

Spring is here – juggling balls are dropping like rain, smiles are blooming like flowers, and trapezes are swinging like ... well, trapezes!

I am happy to report that the first quarter of 2016 has been great for SANCA! Our students, parents, patrons, coaches, and staff have continued to build an amazing family, all of us supporting each other as we discover the places in ourselves and others that are transformed by circus arts.

Our annual fundraising gala was a tremendous success! Thank you to all who joined us on Leap Day or were with us in spirit. Your support helped us raise nearly \$200,000, beating last year's event fundraising by more than \$35,000! You continue to validate our direction and commitment to our mission by helping to directly fund SANCA's increased investment in Social Circus, our Youth Performance Companies, and our ongoing scholarships for youth in Circus Arts classes.

We'd also like to extend our gratitude to our generous friends and hosts at Teatro ZinZanni and our wonderful group of event sponsors. A big thanks also to our performers who carried us on an amazing metaphorical journey from a bleak, black & white world into the vibrant, joyful, and colorful world that SANCA embodies!

Here at SANCA we're calling 2016 the "year of Social Circus." Our pilot program with the Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA) has been a huge success – they're asking us to expand our partnership to include additional sites this summer. We're also beginning new partnerships with organizations like Garfield Community Center and the Broadview Emergency Shelter.

SANCA's therapeutic circus arts program, Every Body's Circus (EBC), is thriving – already this year our EBC student population has grown by 25%. In March, we kicked-off EBC Outreach with two special education classes from the Highline School District, introducing them to the challenge, joy, and triumph of circus arts. Stay tuned – we'll keep you posted on our progress. In the meantime – read Ian Jagel's article about Social Circus in this newsletter and follow us on our website and blog!

Many of you have probably seen a flurry of announcements for our new workshops. These workshops provide higher-level training and specialty skills instruction from SANCA coaches, guest performers, and visiting artists giving students the opportunity to dive deeper into their chosen circus art! Check the website for a full listing.

Leap into Spring with a class or workshop and celebrate with us! Take an Intro to Circus or "single serving" class or finish out your week with a Friday night Pay-Per-Flight on the flying trapeze! We also have a bevy of performances upcoming: the Spring Festival of Flight, SASS - SANCA's Annual Spring Showcase, and the P3 Demonstration. Come on down!

I have the privilege of being here at SANCA everyday, but it wouldn't mean anything if you, our amazing SANCA family, weren't here, in person or in spirit, to challenge yourself and grow and help others to do the same.

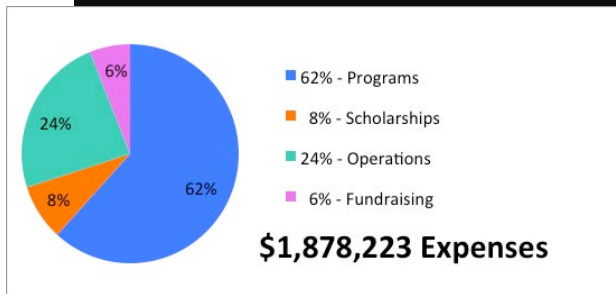
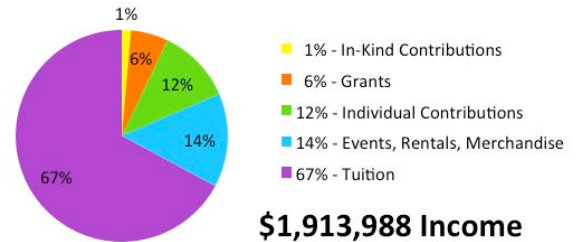
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Carl Bystrom
Interim Executive Director
SANCA – School of Acrobatics & New Circus Arts



2015 Preliminary Financials*



Net Income \$35,765

*The 2015 financials are preliminary. Final numbers will be presented with our IRS 990 Tax Return, available in August.



Photos: John Cornicello

Social Circus: Community, Empowerment, & Play



by Ian Jagel,
Social Circus Director

There is power in circus.

