



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**CIRCABILITY
TRUST**



Emma Ferens - Circability Tutor Trainee

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Circability Trust details:

Incorporated: 2563482

Registered charity: CC48564

Address: 203-271 Victoria St W, Auckland, 1010

Chairperson: Erwin van Asbeck | 021 141 9555 | erwinvanasbeck@slingshot.co.nz

Creative Director: Thomas Hinz | 021 209 8507 | thomas@circability.org

Operations Manager: Marília Pereira | 021 220 9246 | office@circability.org

Website: www.circability.org

NGĀ MIHI NUI!

First and foremost, thank you to our wonderful team of tutors and operational support, and to those who have contributed to Circability development and success over the past 12 months.

Thank you to our primary funders; the Ministry of Culture and Heritage and the Ministry of Youth Development for believing in the power of inclusion, and your support and acknowledgement of the role we play in the development and wellbeing of our communities.

We would also like to thank and acknowledge Foundation North and NZ Lotteries Grants Board for the significant contribution towards the operations of Circability.

In addition, we would like to thank our other funders going forward including Creative New Zealand, Sport New Zealand, Auckland Council, IHC, Lion Foundation, TECT, Far North District Council.

And finally, a special thank you to those who we work closely with throughout the year. The provision of generous in-kind support and on-going partnerships has been invaluable.

Thank you for supporting our work and community!



BOARD MEMBERS

Thank you to our volunteer board of trustees and advisors for your strategic input, guidance and amazing generosity over the past 12 months.



Erwin van Asbeck
Chairman
Arts Community



Ron de Vries
Treasurer
Business and Finance



Angela Withers
Trustee
Education



Christopher Adams
Trustee
Events and Health & Safety



Roka Bunyan
Disability Representative



Alysha Dodampegamage
Youth Representative



Kieran Taylor
Youth Representative

CHAIR STATEMENT

Tena koutou tena koutou tena koutou katoa
Nau mai haere mai ki te Circability Trust.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to present Circability's annual report.

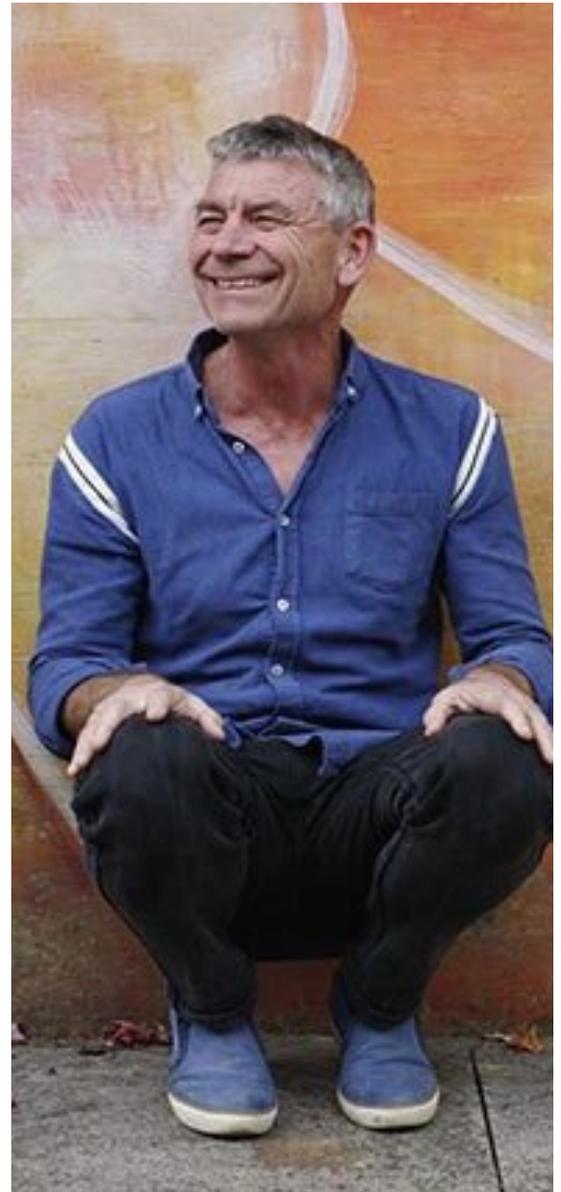
As a charitable trust we have entered into our thirteenth year and like many community and social service providers we are navigating new and more complicated terrain in our pursuit to improve the opportunities we provide to the people and communities we serve.

As an organisation working together we have to some good measure been successful in our strategic aim in growing and expanding our reach through securing contracts and funding to not only survive but thrive in this challenging post covid world.

Our annual report will reflect the many ways we are working our social circus magic, supporting a diverse community with challenging needs and circumstances; from vulnerable tamariki and rangatahi, disability and mental stress, the elderly and marginalised. Our broad and diverse programmes reflect manaakitanga – inclusion, participation and accessibility for all, enhancing wellbeing, resilience and personal development.

Our mantra All Ages – Abilities – Cultures – Better Together, guides us in our daily work, and these are crucial times for people to make meaningful connections, experience positive challenges and achievements, to have fun together, and feel included in their communities.

Our 2023 Annual Report is a celebration of our mahi and the new initiatives we are developing across the motu.



Circability Trust is committed to:

Respecting and implementing the dual heritage of the partners of Te Tiriti o Waitangi through the principles and values of Manaakitanga - Whanaungatanga - Kotahitanga -working to engage and develop partnerships, authentic alignment and collaborations to serve our communities.

Operate in alignment with the New Zealand Disability Strategy;

Respecting the cultural and personal diversity of people and encourage people from all nationalities to utilise the Trust's facilities and services;

An inclusive participatory kaupapa, inspiring people to reach their full potential;

Working cooperatively with others in the disability, youth development and social service provider sector;

Develop national and international services and partners to promote Social Circus and Resilient communities;

The development and implementation of a tertiary training qualification and employment pathway through our POI initiative - Power of Inclusion - Te Mana o te Whakauru - in support of creative arts professional pathways and sustainability, whilst maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

The development of Regional Hubs in response to reaching out and supporting remote and underserved communities. In alignment with this POI training provides youth development and leadership pathways for people with disabilities, youth at risk and those on the margins of mainstream society. Alongside skill and cultural development, students shadow an existing tutor until they are ready to co-lead classes and events. This ensures the growth of regional hubs will provide professional, safe and inclusive environments for participation and employment opportunities for all.

