

BOARD DIRECTOR: Position Description

About Women's Circus

Women's Circus is a social circus organisation empowering people of [marginalised genders](#) through creativity, community, and performance. Since 1991, we've championed equity, inclusion, and bold artistic practice from our home in Melbourne's West.

Today, Women's Circus is an internationally recognised leader in the field of social circus. Our work is grounded in a commitment to social impact, artistic excellence and community wellbeing. Through innovative programs and creative opportunities, we support individuals and communities to develop skills, confidence and creativity, while fostering connection and belonging. Our projects attract leading artists as collaborators and create accessible pathways to meaningful arts participation.

Women's Circus is a non-profit registered charitable and cultural organisation. We have a small team of core staff, working alongside experienced circus trainers, and supported by a volunteer board. We have over 200 current members who range in age from 18 to 70+, as well as a thriving kids and families community. We operate in our own fully equipped circus venue in Footscray, with the support of multi-year funders including Creative Victoria, Australia Council, Maribyrnong City Council and philanthropic partners.

Role Overview

We are seeking board Directors who are aligned with our mission and values and wish to be part of an active board to drive, guide and govern our wonderful organisation.

In 2026, we are specifically seeking a new director from within Women's Circus membership. Our Board Charter and longstanding practice requires that at least one Director be appointed from within the Women's Circus membership, bringing knowledge of the circus community.

Responsibilities

Women's Circus is a company limited by guarantee. All Directors of Women's Circus are bound by the company's constitution, relevant rules and legislation, including the Corporations Act 2001.

Women's Circus board terms are 3 years with opportunity for renewal.

The role and responsibilities of a Director are described in the Women's Circus Board Charter and include:

- Participation in, and contribution to, approximately 8-10 Board meetings per year
- Membership on, and contribution to, at least one subcommittee of the board
- Oversight of effective governance of the organisation
- Formulation of the strategic direction
- Recruitment and oversight of the Executive Director
- Reviewing, approving and monitoring the business plan and annual budget

- Contribution to the development of board and organisational policies

In addition to the above, Directors are also expected to attend and assist in Women's Circus fundraising, community and end of year shows, as well as promote and represent Women's Circus in a professional capacity at various functions and forums held across Melbourne.

All Women's Circus roles take an active part in our purpose to empower people of marginalised genders to shape community and culture through social circus, and championing our values:

- **Community:** We care for our community and foster belonging through accessible and inclusive creative opportunities
- **Celebration:** We celebrate and take pride in our work and the power and creativity of people of marginalised genders
- **Safety:** We create and hold safe spaces for people of marginalised genders to feel comfortable to be their full selves
- **Legacy:** We respect and value our history and embrace positive social change to work towards our purpose

Qualifications

Women's Circus is specifically looking to recruit a Board Director from within our membership in 2026. The only requirement is that you're an active training member in our adult program, with a history of attending at least 2 terms per year, and that you're passionate about making a contribution to the organisation. Our preference for someone who has been a member for at least 2 years, but we're open to speaking with newer members.

We know our members have a wealth of experience and expertise across industries. Experience and/or skills in the following is beneficial but not required:

- Professional background in Financial Management or Accounting
- Professional background in Law
- Professional background in Human Resources
- Circus or another live performance artform
- Professional background in Fundraising and Development
- Proven experience developing relationships with, and securing funding from, philanthropic organisations
- Not-for-Profits, Community Organisation and/or Purpose led organisations
- Arts & Cultural practice or management
- Risk Management
- Audits
- Governance

To find out more:

Contact Noni Sproule (Board Chair) and/or El Boydell (outgoing member Director) at boardchair@womenscircus.org.au with any questions. You can also request a copy of the Board Charter, setting out the responsibilities, governance procedures and other matters relating to the operation of the Board.

To express your interest:

To express your interest, please email boardchair@womenscircus.org.au by **Monday 13 April**.

Please describe:

- your connection with Women's Circus
- your interest in joining the Women's Circus Board
- the skills and experience you would bring

Please also attach your resume.

At Women's Circus we are privileged to meet, train and create on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, communities and culture. We pay our respect to Elders past and present and through them to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Sovereignty was never ceded. Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

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