The feedback from Kayla Blau and Deepa Bhandaru illustrates the transformative power of circus. It is an honor to work with the youth from the Broadview Shelter and ReWA here at SANCA— the circus school with the most regularly enrolled students in the United States. At SANCA we have a unique and exciting opportunity to be a leader in the world of circus arts education and part of the Social Circus movement.

Social Circus is an innovative social intervention approach that uses circus arts to assist with participants' personal and social development by nurturing their self-esteem, and help them to build trust in others, acquire social skills, become active citizens, express their creativity, and realize their potential. Social Circus is a powerful catalyst for creating

busy cultivating relationships locally. You don't need to go across the world to find refugees, trauma survivors, or homeless youth — they are all right here in Seattle. SANCA works with hundreds of these kids every year. You'll see SANCA coaches teaching circus classes in community centers and public schools in the Delridge, South Park, Rainier Valley, and Beacon Hill neighborhoods. In these community programs, we're emphasizing youth development, social inclusion, and physical play. This spring, we're expanding our ongoing partnerships with more classes and adding Garfield Community Center as a new partner.

Another new partner, Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA), is nearing the end of their first session and the participants are collectively developing

It is an invaluable experience for the children in our shelter and transitional housing program to have a fun, active, invigorating field trip. The moms in our program are extremely stressed out and overwhelmed with court dates, housing appointments, food banks, parenting plans ... the list seemingly never ends. As much as they wish they could provide fun activities for their children, it often isn't realistic in times of crisis. The field trips to SANCA provide an extremely necessary outlet for the kids' energy, [and their] desire to connect with safe adults and to try new things. [The] kids had such a sense of pride and accomplishment after they went on the flying trapeze. While a sense of accomplish-

ment is important for every child, it is especially important for kids in our program who have been severely traumatized. Often-times, they were around violent or unsupportive parental figures who made them feel like nothing they did was good enough, severely impacting their sense of worth and autonomy. This active, supportive, positive environment was extremely impactful on our community's most vulnerable children. Thank you so much for your skilled instructor's support, encouragement, and above all for this opportunity. We cannot thank you enough!

—Kayla Blau, Children's Advocate

Broadview Shelter & Transitional Housing Program

social change because it helps marginalized individuals assume their place within a community and enrich that community with their talents. In nearly every country in the world, Social Circus programs are developing innovative, multi-disciplinary approaches to positively impact those most at-risk in their communities. Initially a grassroots movement, Social Circus is now a global network.

At SANCA we're looking to circus programs across the world for connection with the global circus community, asking, *"What is the most compelling work being done in circus education? What approaches are most effective in manifesting personal and collective transformation through circus arts? Who can benefit?"*

The more we ask, the more we realize that SANCA is already a leader, and we are exploring new approaches to the Social Circus movement. Recently the American Circus Educators (ACE) organization recognized SANCA in their new network of national Social Circus programs that meet the needs of at-risk populations and address social issues such as social isolation, the impact of trauma and violence, and the lack of access to arts and cultural activity.

As we connect with the broader world community of Social Circus, we're

a culminating performance to share with family and friends. We're already looking forward to more classes with them this summer.

SANCA's Every Body's Circus program is also growing with several new students enrolled. Guided by SANCA coach and licensed Social Worker Alex Daves, we now offer individual and group therapy using circus as a therapeutic medium. To give you an idea of the extraordinary level of commitment to this work, every SANCA employee — about 70 of us — have become certified under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). That's a \$5,000 investment to ensure the privacy and security of students participating in the EBC program. SANCA is united behind this work.

This is only the beginning — there are countless unexplored avenues of circus transformation. Looking forward, we will expand our therapeutic and outreach work with adults, strengthen our connections with current students, and discover new communities interested in the benefits of circus arts.

SANCA is more than a school — it's a community made rich by our broad cross-section of students. Thank you for making SANCA the wonderful community that it is!

Yesterday's class was AWESOME! The kids were really into it, and they all seem excited to move forward ... The physical aspect of circus is what appeals to most of the kids. The [performance] aspect is much more scary, and it's the part that I really hope we can get them excited about, since that's where this program has the potential to be truly transformative ... The great thing about this program is that words are supplementary and the body is the primary site of expression, which puts these kids on a different footing than they're used to.

