From 2008 to 2014 we were based out of a shared gym space in a local community center. The size and limited access to the space constrained training opportunities for students and professionals alike. Our community stepped up, and contributed $250,000 in just three weeks so that we could secure our first dedicated facility and open our doors in April of 2015.

Once established in our new facility, and with the support of major donors and a small army of volunteers, we were able to more than double the number of at-risk youth served through our Social Circus programs: from 119 in 2014 to 288 in 2015. Our public Academy witnessed a similar, dynamic trend, tripling from 152 students in 2014 to 452 in 2015. In addition, we produced our most successful gala to date, toured our pre-professional youth company across country to Maine, produced four Community Showcases, and created featured performances for a number of corporate and nonprofit events.

We ended 2015 in the best organizational shape of our history.

The accomplishments described herein are a testament to the generosity of our donors and volunteers, the talent and determination of our staff, the dedication of our students, and the power of contemporary circus to nourish personal growth as well as community development. Our greatest achievement lies in uniting students, professional artists, staff, and donors to elevate the craft to new heights, and create a place where everyone, regardless of age, physical ability, economic, or social background, can become an artist.

Thank you for helping us build a sacred training ground where the joint spirits of creating art and living creatively are harnessed for community transformation.

Jenn Cohen
Founder & Artistic Director
Give a kid a meal and you feed him for a day.

Teach a kid to fly and you feed her for a lifetime.

Integrated Programs
transcends social barriers + inspires personal transformation through contemporary circus instruction + performance.

The Circus Project was founded on a simple yet innovative idea: that the unique appeal of circus arts can benefit marginalized youth in unprecedented ways—and that in turn, their unique perspectives will propel the growing field of circus arts to new heights.

What began in 2008 as a pioneering experiment to empower homeless youth through the development of original, skilled circus productions, has grown organically into a thriving arts organization that serves a diverse community through a public Academy, professional performances, and a spectrum of Social Circus programs that utilize circus arts to facilitate individual and community transformation.

Each of these programs support and enhance the others, working on multiple levels to promote personal development, artistry, and social justice.

“Joyous, innovative and creative. This is a community gem.”
THE REZA CANNO, PARENT
“SMYRC’s partnership with the Circus Project was the highlight of the summer.

The activities provided **new creative outlets** for physical wellness, emotional stability, and new coping skills.

Coaches challenged youth to go beyond their self-perceived limits, all while being respectful of each youths’ individual identity.”

_Elaina Medina, SMYRC Program Manager, New Avenues for Youth_

Art is food for the soul, but here at the Circus Project, it also offers a concrete pathway to independence for homeless and at-risk youth. The Circus Project’s award-winning Social Circus programs utilize circus arts as a vehicle to teach self-care, discipline, accountability and teamwork to youth for whom other paradigms have failed.
Students learned the value of teamwork, unity, health & fitness and academic success. Students who started the term with behavioral challenges emerged as class leaders who were able to exercise self-control.

CINDA R JACKSON, SEL/SUN BEACH SITE MANAGER

Social Circus

Highlights

288 Total youth served in 2015 (up from 152 in 2014)

Doubled the number of youth enrolled in after-school workshops

80% of students reported positive changes in self-esteem, body image, ability to take safe risks

90% of students expressed interest in continued training through extended offerings at partner sites and through free tuition in our Academy

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The Circus Project’s Academy offers recreational and pre-professional programs for children and adults from all walks of life. A continuum of training opportunities advance the field by fashioning a new generation of innovative artists, while tuition fees support our Social Circus programs.

“The Circus Project is the only educational opportunity in Portland that encompasses an array of circus training, all with opportunities for students to integrate theatrical and dance elements. We are lucky to have the Circus Project in our community!”

RHEANN NILES, STUDENT
Performances

Performances are a critical component to the success of our mission—using artistic excellence to promote social change.

**2015 ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS**

- And still I rise: sold-out opening gala
- Spanners Spheres: interactive live art event
- Four Community Showcases featuring students and professionals from around the world

**Audience Members** 3250+
Financial Snapshot

2015 was our most successful financial year to date. We surpassed our goals for both earned and contributed income, and came in under projected expenses.

