



FLIPSIDE
CIRCUS

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering communities through circus



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FLIPSIDE CIRCUS

SNAPSHOT

2019

55,000 Training Centre Visitors



AUDIENCES
15,252

111 performances

3 new works

4 creative
developments



2 MATILDA AWARDS

'Best Circus/Physical Theatre'
'Best Director'



RESIDENCIES & TOURS

Mt Isa, Bajool, Hughenden, Charters Towers, Julia Creek, Normanton, Tambo, Barcaldine, Aramac, Longreach, Jundah, Quilpie, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Redlands, Toowoomba.

SOCIAL CIRCUS

1,170 participants

87 workshops/programs



SUPPORTING QUEENSLAND CIRCUS ARTISTS

984 artists supported

11 works developed at Flipside

1 company in residence

3 artists in residence



43,282 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

34,348 Brisbane

3,468 regional and remote

5,166 South East Queensland

Creative Director/ CEO's message

2019 was a coming of age for Flipside Circus. We built on 20 years of history, 20 years of amazing training, performance, community engagement, and support for Queensland's circus sector, and cemented our place as a leader in youth arts and circus arts practice.

We reached record numbers of participants and spent almost 100 days on the road working with remote and regional communities. We created bold new performances, collaborated with artists across forms, won critical recognition and two Matilda Awards.

We performed in the Brisbane Festival, QPAC, Brisbane Powerhouse, Horizon Festival, Woodford Folk Festival, and outdoor stages and events all over the state. We expanded our education programs, and regular training programs. We partnered with three different companies to create new works. And, we supported artists providing space for new work, training, and rehearsal.

We looked to the future, developing our vision for a new home – the Brisbane Circus Centre – and secured a \$1 million commitment from the Federal Government towards its establishment.

Flipside is a company with a bright future and infectious energy. It connects communities and supports participants and artists to take risks and grow. It is an honour to lead this organisation and impossible without the tireless support of our community, our staff, artists and trainers, and our board. Thank you.

Robert Kronk



Chair's message

Last year, I marvelled at how Flipside had grown into a leader in circus and performing arts in Queensland and Australia. 2018 was a watershed year for Flipside, with the company exceeding strategic targets, and reaching more audience members, students and young people than ever before. In 2019 we did even better – reaching over 15,000 audience members and over 43,000 participants, which is more than ever before. Of those 43,000 participants, 99% rated our training as good or excellent.

We also spent more time touring Queensland and working with regional and remote communities than ever before. We were on the road for 99 days outside South East Queensland, from Toowoomba to Mt Isa and loads of places in between. Our support for local artists and our work collaborating with artists across disciplines continued in earnest. And our new and continuing creative works continue to flourish. Our new show, *Statum*, was a highlight.

From a corporate perspective, we have enjoyed greater financial stability and Flipside realised its goal of transitioning to a company limited by guarantee in 2019.

Achieving that goal was the result of vital support from McCullough Robertson, who has been a supporter for some time, as well as KPMG and Arts Queensland. This is an important step in Flipside's growing maturity and role as a leader in the sector and represents a real coming-of-age for the company. The transition not only brings with it increased transparency in governance and financial decision-making, which is vital, but allows Flipside to more easily take advantage of commercial opportunities that arise. I am delighted that this strategically important step has now come to pass.

2019 was also our last full year at our training centre in Mina Parade. In 2020 we will be building a new, purpose-built Brisbane Circus Centre. We can't wait to tell you more about that. We have had countless supporters along the way, especially from the Federal Government and the Brisbane City Council and I would like to acknowledge the strong support from the Hon Trevor Evans MP and Cr Peter Matic in that regard.

Heading into 2020, these changes mean we are well placed to take advantage of our fantastic new home and the opportunities that will bring, too.

Needless to say, all of this would be for nothing without the incredible work of Robert Kronk, our CEO, and our team of dedicated and inspiring staff. Flipside is so lucky to have a leader in Robert who possesses a wonderful combination of artistic vision and business acumen and I am very pleased to be able to continue to work with him into 2020, especially in the lead up to unveiling our new home. The work done by Flipside's board in 2019 and heading into 2020 has also been tremendous, especially in developing our strategic vision and planning for a new home. I am continually grateful for their support and dedication.