As the year races headlong into the last quarter, we take stock of what we have achieved over the last years and reflect on the challenges and hardship that have been endured. On behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank all the amazing Circability staff and tutors , new and not so new, for their unwavering passion and commitment for the mahi they do so well and upholding the Circability values of social circus and inclusive communities.

I would like to thank and acknowledge our funders and supporters, without whom the impact of our work would certainly not be possible; significant support through MYD, MCH, CNZ and Foundation North has enabled Circability to respond and grow our effectiveness and capacity, it is our challenge to respond and maintain new levels of sustainable delivery of service as we continue to diversify our funding and explore new partnerships, collaborations and opportunities.

MCH funding this year has also made possible for the first International Social Circus Conference in Aotearoa, to be held in Auckland in March 2024. This will bring together a host of practitioners and providers from here and overseas to celebrate and advance the amazing work and depth of what we can achieve together.

I look forward to being able to report on those outcomes next year and please in the meantime mark the date in your calendars.

Manaakitanga

Ngā whakawhanaungatanga

Erwin Van Asbeck

CHAIRMAN

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Looking back to plan for the future

In the 2022 annual report I highlighted two topics:

1. "On a national stage we were applauded for our aspirations to lead the social circus sector by hosting key events like "Youth Circus Festival", "Kanohi Kitea - Tikanga Maori and Circus Arts" and 'Celebrate Together' - the International Day for people with disabilities".
1. Our research " Growing Circus Employment Pathways in Aotearoa" conducted by Rachael Trotman is an important spotlight to show pathways and give direction for future developments. Those developments are aimed to make Circability and our sector more sustainable and resilient, through national and international partnerships and professional career development.

Now, in 2023, we are very excited to have started the journey of Te Mana o te Whakauru - Power of Inclusion 'POI' is a diversity training & employment pathways initiative. The weekly training programme attended by 15 tutors from our initial 3 regional hubs are the first steps. Designed for authentic service delivery training social circus tutors alongside diverse trainee tutors with lived experience in disability, mental health, and youth at risk, representing the groups we are working for and with.

The POI training programme provides youth development and leadership pathways for those on the margins of mainstream society. Alongside skill and cultural development, students shadow an existing tutor until they are ready to co-lead classes and events. This ensures the growth of regional hubs will provide professional, safe and inclusive environments for participation and inclusive employment opportunities for all.



And we are also excited about preparing to host the first Aotearoa NZ International Social Circus Conference in March of 2024.

By bringing together our Circability whanau from our 5 regional hubs, alongside the Aotearoa/NZ circus and creative spaces sector, joined by leaders from the youth - health - education and social services sectors; we will engage with visiting global leaders to: share our experience, prepare for future developments here in Aotearoa, and foster important global partnerships.

Highlights

Securing substantial financial support from our major funders, is a significant acknowledgement of the impact and importance of our work. After years of "step by step" developments, we are now able to broaden our work by offering our life changing projects and programmes for people "in need" in our communities across the motu.

Signing our MOU with the National Institute of Circus Arts / NICA in Melbourne, one big step in our trans tasman partnership in Social Circus.

Also across the Tasman Sea, in Darwin, we attended the Global Community Development Conference "From the Edge", a real privilege to observe, listen and experience the depth and knowledge held within the global work and impact of indigenous peoples. As our Kaitohutou Tikanga / Customary Advisor, Kahuraki Bronson George stated afterwards, we have started with our Tikanga Maori implementation in our work, but there is still a long road ahead of us and so much to learn from other communities across the globe.

Surprise

The plan was to start our Bay of Plenty regional hub with 5 classes per week and grow it from there. But our Hub manager Rowan Dawson, facing a huge demand for classes in the region, started off with 15 weekly classes, respect Rowan!

What an inspiration for our two new Hubs starting in Wellington and Christchurch.

Proud of

We have been facilitating our social circus service in the Far North, engaging with schools and community for some years now and an outcome of last year's event "Kanohi Kitea - Tikanga Maori & Circus Arts" in Kaitaia, has resulted in a partnership with Te Rarawa. Their youth facilitators co-designed and participated in our 2022 Youth Circus Festival held in Waipu, and they invited us to their school holiday programmes in isolated communities up North this year. We look forward to further developing our relationships through shared values and manaakitanga.

Looking forward to

Right now we are working with Toi Mai (the NZ workforce development council) on developing our POI training pilot scheme to an accredited qualification (not just for our Circability tutor teams!), starting next year.

Out of our International Social Circus Conference in March 2024, we are looking forward to new levels of collaboration and partnership, both at home and further "activate" our Trans Tasman partnership by:

- introducing the NICA leadership team to the NZ circus scene at our Youth Circus Festival, followed by our presentation at the Australian Circus Summit in Melbourne
- "global experts professional development programme" This exchange will also manifest in co-hosting American circus expert "Quat Props" touring and teaching for five weeks in our 5 regional hubs followed by a tour in Australia.

With the growth in our inclusive outreach programmes, diversity training pathways and building depth in our professional capacity, we are looking forward to serving our communities with our motivated and acknowledged Circability teams, supported by effective partnerships throughout Aotearoa and beyond.

Thanks to each and all of you.

Thomas Hinz

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

THE PRINCE OF PURPLE

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā rā tātau katoa.
Ko Te Ahu Pātiki tōhoku mauka, Ko Koukourārata tōhoku awa,
Ko Makawhiua tōhoku waka, Ko Kāti Huikai tōhoku hapū,
Ko Kāti Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha ōhoku iwi,
Ko Kahuraki Bronsson-George tōhoku ikoa,
Ko au te Kaitohutohu Hapū, Tikaka, Reo i te kamupene Circability.

I am Kahuraki, and I work with Circability as their Indigenous Customary advisor for engagement with Māori communities.

In late June, 2023, Thomas Hinz and I journeyed to Darwin for the World Community Development Conference, not to make any presentations ourselves, but to listen to what our community focused colleagues from all over the world had to say. What was particularly significant and important to me, as a proud indigenous person of Māori descent, was that the conference website stated it would have a strong focus on indigenous peoples and leadership. I was not disappointed on that front at all.

