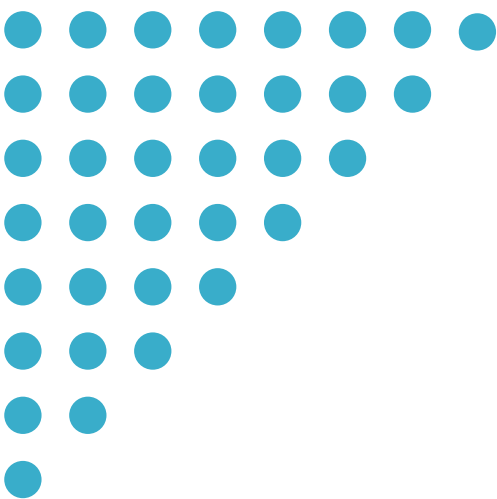


Galway Community Circus

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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Chairperson's Address

Despite disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic this year Galway Community Circus increased activities, recruited new staff and volunteers, continued to participate in long term international projects and added new members to its board of directors.

The circus joyfully welcomed the return to in-person classes, workshops, and performances as restrictions were eased. Another packed programme was delivered in 2021; fully detailed in this report. Highlights include the delivery of 84 social circus workshops, a Christmas performance, Scratch Nights, the 2nd Mayhem Youth Circus Festival and a two-day international conference on the art of funambulism. Not to mention participation in exciting international projects on artform development such as Circus ++ , that sees Galway Community Circus contributing to the development of a curriculum for the world's first degree-level course for Youth and Social Circus teachers. The wonderful addition of another full-time artist and the recruitment of 8 volunteers from the European Solidarity Corps greatly helped in the provision of all these activities.

Delivery of so much in such uncertain times was not without its challenges and I would like on behalf of the board members to highly commend management and every member of the Galway Community Circus team for their perseverance and adaptability to the frequent changing circumstances of the pandemic. Your resilience and fortitude was inspiring.

This was my first year as Chairperson of the Board and it has been a great privilege to serve in this role. I look forward to seeing the circus continue to thrive into the future as it celebrates its twentieth anniversary next year.

Dr Ian R. Walsh, Chairperson



About Us

Galway Community Circus is Ireland's flagship organisation for youth and social circus, located in the heart of Galway City with a local, national, and international remit. Our aim is to advance the artistic, personal, and social development of young people through circus arts. We are committed to creating an innovative and imaginative learning experience where all young people can realise their full potential.

We are home to a year-round youth circus school, working with young people from diverse backgrounds every week and deliver social circus programmes in formal and non-formal education settings. We fulfil a vital role in the development of the circus arts sector in Ireland as we work to advance the quality of the sector through professional development programmes for circus practitioners and participation in key international networks.

Our Vision

A centre of excellence for youth and social circus in Ireland.

Our Mission

To unlock personal and creative potential and deliver social inclusion for young people through circus arts.

Our Values

Circus is the art of possibility. Not just an art-form, circus fosters a unique community where everyone is welcome, where diversity and difference are actively embraced, and where everyone is encouraged to dream. At Galway Community Circus we don't just teach circus techniques, we impart the unique values of circus which guide and motivate the attitudes, behaviour and decision-making of members and artists, staff and volunteers alike.

At Galway Community Circus we...

- **Provide high QUALITY arts experience in circus for all**
- **Foster a sense of BELONGING so that everyone feels welcome, safe and valued for who they are**
- **Work collaboratively, SUPPORT each other and celebrate one another's success**
- **Create a culture of personal and collective RESPONSIBILITY, pursuit of excellence and resilience**
- **DREAM big, take risks and are not afraid to make mistakes**
- **Focus on positivity and POSSIBILITY**
- **CHALLENGE self-limiting thinking patterns and default behaviours**
- **Value individual and collective CREATIVITY**
- **Play, have FUN and remain curious**

Artistic Policy

Galway Community Circus aims to create work that is of equal social and artistic excellence. We believe it is important to involve our performers in projects which are entirely inclusive and where the process is safe and nurturing but also where the final product is of high artistic quality. For us, artistic ambition translates to participatory processes, that allow each person to reach their potential, as well as innovative, artistically excellent work that engages with diverse audiences and a wide range of creative collaborators and showcases circus as an exciting, accessible and meaningful artform.



