





At the start of this financial year the board went into strategic planning, the outcome of which was an exciting new artistic and social engagement plan up until 2025. This Strategic Plan formed the backbone of a successful application to the state government for annual funding via the state governments Arts Organisational Investment Program. This was an exciting acknowledgement that what we do and how we deliver it is important and it should be maintained.

Also at the end of 2022 we were given another acknowledgement from Impact100 Fremantle who awarded us with their Major Grant of \$100k. With these funds we launched the Level Up Circus Academy in 2023.

This last has also seen us expand our advocacy work on acquiring a new training centre. With the Freo Big Top aging and the complexities of tent life wearing down our dedicated team, achieving an outcome before the 2024 AGM will be crucial for CircusWA's capacity to grow and thrive. I am proud of the headway we've made towards this and believe that our incoming board have the skills to finalise this transition during their tenure.

CircusWA continues to deliver way beyond what could be reasonably expected of such a small operations team. This is due to dedicated office personnel and amazing Circus Trainers. I especially wish to acknowledge our tireless Artistic Director Jo Smith without whose vision and determination this would not be possible. Over my time we have increased resources to her team, but it's barely kept apace with her drive to go further and prove that more is possible with youth and circus. This strength of resolve is felt across the whole organisation and is reflected in the successful creative programs delivered over the past 12 months, and the vision set for 2023/24.

This year I will step down after six years on the board. It's been an amazing journey and I'm grateful to all who make up CircusWA. I'd like to acknowledge other departing board members Liz Ledger and Renee Taiatani and pay special recognition to our departing long serving board members Andrea Rowe, Natalie Bell and Sarah Green. Thank you for all the work you have contributed over the years.

Guin Cofeld

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.



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 selfconfidence and social skills, using Circus Arts as a vehicle to tap into their strengths and hidden talents.



- 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.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

2,740
Audience

1,277
attended circus training



180
Circus Classes

197

Priority Participants 60

Social Circus workshops

31

Youth Academy Performers 18

Guest Artists

12

Emerging Artists supported

10

Project Partners

8

Festival Performances 3

Arts Networks Engaged With _

National Tours

CircusWA's youth programs create pathways for young people of all abilities and from all backgrounds to participate in the arts in a way that is inclusive and enhances participants' sense of wellbeing.



TOGETHER WE GROW



artistic vision

CircusWA is a training and development centre accommodating people's ambitions to create and perform. We work to ensure a safe space where all people can play, take risks and learn to connect.

The core of why we exist is to grow artists of the future from the youth of the Freo Big Top. Via the *Level Up Circus Academy*, we are creating programs which are focused on artistic and skills development and supports diversity in its makeup. Participants in the Academy are given the opportunity to create new productions, work with Guest Directors and artists, and in doing so they experience processes of production and the integral role artists have in our society.

THE LEVEL UP CIRCUS ACADAMY has four streams:

- **Priority streams**: Aboriginal Youth Circus in Armadale and Midland and Disabilities youth in Circus? You Can!.
- **Development stream**: for 10—15yr olds dipping their toes into the water
- *Performance Stream*: for students 15yrs and up who are driven to perform and further their practice

CircusWA is supporting youth to unapologetically be artists. By empowering young people through circus arts they are given agency and opportunities to share the unique values of their circus community. We are creating the building blocks for long-lasting positive changes both as artists and as future leaders in our communities.

artistic process

CircusWA is dedicated to creating 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.

artistic partners

The following organisations are the support foundation from which CircusWA can aim high and deliver quality productions and programs:

- Flipside Circus (Brisbane)
- NICA (Melbourne)
- Head Over Heels (Bunbury)
- Theatre Kimberley (Broome)
- MAXIMA Circus
- Fliptease
- Acrobatch

LEVEL UP CIRCUS ACADEMY

Program Directors:

Ben Kotovski-Steele; Sarah Healy; Steph Pick

Performance Academy

- Uglieland 1923
- B'Spoke (1st development)
- Eclipse (research intensive)



2023/24 Guest Directors:

Natano Fa'anana (b'spoke); Nel Simpson (Uglieland 1923); Ben Sheen & Meredith Kitchen (Eclipse); Derek Nannup (Wardarnji)

Guest Trainers/Artists:

Sam Ren and Bernadette Lewis (Contact Improvisation); Nick Candy (Clown); Tristan Glover (clown & juggling); Shenzo Gregorio (music); Junkadelic (marching band); Bryan Woltjen (Set Design); Roly Skender & Hugo Flavelle (multi-media)

Development Academy

- Uglieland 1923
- High Voltage
- Melville Mid-Winter Festival



Circus? You Can! (disabilities)

• B'Spoke (1st development)



Aboriginal Youth Circus

- Wardarnji Noongar Dance Festival
- NAIDOC at City of Armadale
- Crossing Wires tightwire workshop



SOCIAL CIRCUS

Social Circus is an outreach training program delivered in the form of weekly or intensive skills workshops to build engagement with schools, community groups, and in public spaces. The aim is to use the joy and physicality of circus to bring community together in a fun shared space of exploration and joy.

Throughout the year CircusWA has delivered 82 workshops across greater Perth from Yanchep to Kwinana for Aboriginal Youth, Youth and children with disabilities and community centres working with disengaged youth.