We had an official Welcome To Country ceremony by representatives of the Larrakia People, one of the local tribes in the Darwin area. We had speeches from an indigenous Civil Servant, and a local elder known as Aunty Bilawarra Lee, who gave us a heartfelt welcome on behalf of all the ancient family lines she was connected to. We were then shown (and taught) the local ceremonial dance, where the women moved their arms, and the men moved their feet.

Over the next three days, I attended many workshops, in an effort to learn as much as I could. I found the long-form, one hour workshops to be much more fulfilling, interactive and retainable, as opposed to the short-form, fifteen minute workshops which were full of rapidfire HR jargon from a presentation that would often never be able to be completed in the timeframe given. After a full day of doing nothing but attend workshops, I learnt that that course of action was not sustainable, and started making more active human connections in the time between workshops.



In doing so, I met and got to know some people from the Taos Pueblo Tribe in New Mexico, Governor Warchief Gary Lujan, his wife Edwina, Tribal Secretary Daniel Lucero, his wife Gemaine, researcher Shawn Duran, and two women from the Menominee Tribe, Jennifer Gauthier and Annie Jones. I found out how much we have in common, despite us being historically Desert People, Forest People and Ocean People respectively, and one of the main things that connected us was a spiritual love for our environment that our ancestors had built their language, customs and traditions around.

In reflection of the old adage "Sometimes you have to travel a thousand miles to meet your neighbour," I also managed to make some connections with people from one of my iwi, Ngāti Porou, and my local city, Ōtautahi. Ani-Pahuru Huriwai, a co-founder of REAP <https://www.reap.org.nz/> and Faumuina Felolini Maria Tafuna'i, CEO of Flying Geese Pro <https://www.flyinggeesepro.nz/>, were two of the most resonant speakers to represent Aotearoa, so much so that parts of their kōrero were repeated and acknowledged by Governor Warchief Gary Lujan when it was his turn to speak.

Moments like that remind me that, although we may come from different parts of the planet, our common desire to honour the land and in so doing, honour our ancestors, stripped away a lot of barriers, and part of what made our conversations with each other very rich and intriguing, was navigating our different cultural sensibilities.

Signed,

Kahuraki Marino Aroha Bronsson-George

CUSTOMARY ADVISOR



Kanohi Kitea 2022 MAU RAKAU Workshop by Kahuraki

PROGRAMMES & INITIATIVES

Circus in Parks



Oatara-Papatoetoe



Hobsonville



Stanmore Bay

Thanks to the support of the Auckland Council, local boards, and OutAndAbout, we've taken to the public to make Circus even more accessible for all with our Circus in the Parks, delivering free and fun circus activations to the public, from Orewa to Howick, and dozens of locations inbetween.

Social Circus in Schools & Inclusive Workshops



Circus in Schools



Holiday Programmes



Hohepa



We're proud to be able to meet the needs of schools around Aotearoa with our Social Circus classes, delivering over 70 regular weekly classes throughout 2023, with projections of over 110 in 2024. Including numerous additional regular holiday classes through **TAPAC**. Part of the groups taking classes at Circability Central is **Hōhepa Auckland**, Hohepa is an organisation that, like Circability, offers opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to live, learn and work with others in an atmosphere of mutual care and respect.

Yearly Events

We're proud to run our core lineup of events throughout the year, including:

Kanohi Kitea, A Circability initiative to develop ongoing whanaungatanga hui and partnerships that explores the aspirations and relationships between Toi Matauranga Maori practitioners, Whare Tapere and Social Circus arts.



Celebrate Together, a day of celebration help recognise the achievements of those living with a disability and promoting the actions our communities take to create a diverse, inclusive and accepting society around us. We encourage you to bring along family, friends and colleagues to experience the electrifying circus talent fostered by The Circability Trust.



Youth Circus Festival, A free public event for all youth aged 12-24, lead by the CIRC.US Youth team and Circability with circus workshops ranging from beginner level to advanced, discussion forums for employment pathways in the NZ Circus Sector, as well as a sensory space for some quiet time.



OUR DEVELOPMENT

Circability experiences an ever-growing demand for our services from community groups, local boards, families and organisations all over Auckland and Northland. Circability has also built significant collaborative relationships with a number of key entities across the Arts, Social Development, Education, Health and Corporate sectors including:

Local

Unitec, TAPAC, Sport Auckland, Aktive Families, Auckland Oaklynn Special School, Arahoe School, Rosehill Base School, Homai School, Summit Point School, MRGS - MacLean Centre, Waitakere College, Wairau Valley, Pasadena Intermediate, Wilson School, Toy Makers Cottage, Ponsonby Montessori Kindergarten, Geneva Health, Hohepa, St Mary's School, Henderson School, Wesley School, Skids, Mott MacDonalds, Workday, Grey Lynn Community Centre, Creative Abilities, RASNZ, Manubrium Circus, APoDC, Canopy Health Care Group, Doubtless Bay Promotions Inc., Bloom Academy of Dance, PHAB Huaipai District School, Immerse Charitable Trust, Flock NZ, Pyin Nyar A Lin Learning Community Hub, Auckland Whanau Special Needs Support Group Inc

Regional

Creative Northland, Circus Kumarani (Dargaville/ Whangarei), CirCool Waipu, Northland Youth Theatre, Tūturu Tangata, Ngati Whatua/Te Ha Oranga, Kaitaia College, Te Puna Aroha, Bloomfields, Nga Taki ,Herekino School, Ahipara School, Sandhoppers, Mangonui School, Switzerland Rest Home, Mangonui community Hall, Kaitaia Community Hall, Te Hapua School, Circus in a Flash, Peria School, Tikipunga High School, Sport Bay of Plenty, Otūmoetai College, Maungatapu School, Tarawera Specialist Learning, Tauranga Boys College, Arohanui Trust, CEBEC , Young & Healthy 2019 Trust, Kidventure School, Chamber Music New Zealand (CMNZ)