2021: Our Year in Numbers

9020

PEOPLE ENGAGED
WITH OUR CIRCUS

84

SOCIAL CIRCUS
WORKSHOPS

21

IN CLASS
SHOWS

1

CHRISTMAS
CABARET

255

ARTFORM
DEVELOPMENT
ENGAGEMENTS

2

ARTISTS
EMPLOYED
FULL-TIME

189

FREELANCE
ARTIST
ENGAGEMENTS

633

YOUTH CIRCUS
CLASSES

1779

SOCIAL CIRCUS
PARTICIPANTS

1

YOUTH
EXCHANGE

84

FUNAMBULISM
WORKSHOPS

8

FULL-TIME EUROPEAN
VOLUNTEERS

15

INTERNATIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS

1

PRESIDENCY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
AND SOCIAL CIRCUS
NETWORK CARAVAN

30

WEEKS OF BLENDED
YOUTH CIRCUS CLASSES

4

SCRATCH
NIGHT SHOWS

7

EUROPEAN
PROJECTS

1

ARTIST IN
RESIDENCE

1

INTERNATIONAL
DIGITAL FUNAMBULISM
CONFERENCE

1

YOUTH CIRCUS
FESTIVAL

2

NEW BOARD
MEMBERS
APPOINTED

2021: Digital Engagement with Galway Community Circus

5309

FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS

320

LINKEDIN
FOLLOWERS

2222

INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS

11,016

WEBSITE VISITORS

1502

TWITTER FOLLOWERS

17

BLOGS

“

Being in the Circus means a lot to me because it's being a part of a *very welcoming family*. You're always pushed to try your hardest and be the best you can be. It has opened up a *world of opportunity* for me, in terms of work experience, meeting people and seeing other people do amazing things.

I feel like all the people I know in circus are always *encouraging* me to do what I'm *passionate* about and what makes me *happy*. I feel like people at the Circus take an *interest* in everything that I do, including an interest in me as a person and the training I do.” -

Youth Circus member, aged 19





2021 Activities

Over the last three years Galway Community Circus has strategically focused on four key programme areas: Youth Circus, Social Circus, Artform Development and 'Wires Crossed'. We have worked on one key aim for each programme area. 2022 will see the development of a new strategic plan with new goals.



Youth Circus

Key Aim

To create pathways for young people to participate in circus arts at all levels in a way that is inclusive, artistically excellent and enhances participants' sense of well-being.

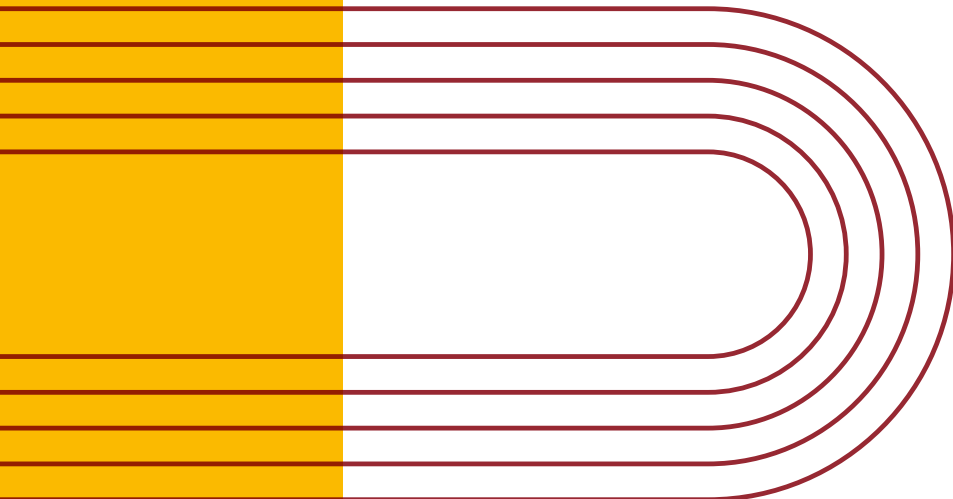
2021 Highlights

- 30 weeks of youth circus for 633 weekly participants
- 2nd Annual Mayhem Youth Circus Festival reaching 12,050 people
- 4 Scratch Night shows
- 1 Christmas performance created with an artist in residence from Finland, Simon Llewellyn
- 1 Youth Exchange in Leuven, Belgium
- 'The Streets Are Ours' shows in partnerships with Baboró International Arts Festival for Children, Galway Dance Project and Arch8



Circus is *exactly what I need* to move through life in the *happiest* way that I can.