CircusWA has also delivered over 16 workshops to regional and remote areas: Pilbara, Great Southern, Central and Northern Wheatbelt and Esperance/Goldfields.

Thanks to Healthway CircusWA are able to support regional and remote areas to gain access to unique programs focused on engagement, connection to others, trust and achieving fun skills to share with each other and take home.



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



Trainers 2022-23

Our Trainers are the backbone of the organisation offering students of all ages high level skills training and industry knowledge. Trainers are engaged for diverse skills sets to ensure we can deliver a dynamic program with a breadth of skills. They also work to ensure the physical and emotion wellbeing of our students.

Trainers carry multiple roles doubling as Riggers, Venue Managers, admin support, Asst Directors and Directors.

Most have lived experiences as circus artists with many still performing or Directing. Their lived experiences as artists informs the way our students are introduced to Circus as both a recreational activity as well as a profession.













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



PHILANTHROPY

CircusWA is dedicated to promoting circus arts and fostering community engagement and in 2022/23 they administered a fundraising campaigns to sustain and further their impactful youth programs.



A successful application to the
Fremantle Foundations philanthropic
program IMPACT100 FREMANTLE
supported the development of WA's first
youth circus academy - The Level Up
Circus Academy With \$100k investment
we've managed to support 61 youths to
grow in practice and ambition. This year
the Academy has presented three large
productions as well as four smaller
performances for community events:
Disability Support Awards; Fremantle
Long Table Dinner fundraiser for
homelessness; Telethon7; WA Day
Lotterywest

Our **Giving Day** campaign/event 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.

A powerful and striking Case for Support and website with authentic, consistent messaging and trust building testimonials 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 funding priorities are for three youth programs that: improve the quality of life for individuals with disability and their families; increase cultural participation; increase a sense of connectedness and capacity to shape and express cultural identity; help young people to grow artistically, personally and professionally; and increase engagement in the arts.

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

This has been achieved and places us in a fabulous position to grow from strength to strength.

FUNDERS







Fremantle









PROJECT PARTNERS













australia







CIRCUWA TEAM 2022/23

governance

Gav Corfield (*Chair*)
Sarah Green (*Vice Chair*)
Andrea Rowe (*Treasurer*)
Natalie Bell (*Secretary*)

Renee Taiatani Liz Ledger

Richard Longbottom Adelaide Harney

operations

Jo Smith: Artistic Director Jo Lee: Admin Assistant

Ben Kotovski-Steele: Academy Director Admin

Sonya Harcourt: Finance Officer

Samantha Re: Coordinator Aboriginal Program

Rachel Handelman: Coordinator outreach Rainer Kosok: Venue Manager

contractors

Sarah Waddle Phil Ben Kotovski-Steele Hea

Lynne Wilkey Tashi Hall Philanthropy/Fundraising







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 areas and social hardway

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 eightmember board meets six times per year with four subcommittees who meet additionally: Finance, Fundraising, Organisational Capacity and artistic programing.

Day-to-day management of CircusWA is the responsibility of the Artistic Director together with a team of artistic and administrativ 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 to continue to grow and diversify income streams.

In 2022, the organisation established a Finance, Risk and Audi 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 philanthrop 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 hudgets.
- 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.

WA CIRCUS SCHOOL INC STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue from continuing operations		590,568	564,852
Employment Costs		(237,240)	(256,100)
Cost of sales		(80,750)	(96,298)
Gross Profit		272,578	212,454
Other Income	2	894	9
Depreciation		(3,617)	(3,816)
Employment costs		(166,846)	(196,936)
Establishment expenses		(2,423)	(2,491)
Finance costs		(5,651)	(5,811)
General expenses		(14,987)	(16,406)
Insurance		(17,224)	(15,324)
Legal and professional fees		(12,166)	(1,095)
		(222,912)	(241,880)
Profit for the period		50,559	(29,416)

WA CIRCUS SCHOOL INC STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
Cash flow from operating activities			
Receipts from customers		643,239	660,882
Payments to suppliers and employees		(566, 754)	(546,217)
Net interest paid		(4,757)	(5,801)
Other revenue		200	*
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	9	71,727	108,864
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		•	-
Proceeds from disposal of plant			•
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities			17.50
Cash flow from financing activities			
Loans from / (to) related parties		(12,000)	80
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities		(12,000)	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		59,727	108,864
Cash at the beginning of financial year		188,533	79,669
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year		248,260	188,533

WA CIRCUS SCHOOL INC STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	248,261	188,533
Trade and other receivables	4	1,082	4,935
		249,343	193,468
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	47,494	51,110
		47,494	51,110
Total Assets		296,836	244,579
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	40,003	75,123
Income Received in Advance		149,600	100,782
		189,603	175,905
Non Current Liabilities			
Loans Payable - Related Party	7		12,000
			12,000
Total Liabilities		189,603	187,905
Net Assets		107,233	56,673
Equity			
Accumulated surplus/(loss)	8	107,233	56,673
Total Equity		107,233	56,673



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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.

Jeromy Nuuk Independent Circus and Physical Theatre Artist, Finland