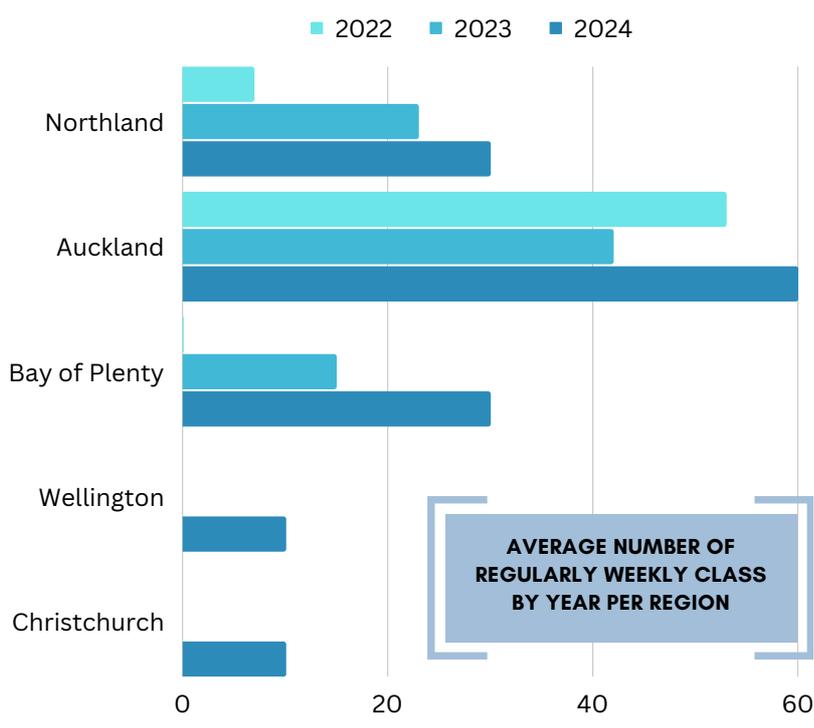
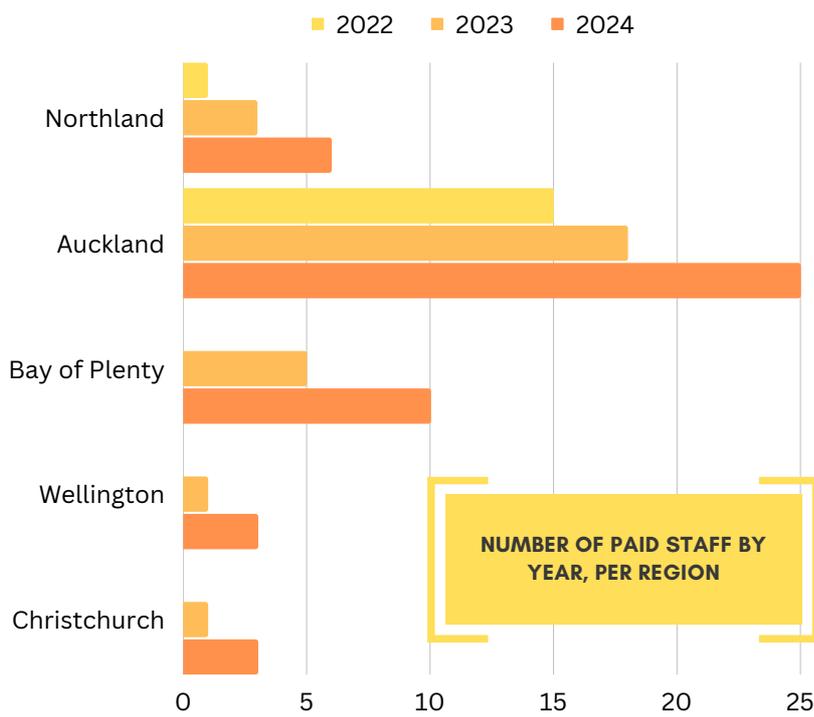
National

ANZCA (Aotearoa NZ Circus Association), Creative NZ, Arts Access Aotearoa, MSD, MYD, MCH.

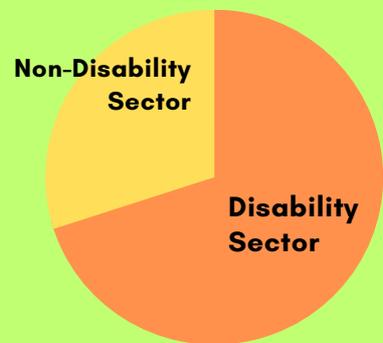
International

NICA - Melbourne, Caravan, Cirque du Soleil, Global Institute for Circus Studies and Circus4All Myanmar, Corrugated Iron Youth Arts - Darwin.