-Youth Circus member



Social Circus

Key Aim

To develop social circus partnerships which bring circus to marginalised young people and complement a coherent programming ecosystem.

2021 Highlights

- 84 Social Circus workshops to 1779 participants with partners including Arts Alive, Galway Autism Partnership, GRETB, The Bridge Project, schools and Direct Provision Services



Circus helps me to *overcome* obstacles and fear. Circus is my *safe place* and helps me *build confidence*.



-Youth Circus member



Artform Development

Key Aim

To pursue excellence in youth and social circus in an Irish context, learning from international best practice models.

2021 Highlights

- Employed 2 full-time artists
- Represented Ireland internationally as the President of the International Youth and Social Circus Network Caravan
- Coordinated 2 European Erasmus+ projects and partnered in further 3 - creating life- changing opportunities for artists and young people
- Offered 51 days of professional development workshops with artists and experts including Aisling Ní Cheallaigh, High Performance Productions, Simon Llewellyn, Pete Duncan, Caravan Network, European Centre of Funambulism, the Galway Community Circus team and The Wheel.
- Delivered 4 'training for trainers' courses for circus teachers in Cork and Dublin and youth workers in partnership with Galway Mayo Institute of Technology and 2 mentoring programmes on youth and social circus development for Dublin Circus Project and Circus Factory Cork.
- Continued our work with NUI Galway and 10 international university and circus school partners to build a degree course for circus teachers as part of the Erasmus+ funded 'Circus++' project
- Hosted 8 European volunteers from Turkey, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy and Slovenia on 11-month residency funded by the European Solidarity Corps



Galway Community Circus classes are *inclusive, community based, collaborative, creative* and *engaging*.



– Adult Circus member

Wires Crossed

Key Aim

To inspire, catalyse and advocate for youth and social circus in Ireland through a partnership with Galway 2020.

We successfully completed our project 'Wires Crossed' as part of Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture. The legacy of this project is the successful development of funambulism programmes in 8 European circus schools.

2021 Highlights

- 84 public workshops for 1006 participants in Ireland
- 93 days of professional training across Europe and created employment for 45 people
- Delivered a two-day international conference on the art of funambulism with a digital audience of 143 attendees from 26 different countries as part of our Creative Europe Co- operation Project 'Wires Crossed – Head, Heart, Balance' in partnership with Ecole de Cirque de Bruxelles, Scoala de Circ and Université libre de Bruxelles.
- Created 'Step Off', a short film about the art of funambulism, commissioned by Galway 2020



I registered my daughters who are 9 and 11 and they *had a ball*. My 11-year-old walked the highest wire which gave her a great buzz, *encouraged* by the workshop leader which gave her the *confidence*. Thank you!



-Youth Circus parent



Partnerships

In 2021, Galway Community Circus continued to work on a variety of long-term projects with partner organisations around Ireland and the world.

Erasmus+

The European Union's Erasmus+ programme has supported Galway Community Circus since 2013 and continues to be one of our key funding partners. In 2021, our Erasmus+ projects included the 'ABCirk' cultural leadership programme for young people, 'Circus Transformation' training for social circus teachers and 'Circus++' one of our long-term research projects in collaboration with five European circus schools and four universities to develop third level education for circus teachers in Ireland and Europe. Erasmus+ has also funded Wires Crossed since 2017, allowing professional development for 36 European circus artists/teachers.

Erasmus+ projects in 2021:

Erasmus+ KA 2 Strategic Partnerships

- **Circus++**
- **Mind Your Balance**
- **ABCirk Youth Leadership programme**

Erasmus+ Mobility Projects (professional training courses)

