To the Board of Directors of The Circus Project,

We, the community of The Circus Project, learned with great dismay about your decision to dissolve this organization.

The Circus Project has been our anchor and home throughout many years.

We have been with The Circus Project through difficult times and understand the impact that the recent years must have had on the financial situation. While society is slowly recovering and the pandemic continues to take its toll, the challenges of this aftermath are not to be underestimated. It is not despite but BECAUSE of that, that we want to appeal to your heart, to your strong will, optimism and patience in order to re-establish your faith into The Circus Project.

Only one who has been standing on the tumbling matts, has smelled the sweat of persistence, has seen the smiles of victory, can relate and KNOW how impactful and important The Circus Project is for our community.

The Circus Project has had powerful significance for a multitude of individual lives. We have seen it. We have felt it. There are people in our community who credit The Circus Project as a place that kept them alive. The Circus Project has literally saved lives. We believe that it is crucial for our community that The Circus Project keeps being a beacon of hope and belonging.

We are heartbroken. We identify with this organization and place. We have given our care and love. We rely on institutions like The Circus Project to remain vigilant and faithful during times like this.

We beg each one of you to reconsider your decision, to give it one last chance and reassess other options that will keep The Circus Project alive.

What would need to happen so that The Circus Project can keep serving our community? How can we be sure we have investigated all options for sustaining the organization in some form? And we'd like to understand and ask for transparency about what led to this drastic decision. How did we get here and what can we learn for the future to be more sustainable?

Please know that the challenges can be met with confidence that there is a strong community connected to this place that wants and needs to keep seeing The Circus Project succeed.

We are right here. We are here to be heard and we are also here to be a resource and strength for The Circus Project.

Please turn towards and not away from your community.

## **Reasons for signing**

See why other supporters are signing, why this petition is important to them, and share your reason for signing (this will mean a lot to the starter of the petition).

## **Gwenyth O'Brien**

Aug 2, 2022

The Circus Project has been a home to me for over 10 years. While it has its areas for growth, the powerful community that propels this place forward deserves a chance to let it thrive. Please don't give up on it.

## Meg Russell

Aug 2, 2022

The Circus Project gave me purpose when I had none. It opened a world of possibility for me, taught me so much about how to exist in the world, gave me a chosen family, and I watched it transform the lives of many of my students. The Circus Project is so much more than circus classes, it is a community. It is a community that has put its heart, soul, and sweat equity into something bigger than the individuals it is made of. And that community deserves to be part of this decision.

## **Emilio Petriella**

Aug 2, 2022

Im not sure if sharing this will help but TCP has saved my life as someone who's experienced so much trauma in this world. I've been battling depression, anxiety, & PTSD for quite some time and this place has given me a sense of purpose and hope. With all of the organizations around involved in movement there has to be more we can do to keep this organization alive. What if we reached out to Nike? Under armor? Adidas? Lululemon? North face? How about Cirque du Soleil? There's no way they can lose this branch of circus. It's so much more than that. It's a lifeline to those in need of movement and healing.