I look forward to reporting on our continued growth and successes in 2020. This time next year, we will be almost finished constructing our new Brisbane Contemporary Circus Centre. We can't wait for you to join us there.

Hamish Clift

TOURING



2017 TOURING DAYS

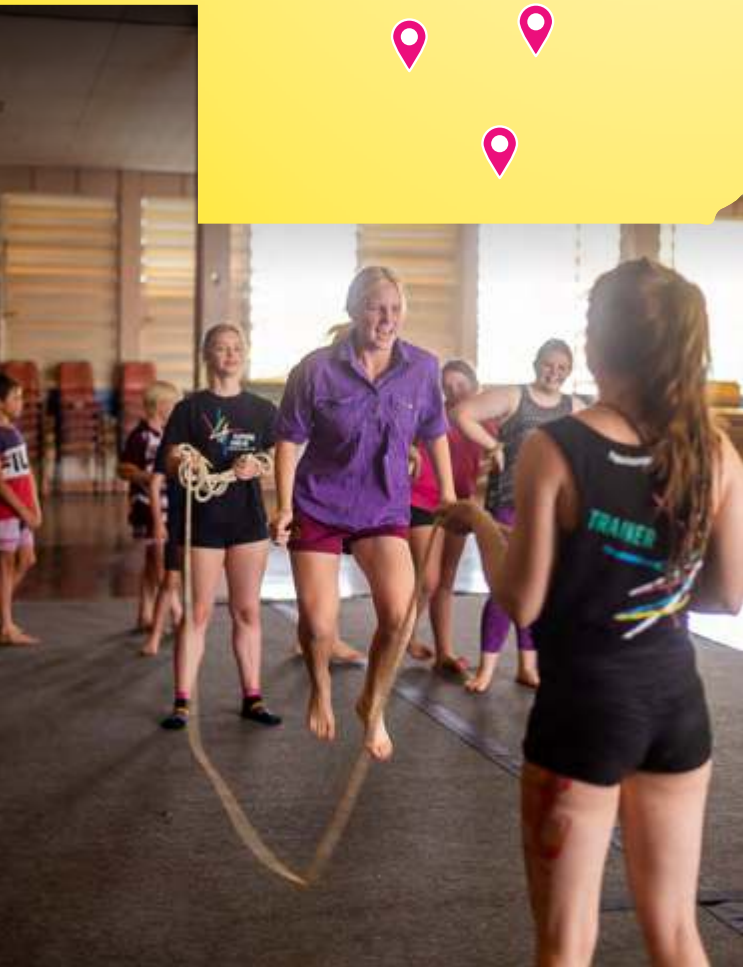
SEQ	Regional & remote QLD
15	32

2018 TOURING DAYS

SEQ	Regional & remote QLD
26	40

2019 TOURING DAYS

SEQ	Regional & remote QLD
18	99

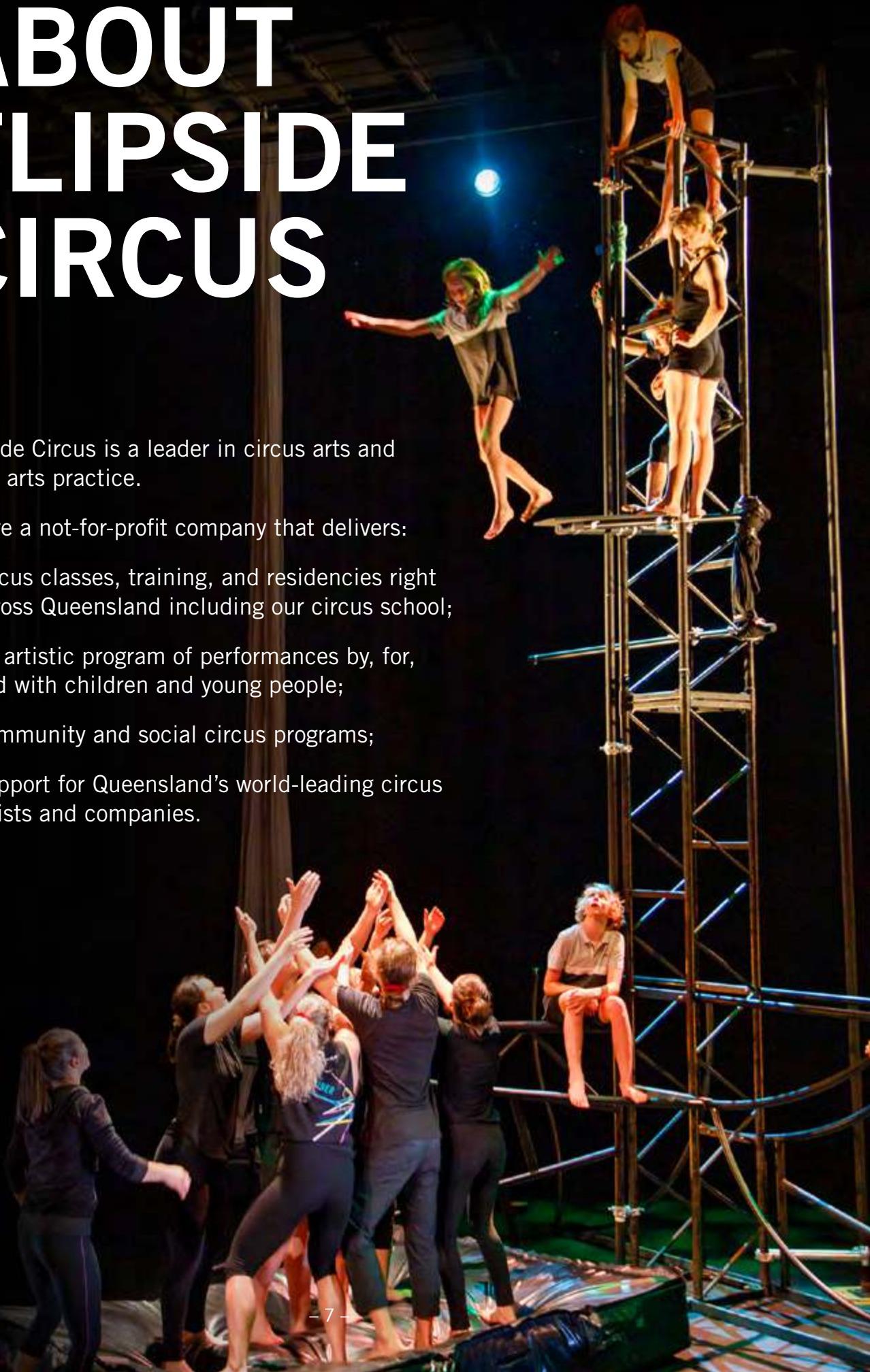


ABOUT FLIPSIDE CIRCUS

Flipside Circus is a leader in circus arts and youth arts practice.

We are a not-for-profit company that delivers:

- Circus classes, training, and residencies right across Queensland including our circus school;
- An artistic program of performances by, for, and with children and young people;
- Community and social circus programs;
- Support for Queensland's world-leading circus artists and companies.



Vision

To empower communities through circus.

Values

Circus is joyous, celebratory, and risky. Circus engages the body, mind, and heart.

Celebration	Circus is joyous – it creates a safe space where everyone can play and laugh.
Experimentation	Circus is risky – all that we do pushes the boundaries of the possible.
Creativity	Circus is collaborative – we nurture communities (partnering with audiences, participants, and cross-agency experts) and encourage connection and creativity across society.
Wellbeing	Circus transforms people and communities – creating healthy minds and bodies, building resilience and emotional stamina.
Agility	Circus is nimble – with skill and agility we are responsive to community’s needs.

Outcomes

Physical and mental health	Circus helps create healthy bodies and minds
Resilience	Circus builds resilience and emotional stamina
Inclusiveness	Circus is for everyone
Creative, connected, and engaged communities	We empower cultural creators, audiences, and participants.
We create connections between communities.	Circus is nimble – with skill and agility we are responsive to community’s needs.
Transformation	Circus creates agency for individuals and communities.
A significant asset for Queensland	Flipside will cement Queensland and Brisbane’s place as a world leader in circus practice and support employment.
Sustainability	Increased capacity, organisational resilience, and sustainability. Best practice environmental practices (with a view to reduce running costs).

We affirm Reg Bolton’s (one of Australia’s leading researchers in circus and young people), six elements of circus activity: to show off, take risks, dream and aspire, work hard, laugh, and have fun!