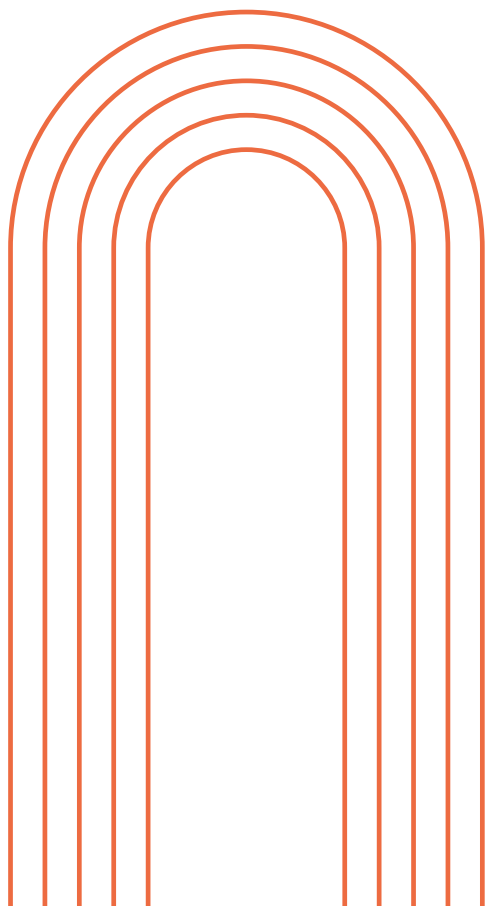
- **Circus Transformation in Action**

Creative Europe

Through our Creative Europe Co-operation Project Wires Crossed: Head, Heart, Balance (2019 –2023) we have delivered wellbeing impact through community participation programmes, created a new a new professional funambulism ensemble BassAlto and conducted scientific research into the neurological effects of funambulism on the brain. In 2021, we delivered a two-day international conference on the art of funambulism.

European Solidarity Corps

Galway Community Circus has hosted European volunteers since 2013, first through the European Voluntary Service and now through the European Solidarity Corps, a European Union initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe. In 2021 we hosted eight European volunteers from Turkey, Belgium, Spain, France, Italy and Slovenia on an 11-month residency funded by the European Solidarity Corps.