"I cannot even begin to describe how amazing this place is. The facility is incredible, the staff is even more incredible, and the classes are fabulous."
LAURA MCKONE, PARENT
“Circus Project Teaches Homeless Kids to Fly. It’s Awesome.”
Upworthy

“The Circus Project Flying Higher than Ever with New Space and School Programs”
The Oregonian

“America’s Top Aerialist”
Willamette Week

TCP FEATURED IN
Craft Brewing Convention, Beer City Big Top
Basic Rights Oregon Gala
Oregon Trial Lawyers Snowball
Galaxy Festival
American Youth Circus Festival, Portland, Maine

2015 Press
2015 Circus Project
Supporters

In Honor of
Alexia Bear
by David Powell
Ronnie Bennett
by Christine & Stuart Cohen
Friends of the Children
by Campbell Foundation
FrightTown Staff and Volunteers
by David Hefty & Stacy Bolt
Heny Hogland-Rapes
by James Rapes
Kirsten Collins
by Donna Flanders & Carl Collins
Eric and Lisa Neuman
by Geoffrey & Joy Neuman
Bylette Sloan
by Lindsey Sloan
Adam Schohorn
by Linda & Steven McGeady
Lenora Sher
by Jeffrey Sher

In Memory of
Helen McInchol, and Bonnie Egan
by Tom McShan & Anne Egan
Jack Schlafter
by Dr. Mauro & Andrew Conlon-McIvor

In-Kind
Kelsie Alsheh
Jennyl & Shayne Brouse, Shady Lady Lighting
Juliana Barlow
Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream
Theresa Cavan
Jenn Cohen
Cupcake Jones
Joe Benson
Gary Donnell
Figurine Plant
Fosler Portland architecture
Happy’s Heart foundation
Catherine Hyland
Lucas Neely
Nike, Inc.
James G. Plamondon, Inc.
Portland Badge & Sign Company
Craig Rodda
David Santley
Stainless Cidar Solutions
Cindy Thompson Event Productions
Touch of Gray Painting
M&A Quality Home Maintenance

$50,000+
Ariene Schnitzer

$25,000+
The Collins Foundation*
Anonymous (2)

$15,000+
James F. & Martin L. Miller Foundation
Nike Employee Grant Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation

$10,000+
Ronni Lacroute*

$7500+
Charlotte Martin Foundation
Hoofer Family Foundation

$5000+
Cirque du Soleil.
Maybelline Clark Macdonald Fund*
McGeady Family Foundation*
Regional Arts & Culture Council

$2500+
Autzen Foundation
Kirsten Collins
Kay Richeal & Daniel Kaplan
Susan Richman & Peter Mark
The Standard
Vedden-Kennedy

$1000+
Christine & John Bakalar
Brownstein Family Foundation*
Theresa & David Cavan
Concept Entertainment
Six LLC*

$100+
Representative
Margaret Boherty*
Ann Edlen*
Earl Hines*
The Jack Jackson Foundation
Barry & Melissa Miller*
Joan Mitra
Pediatric Dentist
Mia Schnitzer
Hertsel Shadian
Megan and Thomas Shipley*
Philip (Tyler) Silver*

$500+
George & Patricia Andrews
Bank of the Cascades
Stephen & Anne Clemens
Jenn Cohen
Jonathan Edwards*
Toni Fitch
Douglas Lovett*
David Sankey
Kate Solomon
Bob Spaltz*
Sonja Strub
Dorie Sullivan*

$250+
Patricia & Paul Buescher
Kern & Anne Edwards*
Steve Fosler*
Jon Henrichsen & Monica Brenner
Jessie Hudson*
Tom Markey
Kathryn Menard
Microsoft Matching Gifts
Rebecca Morgan
Nike Matching Gift Program
George Thorn
Susan Towery*
Suzanne Van Aelbergh*
Sutter Ke немer & Anna Bellwittes*

$100+
Stephen Alguares*
Susan & Douglas Ahnies*
Tawn Allen
AmazonSelles
Phipps Breen
Laure Becker*
Clay Bickendorf & Erika Schustene
Margaret Bloomfield*
Susan Dragdon
Heather Buis*
Elaine & Gary Barouch*
Gall & Dan Dowderty*
Robin Duntsi
Jan Dwight
Ebay Employee Foundation
Robert & Kathy Velder
Fred Meyer Community Rewards
David Goldenen*
Eric Gonsalves
Drane Goodwin*
Nicolas Gross*
Darina Haren-Hu*
Sarah Hart*
Philip Williare*
John Hinds*
Jamie Hurd*
Michael & Patricia Johnson*
Kiri Jones*
Cindy Knowles*
Mark Lindau
Jo Merson
Mara McSayed*
Daan Menken
Monica Mueller*
Katherine Oberholzer*
Laurie O’Brien
Lila Overt*
Caroline Petrich & Kirk Keller*
Julia Ploumen*
Paule Prince*
Annie Bopp*
Frankie & Michael Royce
Shelia Selies*
Jeanine Ward
Mona Werner*
Brian Weaver*
Peter Venwitz*