STATISTICS



Over 10,000 Participants about 70% Disability sector in the pst 12 months



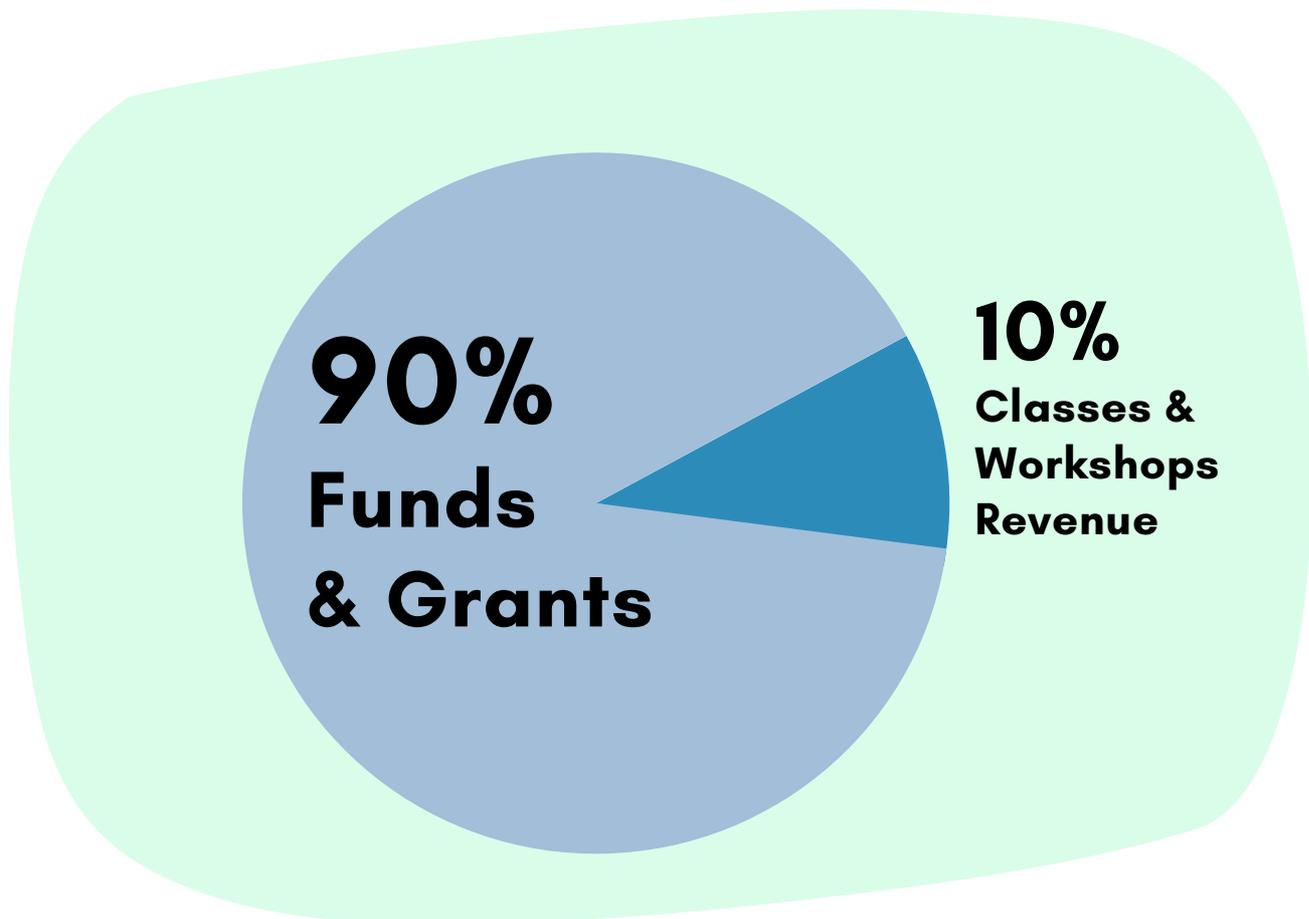
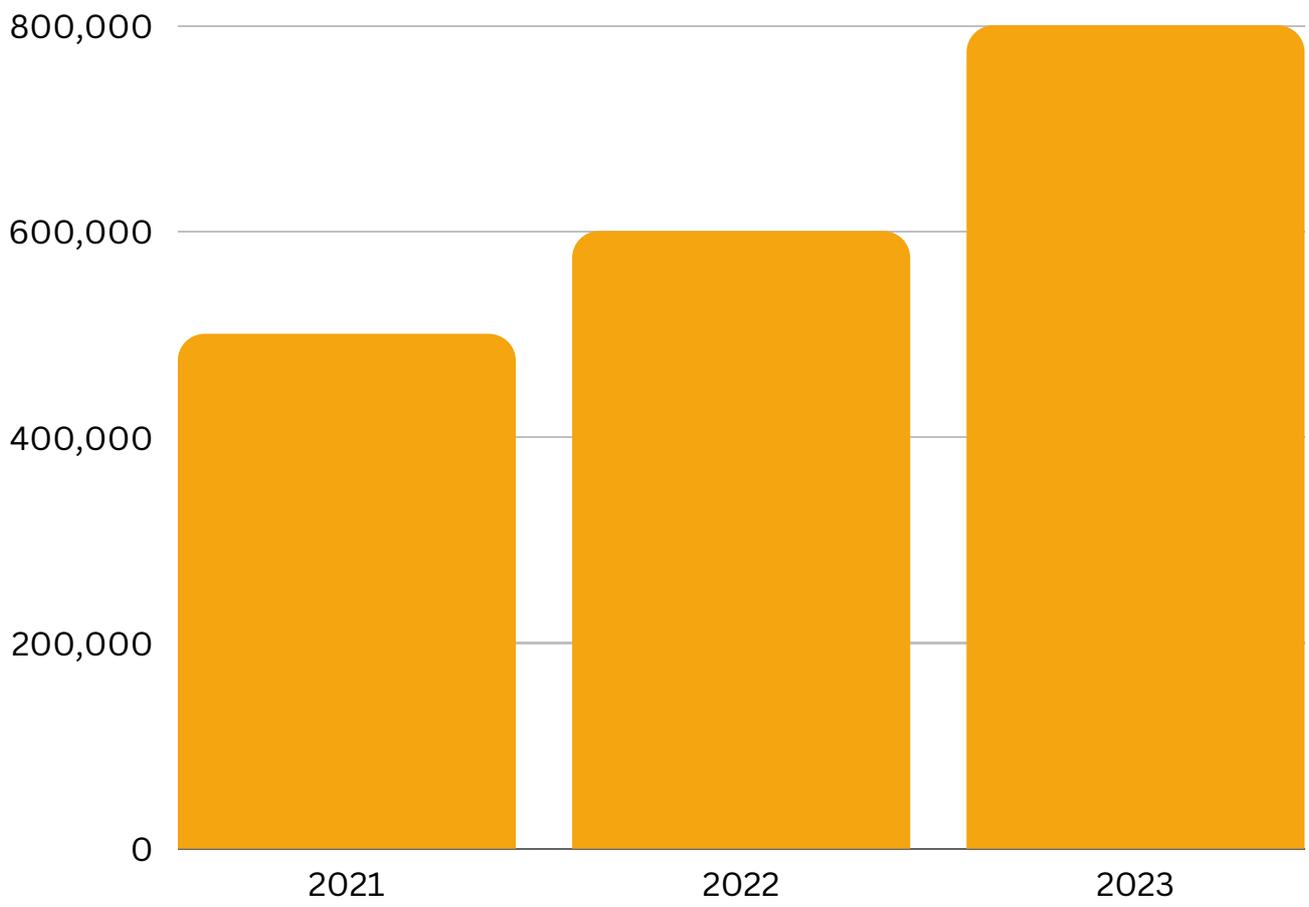
Over 100 Workshops Delivered across 5 regions in the last 12 months!



Over 1000+ Circus in Parks Participants across 2022-2023



Budget



FUNDING ADVISOR

It has been a pleasure to have worked with the team at Circability Trust over the last 12 months to help secure funding for expansion and regional growth, and to increase funding opportunities for current and planned programmes. We have received some great results and I am excited to see what the next 12 months will bring.

