Circus Project Guiding Principles
Adopted June 20, 2018

Mission

To use circus arts as a catalyst for personal and collective transformation.

Description

We enable students, artists, and audiences to realize their potential through multi-disciplinary circus arts education and performances that engage people with a variety of life experiences to grow together and expand the range of human capacity.

Founding Credo

We believe circus arts has the potential to:
- Open ourselves and each other to perspectives that elevate the human condition; and foster an appreciation of mystery, ambiguity, and difference.
- Create bridges between mind and body, feeling and expression, self and other.
- Transmute suffering into beauty, distill meaning from chaos, and forge community from isolation.
- Empower us to become the creative directors of our own lives and author our stories with creativity, resilience, and grace.

Founding Principles

- Art creates change.
- Everyone has the capacity to become an artist.
- Diversity stimulates creativity.
- Failure is an opportunity for innovation.
- We're all in this together.

Vision

We create circus art that:
- Explores creative, physical, and personal limits
- Is multidisciplinary
- Inspires connection

We strive to create artists who are:
- Skilled
- Authentic
- Collaborative

We strive to create a community in which everyone feels:
- Respected
- Accepted as they are
- Supported to grow

Values

Diversity, equity, and inclusion
We continually work to:
- Increase pathways to participation
- Acknowledge and dismantle inequities inherent in our organization and culture
- Foster an atmosphere of physical, emotional, and cultural safety in which people take personal and creative risks.

Communication
We strive to communicate in ways that are:
- Responsive
- Genuine
- Transparent

Artistic Growth
Among students and professionals, we further:
- Technical skill
- Creativity
- Authenticity

Personal Growth
We facilitate physical, emotional, and social growth by cultivating qualities of:
- Courage
- Openness
- Perseverance – try, fail, and try again

Community growth
We strive to develop relationships within our organization and extended community that:
- Build connections between people with diverse lived experiences
- Foster a sense of belonging
- Provide opportunities for collaboration