Up to $99
Bashik Altman*
Steve Amman*
Kimberly Anderson*
Kate Andries
Anonymous
Barbara Backstrand*
Justin Biglar*
Karla Bolt*
Ben Bouman*
Chris Bucci*
Kirsten Burns*
David Cantor*
Gary Clarke
Amada Clifford*
Gary Donnell*
Rich Edlen*
Geoffrey Searing*
Richard & Ruthanne Feln*
Frank Goff*
Debra & Michael Golden*
Dan Griffith*
Gabriel Guard*

Chad & Serra Hadei*
Esther Hakeki*
Gail Harris*
Terri Hart*
Julie Hastings*
William & Elizabeth Hathaway*
Morton Honig*
Ewina Hrner*
Tamara Horton*
Sheryl Howitz & Larry Knudsen*
Le Happy*
Sun Lee*
Judy Jewell & Paul Levy
(Delete: Linda Levy)
Nancy Johns*
Diane Johnson*
Michael Johnson*
Willa Keegan-Rodwell*
Matthew Kiger*
Danielie Kienack *
Sarah Knudsen*
Teresa Kostawmen*
Crystal Lorenzo*
Sharon Mensel*
Amanda Mather*
Robert & Ann Mathers*
John Murphy*
Linda Nelson*
Jennifer Savell*
Julie Dolen*
Heather Penncott*
Colleen Purgill*
Juli Saltreill*
Joseph Shaine*
Eric Simons*
William Small*
Kimberly Smith*
Vilas & David Solomon*
Michael Spatze*
Art Steinberg-Lake
William Stewart*
Teresa S. St. Martin
Phil Stoddard*
(Delete: vespertine Giving)
Michael Wallisch*
Cherie Keinwright*
Shirley Williams*
Amanda Zabohn*
Lenore Zanger*

* First time support
Donate
Your contribution will more than quadruple the number of students we serve over the next three years. It will provide a training ground and employment for professional artists, as well as a home base for homeless students. And, it will ensure that children from all backgrounds can actualize their innate potential and become the gifted leaders they were destined to be.

Volunteer
From dedicated committees to special projects, we’ll match your interests with meaningful work.

Take a Class
Drop-in & series classes, as well as private instruction are available for every age and ability. Check out our Circus Summer Camps, Intensives, and Corporate Workshops while you’re at it. You’re never too old to join the circus!

Book our Troupe
The Circus Project performs at corporate, civic, and private events throughout the U.S. We hire from around the world to ensure the best artist for your event. Awe your guests with cutting-edge entertainment while contributing to a worthy cause!

Rent our Space
Our beautiful, 4,184 sq ft contemporary Pearl District facility (with parking and AC) is available for meetings, events, and parties.

Join the Circus!

“For once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there will you long to return.”

LEONARDO DA VINCI
Board of Directors

Jenn Cohen, Founder & Director, the Circus Project, Process Worker
Kirsten Collins, Grant Writer & Fundraising Consultant, KC Grants
Caroline Petrich, Principal, CKP & Associates
Nelda Reyes, Principal, AB Cultural Drivers & Performer
Hertsel Shadian, Attorney at Law

Resource Council

Pippa Arend, Program Director, p:ear
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Mary Faulkner, Vice President of Marketing, Ferguson Wellman Capital Management
Commissioner Nick Fish, Arts & Cultural Council
Phelim McDermott, Director, Improbable Theatre, UK & Broadway, New York
Linda McGeady, RACC Board, Randall Children’s Hospital Art Committee
Jordan Schnitzer, President, Harsch Investment Properties
Kate Sokoloff, Creative Director, Kate Sokoloff Creative
George Thorn, Arts Action Research
Julie Vigeland, Oregon Arts Commission, Jackson Foundation, & Arts Advocate

Staff

Jenn Cohen, Artistic/Executive Director
Monica Brenner, Operations Manager
Linda Sheeley, Office Manager
Amelia Bear, Academy Coordinator
Anna Sell, Social Circus Coordinator
Kari Jay Hunter, Lead Coach