



Whadjuk Country
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BOARD NOMINATION OVERVIEW Elections 18th October 2023



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CircusWA acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation are the spiritual and cultural birdiyngara (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 respect to our Elders past and present.

ABOUT CIRCUSWA

CircusWA is located in the heart of Fremantle delivering circus training and development programs from The Freo Big Top. CircusWA exists for the development of Western Australia's youth through innovative social circus and artistic programming. Via partnerships and exchanges we deliver outstanding circus training and performance opportunities ensuring young people are supported to be healthy, socially connected, and ambitious. We inspire and enable people from all cultural backgrounds and abilities to participate in circus arts sharing their skills and creativity with the community.

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

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.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The following interconnected Strategic Priorities together deliver our Vision and Purpose, providing focus for the organisation's activities.

INCLUDE

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

CREATE

Create pathways for young people to participate in circus arts programs that are inclusive, artistically excellent and enhance a sense of well-being.

PROMOTE

Create pathways and partnerships to encourage artistic exchange and celebrate the unique contribution of circus arts in Western Australia.

SUSTAIN

Ensure long term organisational capacity and sustainability.

GENERAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board has a fiduciary responsibility for the governance of CircusWA. The role of the Board is to ensure compliance, improve performance and approve the strategic direction of the Circus. Advocacy and fundraising will be an important role of this Board from 2023-2026 and therefore a commitment to attend relevant circus sector and arts industry events and government engagements, as well as represent the circus in the corporate sector.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is responsible for:

- Determining the future viability of CircusWA through a managed review.
- Understanding, reviewing, and approving the strategic and business plans, operating plans, and budgets
- Overseeing effective governance
- Succession planning
- Growing the visibility of circus to the general population
- Grow the visibility and importance of Social Circus and youth engagement to all levels of government and philanthropic connections
- Strategically lobby private and government sectors for increased investment in the development of CircusWA's priority programs
- Attend all board meetings
- Participate on at least one subcommittee/working group
- Attend CircusWA's events – including annual showcases and youth productions
- Actively participate in presenting an annual 'Friends of the Freo Big Top' fundraising event

BOARD MEMBERSHIP SKILLS

Board members are chosen to represent and reflect a range of knowledge, skills and experiences which will be of benefit to the management and guidance of CircusWA's activities and programs. Collectively the board aims to possess the following areas of knowledge and experience:

- ABORIGINAL YOUTH
- YOUTH LIVING WITH DISABILITIES
- SOCIAL CIRCUS AS A TRANSFORMATIONAL TOOL
- GOVERNANCE
- FINANCE
- CIRCUS AND ARTS SECTOR KNOWLEDGE
- NOT FOR PROFIT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

BOARD CODE OF CONDUCT

Board members must act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the Circus

Board members have a duty to use due care and diligence in fulfilling the functions of their role and exercising powers attached to their role.

Board members must not make improper use of information acquired as a board member.

Board members must maintain confidentiality with respect to matters and information acquired as a board member.

Board members must not take advantage of being in the position of a board member.

Board members must not allow personal interests, or the interests of any associated person to conflict with the interests of the Circus.

Board members must be mindful of conflicts of interests between other board or executive roles they hold and their responsibility to the Circus.

Board members have an obligation to be independent in judgement and actions and to take all reasonable steps to be satisfied as to the soundness of all decisions taken by the board.

Board members have an obligation, always, to comply with the spirit, as well as the letter, of all laws and regulations of the Western Australian and Australian governments.

Board members must act with respect towards each other, CircusWA's membership, Executive, Staff, and stakeholders

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE AND PLACE

The first board meeting of the new 2024/25 board will occur directly after the AGM on **Monday 4th November 2024** at the Circus Office.

There will be six board meetings a year. The schedule and times of meetings will be discussed and considered at the first meeting and shared via calendar invites.

In addition to the six board meetings will be scheduled sub-committee meetings. This schedule will be developed in conversation between the sub-committee members and the Artistic Director following the first general board meeting.

Meetings will all be held at:
The Circus Office
Adelaide Street Plaza
39 Adelaide St, Fremantle