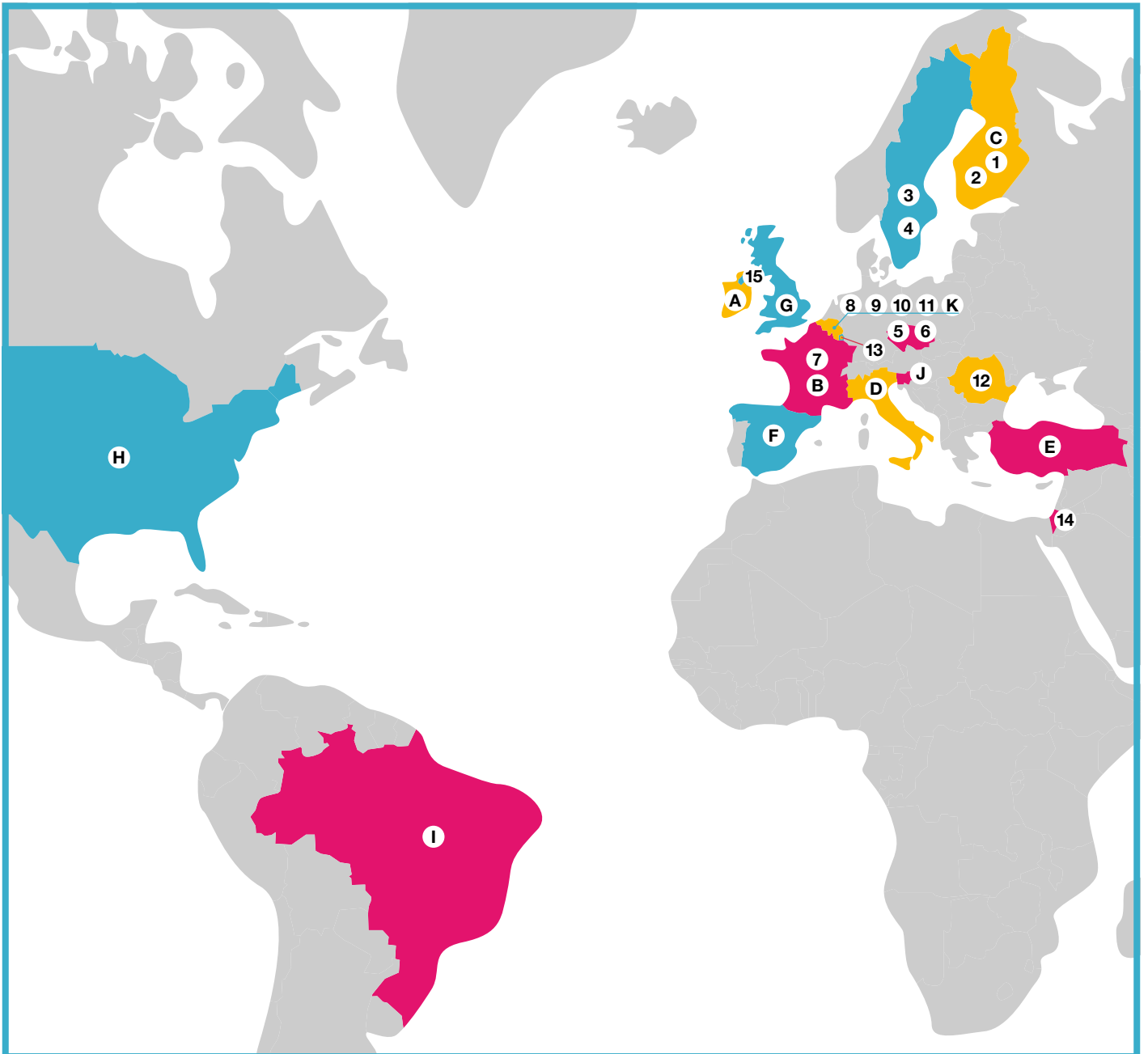
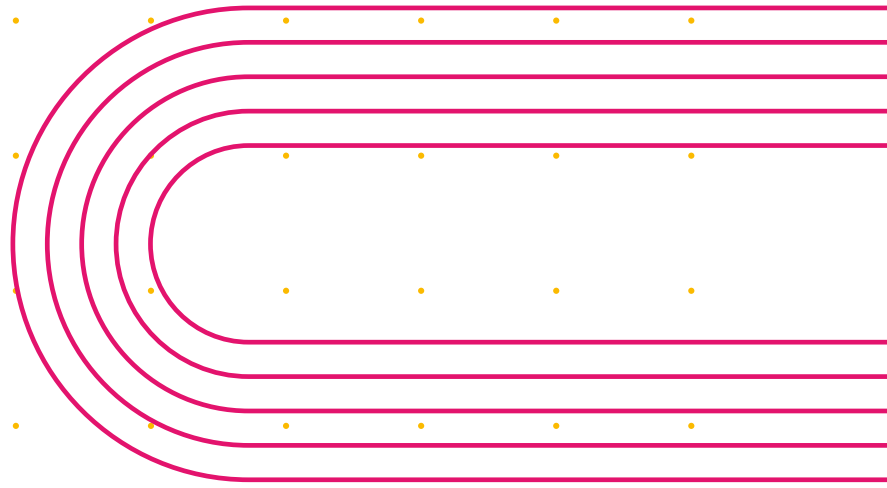
Galway Community Circus Around the World

Key International Partners in 2021

1. **Sorin Sirkus (Finland)**
2. **University of Tampere (Finland)**
3. **Cirkus Cirkor (Sweden)**
4. **Stockholm University of the Arts (Sweden)**
5. **Cirqueon (Czech Republic)**
6. **Cirkus LeGrando (Czech Republic)**
7. **Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde (France)**
8. **Caravan Circus Network (Belgium)**
9. **Circus Beweging (Belgium)**
10. **Ecole De Cirque De Bruxelles (Belgium)**
11. **Universite De Libre Bruxelles (Belgium)**
12. **The Serious Road Trip Romania (Romania)**
13. **Zaltimbanq Zircus (Luxembourg)**
14. **Palestinian Circus School (Palestine)**
15. **Circusful (Northern Ireland)**

Volunteers, Artists & Staff Country of Origin

- A. **Ireland**
- B. **France**
- C. **Finland**
- D. **Italy**
- E. **Turkey**
- F. **Spain**
- G. **United Kingdom**
- H. **United States**
- I. **Brazil**
- J. **Slovenia**
- K. **Belgium**





Governance

Galway Community Circus is a company limited by guarantee (CLG) and a registered charity (20064747) governed by a voluntary Board of Directors.

We confirm that our organisation fully complies with the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector in Ireland and is committed to comply with the charity SORP and the principles of good fundraising.