Our main highlight over the past year was to receive funding from the Manatū Taonga Ministry of Culture and Heritage Regeneration Fund. This was my first project with Circability Trust, which we began working on in June 2022. The purpose of the fund is to support the arts, culture and heritage sectors to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, and help the sector thrive in the future. Their objective was to fund strategic, sector-led initiatives that would have lasting benefits for arts, culture, and heritage in Aotearoa New Zealand. 11 months later, in Round 3, we had the wonderful news our application had been successful and Circability were awarded \$323,034 to help fund the expansion of social circus to the regions, the rollout of the new POI Power of Inclusion accessible training programme and the social circus conference planned for April 2024.

It has been a wonderful experience to re-engage with existing funders and source new ones. Another significant, successful funding outcome was received from Foundation North for work in Auckland and Northland, principally for operating expenses with a contribution to the POI training programme.

Lotteries has contributed two-year funding towards regional expansion via their community round, and funding from the Lottery Minister's Discretionary Fund enabled Thomas and Kahuraki to attend the World Community Development Conference in Darwin earlier this year, which had a youth and indigenous focus. We were pleased to receive almost full funding for two delegates.



Auckland Council has continued to support the Trust and it was fantastic to be awarded a Ngā Hapori Momoho - Thriving Communities grant for operational expenses, the POI training programme and events in Auckland. For Auckland we also received funding from Sport Aktive Tū Manawa for Circ-Play in schools, and Creative New Zealand for the Youth Circus Festival 2023.

Our expansion into Bay of Plenty saw relationships established with new funders such as TECT, Tauranga City Council and Sport BoP (Tū Manawa funding) who, along with Lion Foundation have all contributed funding for programmes in the region.

For the Northland hub we have been recipients of funding from Pub Charity and Far North District Council, along with existing funding from MSD, and will be looking to partner with some additional, new funders to help support our programmes going into 2024.

IHC Foundation joined us as a funder partner this year with a contribution to the POI training programme and delivery of classes to people with intellectual disabilities. We are waiting on results from applications to new and existing funders for projects such as producing a book to celebrate the last 10 years of Circability Trust working with our communities, new social circus equipment and our upcoming community events.

Our next funding objectives include establishing relationships with funding partners in Christchurch and Wellington to support the work of our new Circability hubs, and planning a funding programme to continue our sustainable growth and to support the incredible work Circability is doing in our communities for wellbeing, inclusion and belonging, into the future.

Diane Eaglesome

CIRCABILITY FINANCIAL ADVISOR



Strategic team celebrating 2023 great funding achievements

WORDS FROM THE STREETS



All the kids had a blast, they all stayed engaged the entire time couldn't have hoped for better to be honest. Will definitely be booking again in the future.

Thanks heaps.



Luke Kearney
Huapai Plus Manager
Huapai District School
Be the best you can be



They always left the session happy and laughed throughout the session. Positive impact. Engagement and challenge. Sense of success, achievement and self efficacy.

- Pasadena Intermediate

Some students would practice the skills learned in their spare time. The students with ASD loved the repetitive nature of the activities.

- Mt Roskill Grammar





We wanted to extend our heartfelt thanks for the incredible circus workshop Thomas organised for our recent team celebration. It was an absolute delight!

Thomas and his team immediately set the tone with their warmth and passion for the circus arts. Their ability to engage our staff was top-notch, creating an inclusive experience that brought everyone out of their shells with plenty of laughter and a sense of mindfulness. From juggling, hula hooping, to ribbon dancing, the variety of activities gave the event perfect momentum and closure.

What truly set this workshop apart was the sense of teamwork it fostered, leaving a lasting positive impact on our team dynamics.

In summary, your circus workshop was the highlight of our celebration event, and we recommend it for anyone seeking a unique team-building and celebration activity. Thank you for making this event truly memorable.

Much appreciated!

M

**MOTT
MACDONALD**

M

Maite Labra Odde

Pronouns: she, her, hers

Project Coordinator - Advisory

Mott Macdonald

All students were actively engaged, communicating and having fun. It is rare to find an activity that all students feel they can/want to give a go.

- Rosehill School



The students we have, they do enjoy mindfulness activities. So, Circability sessions have helped a lot of our students to keep them calm in a structured programme that focused on individual students' needs and ability.

- Arohanui School and Specialist Outreach Service



TUTOR TALK

Our tutors every term report new stories of students shifting from not participating in the classes to engaging, trying and having fun..

Like **Brodie, who is a Blomfield Whangarei student**, about 16 years old and on the autism spectrum. **Lisa Fugmann** said that this year over the course of the term he went from sitting on the couch and observing to actually trying spinning plates about 2 sessions into the term. When she once complimented him on his fidget spinner skills and said how fidget spinners can be part of circus tricks. He even started showing off some of his already existing skills to me and the other teachers. Which then developed into a challenge on how many different spots on his body he could find to balance the fidget spinner on. He succeeded with his fingers, his elbows, his nose as well as he started to incorporate other circus props like a spinning plates stick. This was a huge step for him and I Lisa was looking forward to how building his confidence and reinforcing his already existing skills will help him come out of his shell.

And **Aquila from MacLean Centre Mt Roskill**, one of **Tobias Miller's** students; Aquila was always very hesitant to try new activities and would continually put herself down, saying that she cannot 'do' things that look challenging before actually giving them a go. Over the course of the Circability classes I've noticed a change for the better. Although she is still hesitant to try some new things, she is more open to giving things a go. She has grown in self confidence. Near the end of term two she won a ball balancing game against all the other students in the class!



CIRCABILITY ON SCREEN



Circability in the news with **William Waiirua** in **The AM Show**



Board Member and Youth Representative Alysha Dodampegamage was featured in **Active's** campaign highlighting volunteers who give back to the community.

