

The Circus Project Closure

FAQ

Q: What is happening?

A: After thorough review and analysis of our financial situation, The Circus Project Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to close the organization. [Read the announcement from the Board here.](#)

The priorities are to provide as much support as possible to students and staff throughout this process, and to meet our financial obligations. We are hoping to establish connections with other Portland circus arts organizations to make a smooth transition.

Q: Why?

A: This is primarily a financial decision. We've been running a deficit for many years, and while we received some support through COVID relief funds and grants, those supports are not renewable in the future – combined with the low tuition revenue and increased facility and program expenses, the recent analysis made it clear that our cash flow is running out sooner than we anticipated. It is important to make the decision now to responsibly close before we simply run out of money, so that we have time to thoughtfully transition and support our community in the process.

Q: What is the timeline?

A: August 31, 2022 is the last day for programming (classes, private lessons, rehearsals). The full dissolution of the organization will happen by September 30, 2022.

Q: What solutions were investigated?

A: Over the years, we've experimented with various ways of improving our financial health, such as reimagining our program offerings, making a deeper commitment to fundraising, even expanding our studio with the Outdoor Domes. When it became clear that these steps were not working, the Board of Directors had to consider other alternative models. They explored

pivoting to models like “right-sizing” (reducing the size of the organization to meet the budget capacity), converting it to a for-profit business, merging with another non-profit organization, and full dissolution of the organization. Multiple phases of leadership have tried to address the financial sustainability issue over many years, and the decision became urgent as we came closer to a cash-flow limit. This decision is heart-breaking, and was not made lightly.

Q: What is the timeline for specific programs?

- ASI will continue through their August 2nd show as planned.
- The current Summer studio classes will run through August 29th, as planned.
- All summer camps will continue as planned. The final week of summer camps is August 22-26.
- We will run August classes at the Domes, the Domes term runs August 8 - August 31st.
- We will not open enrollment for Early Fall term or anything beyond.
- Private lessons may continue through end-of-day August 31st, and must be scheduled by August 24th.
- The Voice Project will finish the year on an accelerated schedule, with their year-end show in late August.

FOR STUDENTS

- What are my other resources for circus training?
 - We recommend [A-WOL Aerial](#), [Echo Theater Company](#), [Night Flight Aerial](#).
- Can I keep training with my favorite Circus Project coach?
 - Feel free to reach out to them personally. (But be mindful that TCP policies would not apply, like insurance for injury, harassment, etc)
- What if I need scholarships/other support to access circus training?
 - Read about Echo Theater inclusion services/financial aid here: <https://www.echotheaterpdx.org/etc-school/scholarships/>
 - A-WOL Dance has financial aid information here: <https://www.awoldance.org/financial-aid>
 - [CSAW](#) also grants microgrants for circus artists of color.
 - [RACC](#) often has grants available for artistic development.
- What happens if I have class credit on file?
 - We are reviewing our policy and will reach out by email to those with class credits when we have more information.