In 2021 Galway Community Circus had

- **8 Board of Directors - 2 new directors appointed**
- **5 full-time employees (two of which are artists)**
- **2 part-time employees**
- **6 freelance circus educators/technical personnel**
- **8 Erasmus+ volunteers**
- **2 Tús/CE participants**

Senior staff salaries are as follows:

- Band: €40,000-€50,000 Number of employees: 1

The organisation keeps detailed books and records of accounts and maintains strict financial controls. We comply with the Arts Council of Ireland's recommended guidelines for financial reporting. The organisation is transparent in its audited financial statements, with the most recent statements available on our website.

2021 Board of Directors

Ian R. Walsh - Appointed in 2020 - Chairperson
John Jordan - Appointed 2018 - Treasurer
Niall Doyle - Appointed 2018 - Director
Maeve Mulrennan - Appointed 2019 - Director
Darragh O'Donohoe - Appointed in 2020 - Director
Ailbhe Slevin - Appointed in 2020 - Director
Mairead Folan - Appointed in 2021 - Director
Cameron Keighron - Appointed in 2021 - Director

2021 Employee Team

Ulla Hokkanen, Executive Creative Director (full-time)
Fiona Hession, General Manager (full-time)
Becca Clayton, Producer (full-time)
Gwen Le Guillou, Financial Officer (part-time)
Davi Hora, Company Artist and Educator (full-time)
Isabela Mello, Company Artist and Educator (full-time)
Alexandra Stewart, Digital Engagement Officer (part-time)
Tony Mahon, Technical Manager (Freelance part-time)
Anet Moore (Tús, part-time)
Emma O'Toole (CE, part-time)
Federico Brigante (part-time)
Saida Ramondino (part-time)

Core Artists and Educators

Davi Hora
Isabela Mello
Lisa O'Farrell
Juliette O'Donnell
Caoimhe O'Dochartaigh Barr
Freddy Burrows

European Solidarity Corps Volunteers

Aline Lepla (France)
Gemma Aragones (Spain)
Gokce Dogan (Turkey)
Louis Gosselin (Belgium)
Ines Garcia (Spain)
Lau Marco (Catalonia)
Laura Santi (Italy)
Nastja Fekonja (Slovenia)

“

I love the *caring, sharing* feeling of the circus *team* and classes. They seem to really *love* what they are doing.”

- Adult Circus member

Financial Report

Summary of Audited Accounts

Galway Community Circus Company Limited by Guarantee Financial Audit
For the year ended 31 December 2021

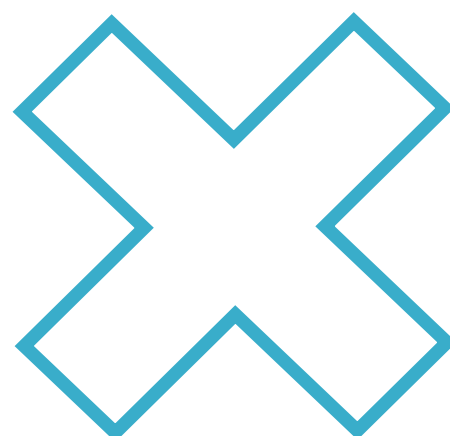
This is for information purposes only and does not form part of our statutory accounts. For a full set of audited accounts for 2021 please refer to the governance page on our website.

	2021	2020
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	54,339	34,719
Current Assets		
Stocks	2,353	701
Debtors	55,959	93,686
Cash and cash equivalents	320,695	262,710
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(297,799)	(301,195)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)	81,211	55,902
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	135,550	90,621
Government grants	(37,659)	(16,585)
Net Assets	97,891	74,036
Reserves		
Operating Reserves	35,000	25,000
Income and expenditure account	62,891	49,036
Members' Funds	97,891	74,036
Total Income	540,219	453,555
Total Expenditure	516,367	424,208
Net surplus/(deficit)	23,856	29,347

Financial Results

The surplus/(deficit) for the financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €23,856 (2020 - €29,347). At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €433,349 (2020 - €391,816) and liabilities of €335,458 (2020 - €317,780). The net assets of the company have increased by €23,856.

Audit by Owen McDonough & Associates Ltd, (Chartered Accountants).



Partners and Funders

Thank you to all our partners and funders for your continued support!



GALWAY COMMUNITY CIRCUS ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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