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THE CIRCUS PROJECT UNVEILS THE DOMES AT ZIDELL YARDS

Construction on outdoor geodesic domes finishes June 4th

(PORTLAND, OR, JUNE 2, 2021) – The Circus Project is thrilled to introduce a new outdoor aerial arts space to Portland that is safe for performers, students, and audiences alike as construction on their new geodesic domes at Zidell Yards nears completion.

“Circus has a long tradition of performing in unexpected places, and we’re really excited to debut this unique structure as our take on a modern circus tent,” The Circus Project Executive Director Kirsten Collins says. “This is a chance for our students to get out from behind their screens, to do something really active and creative with other people, all in the fresh air, and in a way that feels really safe.”

Circus artists are innovative by nature, and as their limited indoor capacity due to Covid-19 could not accommodate demand, The Circus Project saw a need for an open-air class and performance space that allowed students and artists to gather together outside. The Circus Project Education Manager Amaya Alvarado envisioned geodesic domes bringing fresh air and sunshine to their beautiful performances, while expanding The Circus Project’s space and service offerings. Engineer, designer, and circus student Trevor Blackann got to work designing two customized geodesic domes offering six aerial points each. A fabric shade structure protects performers from both sun, while leaving the new performance space totally open-air.

The boundless appetite for both performing and enjoying outdoor arts was immediately apparent when the project raised \$79,000 in major gifts from the community. Another \$5,400 and counting is coming from a crowd-funding campaign that closes on June 5th, where donors can contribute to earn incredible experiences like private aerial lessons in the new domes. After a private performance of the Elements Training Company’s culminating performance, The Domes will open through October for camps, group classes, open training, and performances.

“Thinking about the first performance in the domes almost gets me emotional,” Alvarado says. “It’s going to be an overwhelming sense of joy and connection — with the audience and with fellow performers — that’s really only allowed when we feel safe. That’s what I’m looking forward to - being in an environment where I feel safe and I’m allowed to fully inhabit my joy.”

To learn more, donate, schedule a class or book a performance, visit thecircusproject.org.

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The Circus Project uses the circus arts as a catalyst for personal and collective transformation. What began in 2008 as a pioneering experiment to engage and empower traditionally underserved and marginalized youth in a transformational program utilizing circus training and performance arts has

evolved into a thriving arts organization that includes a public circus school, professional performances and youth circus workshops in partnership with social service agencies and after-school programs. Learn more at www.thecircusproject.org.