CIRCABILITY ON PAPER

Bay of Plenty Times

**THE
BIG
IDEA**

MINDFOOD
#SMARTTHINKING

The Northern
Advocate

H nzherald.co.nz

The Northland Age
Serving the North since 1904


Malatest
International

AKTIVE
Auckland Sport & Recreation


**SPORT
NEW ZEALAND**
IHI AOTEAROA

CIRCABILITY ONLINE



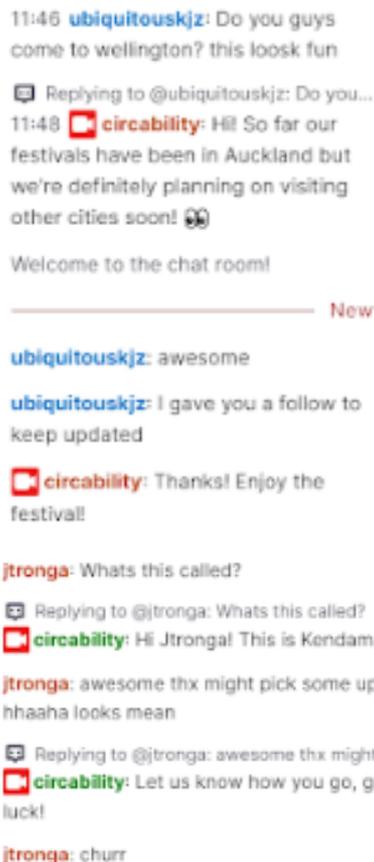
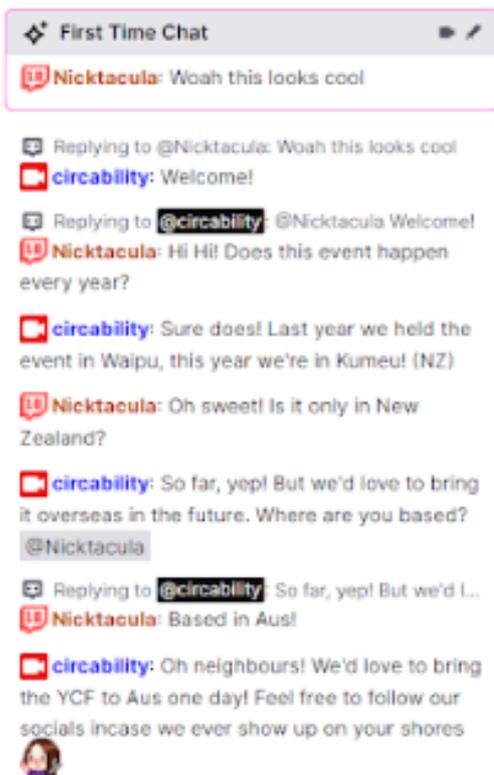
Vash Memar

Marketing & Digital Content Design

I'm absolutely thrilled to witness the growth of Circability's online presence across our primary channels of Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

It's been an exciting journey, watching our digital footprint expand and connect with audiences globally. Our commitment to reaching new heights in the digital sphere is evident, and the results show there is a genuine demand for what we do online, as well as in-person.

One of our largest online activations each year is the Youth Circus Festival, where in 2022 we reached over 140 concurrent viewers, with an average of 18 throughout the event across Twitch, Facebook and Instagram - **in 2023 we hit a new peak of 222 concurrent viewers, and an average of 25 across 3 days, with 34 new followers on Twitch.**



LeverageL1: Cool show do u guys have a te or something??

circability: Sure do! www.circability.org



BUSINESS PLAN 2023-2024

Circability is Social Circus - Inclusion in action for social change.

The kaupapa of Circability is to improve lives and impact social change through innovation in the delivery of social circus arts.

A primary focus of our work is developing inclusion programmes for people with disabilities - and enhancing creative career employment options for all.

For over 10 years our vision of 'All ages, all abilities, all cultures, better together.' has strengthened our commitment and guided Circability's growth and innovation.

Our emphasis is on the collaborative process to create safe spaces for inclusive social circus arts practice to flourish in diverse communities. Delivering classes, workshops and community events for all ages and abilities, utilising social circus as a tool for developing personal confidence, physical & emotional literacy, well-being, connecting people and sharing joy.

Business / Organisational Model:

- Circability is a charitable trust and is run by a Creative Director, Operations Manager, 5 Regional Hub Managers and over 20 contracted social circus tutors, supported by Marketing and Digital Content Designer, Funding Coordinator and the Board of trustees.
- Circability operates from the HQ Circability Central, Victoria Park, Central Auckland. And from Regional Hubs in the Northland and Bay of Plenty Region.
- Circability provides regular workshops, performances and classes at Circability Central.
- Coordinates and delivers mobile social circus services nationally in various locations like: kindergartens, schools, service providers for people with disabilities, community and business organisations, performing arts centres, public spaces and parks.

Strategic goals:

- **Improve social circus sustainability within the arts, education, recreation and culture sectors**
 - By securing national funds to make social circus accessible throughout New Zealand, keeping a level of quality services by providing training to our staff and by being innovative in our training programme, providing not only for circus skilled tutors but also tutors with diverse lived experiences.
 - Enhance our PR and engage a media marketing strategy to secure wider public awareness of the services we provide, the diverse need for the service and what support can be achieved from corporate, private support and sponsorship.

- **Improve safeguarding of mātauranga Māori tikanga and support of Toi Māori**
 - Through collaborative work with our cultural advisor and growing cultural awareness and tikanga within the organisation and our community.
 - By our ongoing development of relationships and creating new partnership outcomes with iwi and Maori service providers.
- **Increase the use of arts and culture as a tool to improve wellbeing and resilience**
 - By expanding the delivery of circus classes nationally with the establishment of regional hubs
 - By tailoring programmes for the needs of specific regions
- **Improve access and participation of diverse communities in education, training and employment in the Circus sector**
 - By offering professional development and training opportunities from national and international experts in all our regional hubs.

2023/24 Action plan:

2023/24 Deliver Circability social circus classes in community and school settings, deliver fee-based classes in performing arts providers.