— **Deepa Bhandaru, Lead Teacher and Program Coordinator**
Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA)



WELCOME



Alex Daves, MSW, Therapeutic Circus Arts Coach

We're excited to have former SANCA coach Alex Daves back with us this year! Alex has been away in Boston earning her Master's degree in Clinical Social Work, and has returned to SANCA to bring together the worlds of circus arts and therapy. Alex previously taught at SANCA from 2008-2010, teaching hand balancing and general circus to both children and adults. She has a BA in Psychology from Oberlin College and just received Master's degree from Boston College. Her experience focuses on working with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, trauma-based diagnoses, depression, and anxiety. Alex works together with SANCA co-founder Jo Montgomery to round out our EBC offerings – Jo focuses her work with people who have physical disabilities, while Alex works with those who have cognitive or emotional trauma or disorders.

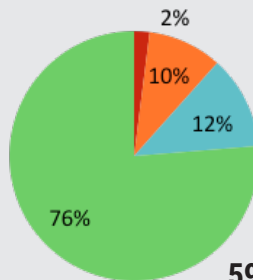


Audrey Spinazola, Youth Performance Program Manager

Audrey joined SANCA at the beginning of 2016 as the new manager of SANCA's Youth Performance Program. Audrey graduated from two one-year conservatory programs in San Francisco: The Clown Conservatory and Flying Actor's Physical Theater program. She also co-founded Main Street Theater, an alternative event space in San Francisco. Dedicated to Physical Theatre and the Variety Arts, she created, performed, and produced circus and physical theatre for five years. She has been a juggler for Myth Busters and the San Francisco Opera, and she is one half of the musical duo "Carl and Beatrice." She co-created and toured the award-winning two woman circus/clown show, Genie and Audrey's Dream Show!!! Her coaching experience includes youth circus programs at San Francisco's Circus Center, Prescott Circus Theater in Oakland, NuevaSummer, and Circus Moves.

Meet other new SANCA staff on our blog: <http://sancaseattle.org/news/2016/03/hello-and-goodbye>.

2015 Scholarship Report



- 2% - Every Body's Circus
- 10% - Youth Performance Program
- 12% - Social Circus
- 76% - Circus Arts Classes

594 youth received \$155,794 in scholarships



Calling All Circus Arts Lovers!

SAVE THE DATE

for

give
BIG

For 24 hours only — Midnight to Midnight — this is your chance to have your gift to SANCA count for more with a stretch match from The Seattle Foundation.

This 24-hour community giving day is SANCA's Annual Spring Fund Drive to support youth scholarships and circus arts programs for underserved and at-risk youth.

May 3

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are in order to three of our Professional Preparatory Program (P3) students! Cameron Clarke (Class of 2016) and Clara Scudder-Davis (Class of 2015) have been accepted to L'Ecole de Cirque de Quebec for the coming year. Chris Bess (Class of 2016) has secured first place on the waitlist for L'Ecole Nationale de Cirque in Montreal — we think he'll make it! We're very excited to have helped these aspiring circus artists along on the next step in their circus careers. SANCA's P3 program prepares young artists for entry into certified 3-year diploma programs. We can't wait to see where they'll go next!



You can see our Class of 2016 P3 students when they perform in the free P3 end-of-year demonstration on June 3, 4, & 5

SANCA

Spring 2016

May 3 – giveBIG!

Maximize your gift to SANCA with a partial match from The Seattle Foundation

May 6 & 7 – Spring Festival of Flight!

Flying trapeze open house and demonstrations

May 20-22 – SASS!

SANCA's Annual Spring Showcase
Four unique variety shows

June 3-5 – P3 Demonstrations!

Our Professional Preparatory Program graduates display their skills and artistry

June 12: Open Enrollment for Summer

June 27: Summer Camps Begin

www.sancaseattle.org

SANCA's youth performing troupe *Cirrus Circus* creates their own original full-length circus show every autumn

Photo: John Cornicello

SANCA

SCHOOL OF ACROBATICS
& NEW CIRCUS ARTS

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Photo: John Cornicello