

# VISION FOR SUPPORTING AMERICAN CIRCUS ARTS

A group of leaders from the circus community is working to unify the sector to support circus arts in the USA. We are reaching out to stakeholders in the circus arts world and beyond, seeking representation from all corners, and building financial support from within and beyond the circus sector for our ambitious agenda. We hope that three existing organizations, the American Youth Circus Organization, the American Circus Educators Association, and Circus Now will come together, along with others, to create an umbrella for mutual support.

Will you help us?

To hear more and stay engaged  
[circusinamerica@gmail.com](mailto:circusinamerica@gmail.com)

The circus umbrella's purpose will be to advance circus arts in the USA.

Our vision is to provide support for education, artistry, and appreciation, empowering generations to enjoy lifelong engagement with the circus arts.

We plan to form this circus umbrella with four important values in mind:

- We want to create strong and unified youth, professional, and educational circus arts communities, and to show clear lifelong pathways for those who wish to engage.
- There are many different ways to participate in circus arts - as students, performers, technicians, promoters, supporters, or audience members.
- The circus arts form a vital part of American culture. We picture a day when Americans are familiar with the diversity of circus arts throughout our country.
- We encourage respect for circus history, recognize that circus present is thriving and growing, and believe that the future of circus is open for invention.





Photo: Abby Phipps

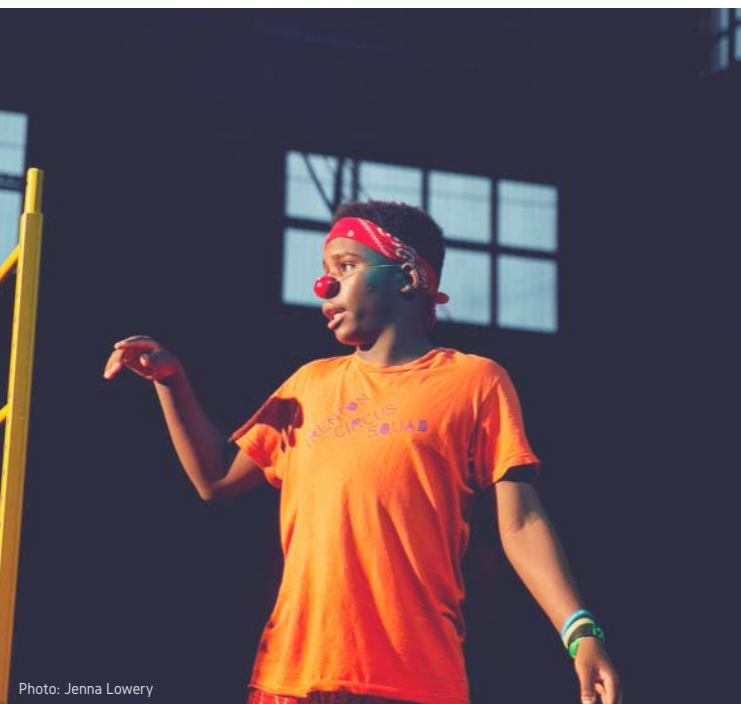


Photo: Jenna Lowery

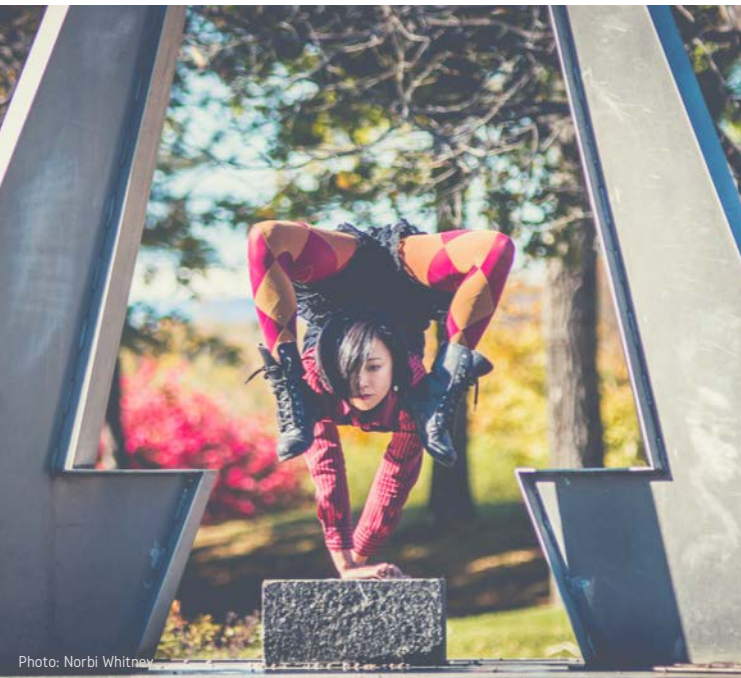


Photo: Norbi Whitney

# VISION

Unified, supported and empowered youth, professional, and educational circus arts communities

1. Youth circus artists are connected, engaged, and linked to resources and institutions that can help them pursue their chosen pathway in circus.
2. Circus arts practitioners and educators can access the educational and professional development resources they need, including opportunities to connect virtually and in person.
3. Qualified circus educators can meet the demand of circus schools, particularly for advanced level instruction.
4. Emerging performance groups can access the space and funding they need to create high quality work.
5. Arts funders recognize circus arts as a distinct discipline and invest in its advancement.
6. Leading circus artists and companies in the USA have the capacity to create work of the same quality as international leaders in the field.
7. Professional circus arts workers command respect and fair compensation.
8. US institutions participate actively in international circus arts networks that provide inspiration through artistic exchange.
9. Circus practitioners can rely on the circus umbrella to represent their interests and to provide up-to-date information on the scale and nature of the circus arts sector.

Circus as a vital part of American culture.

10. Universal access to quality recreational circus training for all youth and adults.

11. Circus arts plays a significant role in physical and arts education in schools.

12. Circus arts play a part in the national conversation about the importance of the arts.

13. Widespread inclusion of circus arts programming by performing arts festivals and venues.

14. Circus arts performance reaches diverse audiences across the US.

15. A vibrant, articulate critical community provides commentary on circus arts presentations.

16. The power of circus arts to heal trauma, build community and develop individuals is widely understood, and circus arts are extensively employed in therapeutic settings and to address social challenges.

Respect for history, support for the present, and invention of the future

17. A vibrant commentary on the history of circus in the USA thrives and continues to be built.

18. Circus artists understand the wide range of possible approaches to creating performance and clear pathways exist for those who wish to engage with circus arts as performers, directors, choreographers, and designers.

19. The culture of safety in circus arts is preserved and supported.

20. Circus arts feature as courses of study at higher education institutions and are widely written about in scholarly journals.



Photo: Andy Chen



Photo: Circus Smirkus



Photo: Jenna Sptiz