2023/24 Promote and deliver annual social circus and cultural events; Matariki Celebration, Youth Circus Festival, Kanohi Kitea, Celebrate Together- International Day of People with Disabilities

2023/24 Establish Regional Hubs beyond Northland and Auckland, reaching Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch

2023/24 Develop pathways to Qualification and Employment. Delivering Te Mana o Te Whakauru – POI – Power of Inclusion training; A unique Social Circus training certification and evaluation of the pilot programme

2023 Trans-Tasman partnership MOU signing with NICA – The National Institute of Circus Arts in Melbourne/ Australia

2023 Attendance to the Global Community Development Conference in Darwin / Australia

2023 NICA partner tour of circus groups in Tamaki Makaurau

2023 Presenting at NICA Circus Summit Conference as part of The Melbourne Fringe Festival

2023 Complete Academic Research Project: The Social Circus: a broad global overview

2024 Aotearoa New Zealand International Social Circus Conference in Auckland > Regional Hubs Post Conference 6 weeks Social Circus Professional Development tour and training by Craig Quat – Quat Props USA

2024 Trans-Tasman partnership exchange programme > Kanohi Kitea cultural performance, workshops and hui in Melbourne and Darwin

2024 Research and ongoing pedagogy development of degree qualification framework.

MANAGERS' STATEMENTS



Mark Williams
Auckland Regional Hub Manager

As the regional hub manager here in Auckland for Circability, I couldn't be more thrilled with how our circus tutor classes have been going.

It's been an incredible journey watching our talented instructors empower and inspire our students. The progress they've made is truly remarkable, and I'm proud to be a part of this transformative experience.

Our youth circus festival has been nothing short of a smashing success. Seeing the joy and enthusiasm on the faces of the young participants is what makes all the hard work worth it. It's not just about circus skills; it's about building confidence, fostering creativity, and creating lasting memories.

I must say, the support from our community has been overwhelming. It's heartening to know that there are so many people who believe in our mission and are willing to stand with us. It's a testament to the power of social circus and its ability to bring people together.

Our circus in parks activations have been a hit, and it's been incredible to bring the magic of circus to so many corners of Auckland. We're reaching more and more people, making circus accessible to all. I couldn't be happier with our progress, and I'm excited about the future as we continue to spread the joy of social circus throughout our beautiful city.

Mark Williams





April Atkinson
Northland Regional Hub Manager

Wow, what a year it has been! Northland has grown, and is in growth, and will continue to grow for quite some time.

Earlier this year there was a huge need for a Northland team. Preparation began with the introduction of Nina Subritzky and Gypsy Ziarh who first supported the event lakeside vibes festival, cementing the way for me to push for a team .

Once I had my new team set up and ready to go we started with the on the job training sessions by having them shadowing my classes. This was also a training in progress for me as I no longer was just doing what I've been doing for years on my own but having to explain and nurture the how and why, giving feedback, asking for feedback, communicating, thinking and planning and not just for me but for my team.

With the successful achievement of funds we were able to expand and initiate more classes in term 3, and spread over the far north region up to Te Hapua, going with our work to early childhood centres to schools and retirement homes.

This was a nerve wrecking start for me, sending my team out on their own (together) without me! I will be honest and say that in the start I had a little bit of FOMO (fear of missing out) but also the worry about if they were coping ok with the different situations they would be in, or feeling like they were treading water all the time. I wanted them to succeed.

As the term ends, the highlight for me is watching my team grow within their roles, hearing their excitement, and their successes (and there have been plenty) listening to how they support each other for the best outcome. Knowing that they have that vision and the passion that I was looking for, after all their success is my success.

Moving forward into the future, I am hoping for at least two more tutors, hopefully male, Maori, fluent in Te Reo, and able to deliver our Programs in full emersion schools. There is a huge need for good male role models in this region and we aim to help our tamariki and rangatahi by providing so through our social work.

I would dearly love to spread our wings further afield to Kerikeri, Kaikohe, and around the Hokianga. Also, to continue our ongoing collaboration with our local iwi, Ngati Kahu and Te Rarawa, Maybe look at bringing the Youth Circus Festival to the far north, and some other summer circus events.

Finally, to finish off, I would just like to say that I am enjoying my Role as the Northland regional manager for Circability and hope to continue this role into the future.

April Atkinson





Rowan Dawson
Bay of Plenty Regional Hub Manager

I would like to share some of the work and highlights I have had over the past few months in my role as the Bay of Plenty Regional Hub manager for Circability.

Since moving to Tauranga over seven years ago, I have missed my work with Circability while I was living in Auckland.

When I was approached to establish a Circability Hub for the Bay of Plenty, I was thrilled to be able to do the rewarding work again and share it with the community that is now my home.

We have been running classes in the region since the start of Term 3 and have 15 classes a week in 10 different schools/centres to around 200 students and their teachers/ support staff.

We have had an amazing first term with our program and the feedback from the students, teachers & support staff has been full of positive results and noticeable benefits in students' academic and social behaviour.

We have been making some great connections with the students and have seen students that started the term withdrawn and reluctant to join in become enthusiastic to and involved as the weeks passed.

We are already planning to add additional staff and classes in Term 4 due to interest from other schools in our region.

Over the past few weeks, I have interviewed five potential staff members to help accommodate the growing demand for our program in the Bay of Plenty.

I am excited to see Circability grow over the next few months and year as we extend our services to more schools in Tauranga and the wider Bay of Plenty area.

Nga mihi
Rowan Ford Dawson





Marília Pereira
Operations Manager

What an incredible journey it has been this first year working for Circability Trust.

First of all, I am very grateful for the opportunity to be involved in such a wonderful organisation that is committed to delivering great social outcomes, improving lives, bringing communities together and sharing joy. It is also really inspiring and meaningful to me to work with and come across wonderful people, hear all sorts of stories and see all kinds of smiles.

And working for an organisation that is committed not only to the outer community but also to the community within, supporting individuals' dreams, aspirations and supporting each others' wellbeing is very motivating.

I came into the Circability picture in an exponential growth scenario, in this post-pandemic period where the wellbeing services and services that re-engage people with community life and studies are so invaluable. With my business background I have a lot to add to the organisation's operational success but also a lot to learn, with this being my first job related to social work and working for a charitable trust, which makes this a growing journey for my personal and professional experience as well.

Circability faces a lot of challenges, the main ones are continuously seeking funds to support delivering subsidised classes for the communities and managing such growing operation and demand with limited resources. It is literally like taking bunnies out of hats sometimes but, just like circus magic, Circability continues.

It is beautiful to see that Circability, already operating for over over a decade, keeps growing and aiming for the stars with plans and actions of expanding nationally, building partnerships internationally and providing pathways for qualification and inclusive work opportunities in the social circus sector in Aotearoa.

Despite the uncertainty of what the future will bring, knowing exactly where we want to get is what takes us there.

Lets keep moving.

Marília Pereira

Thank You



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