorloo (Perth) in 2020 and worked for the Perth Festival, the Arts Cultural Trust, and with independent artists at the Blue Room Theatre.

Jo Smith – Artistic Director (non-voting)

Jo Smith is an Arts Manager with 20+ years of experience and has worked for CircusWA since 2017. Throughout the 90's and early 2000's she studied and worked in sociology and linguistics while developing a practice as a performance installation artist. As an arts leader she has produced and directed festivals, with a strong focus on community arts. In Australia she has worked in WA and the NT, and overseas in China and the UAE.

“

CircusWA is the very foundation of my professional career. Their existence helped me turn my passion into my career, supporting me to fulfil my dream of being an international professional circus artist. They gave me a community which I now call my family.

—
Jeremy Nuuk

Independent Circus and
Physical Theatre Artist, Finland



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