TRAINING PROGRAMS

43,282
participants
in total

100%
of participants rated
our training programs
good or excellent

Flipside's training programs reach participants right across Queensland. Based out of our Alderley training centre the programs include:

- **Flipside's circus school**
 - 380 average enrolments in Flipside's circus school
- **In-schools, and outside school hours care programs**
 - Over 53 workshops in 2019 working with over 1,600 students
- **School holiday workshop programs**
 - 1,731 participants at Alderley + programs in partnership with Empire Theatres (Toowoomba), Scenic Rim and Redland Performing Arts Centre
- **Touring residencies and workshops**
 - Mt Isa, Bajool, Hughenden, Charters Towers, Julia Creek, Normanton, Tambo, Barcardine, Aramac, Longreach, Jundah, Quilpie, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Redlands, and Toowoomba
- **Community activations and events**
 - Annual community show, *Heroes and Villains* – 47 young artists
 - 2019 Fiesta 300 performers and over 1,500 attendees.



ARTISTIC PROGRAM

3 new works
15,377 audiences
4 creative developments
77 young artists
73 professional artists
collaborations with **3** new companies

“An ambitious company that aims to make work that confronts big issues.”

– Artshub



Productions

- *Revolve* (return season Logan December 2019)
- *Statum* (premier season, Brisbane Powerhouse October-November 2019). Matilda Award nominated
- *We Live Here* (Brisbane Festival, Cremorne Theatre September 2019)
- *Heroes and Villains* (Community Show)

Creative development highlights

- Creative development, *Wilbur the Optical Whale*, new partnership supporting Indelability Arts;
- Creative development, *Dogs in the Schoolyard*, working with Assembly of Elephants.

“Flipside Circus and Counterpilot should be applauded for their creativity and innovation.”

– Statum Review, Scenestr

“Should be on everyone’s bucket list.”

– Michelle Collins, Courier Mail, review *We Live Here*



Flipside performances are centred on collaboration and dedicated to telling stories through circus. Created by, for, and with children and young people our performances are theatrical events that draw other artforms into playful experimentation.

Statum

By Flipside Circus and Counterpilot in partnership with Brisbane Powerhouse at the Visy Theatre.

Our collaboration with transmedia collective, Counterpilot, *Statum*, commissioned by the Brisbane Powerhouse premiered in the Powerhouse's Visy Theatre in October 2019.

Bringing together professional artists from across disciplines, Flipside's performance troupe, and early career artists, *Statum* fused acrobatic virtuosity and live biometric data to create a circus show like no other.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director/devisor: Nathan Sibthorpe – Counterpilot

Director/devisor/dramaturge: Robert Kronk

Performer/design assistant/assistant director: Kelsey Booth

Devisors/performers:

Flipside Circus Performance Troupe, Mia Hughes, Tula Homes, Zebedee Davies, Eden Vann, Oscar Morris, Samantha Giles, Cassidy Burke, Lucy Hunterland, Aurora Bennett-Godde.

Lighting design: Christine Felmingham

Audio and sound design: Mike Willmet

Production and visual design: Jeremy Gordon

Software design: Clinton Freeman

Set design: Josh McIntosh



*"A mesmerising integration
of circus, data, and video."*

– Creative Futures

We Live Here

By Flipside Circus, a Metro Arts Commission, presented by Brisbane Festival at the Cremorne Theatre.

Flipside's award-winning *We Live Here* returned in 2019 with sell out shows as part of the Brisbane Festival.

Based on the stories of parents, siblings, and guests of Hummingbird House (Queensland's only youth hospice). *We Live Here* explores themes of resilience, chaos, and the beauty of a moment shared.

Created by young Flipside Circus performers working with professional artists and the Hummingbird House community.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director/creator: Natano Fa'anana

Director/creator: Bridget Boyle

Dramaturg/creator: Robert Kronk

Creators/performers:

Mia Hughes, Amy Stuart, Skip Walker-Milne, Luke Whitefield, Indra Garvey

Premier production manager/lighting design: Felicity Organ-Moore

Set & Costume Designer: Josh McIntosh

Audio & Projection Designer: Mik La Vage

Remount lighting designer: Jason Glenwright

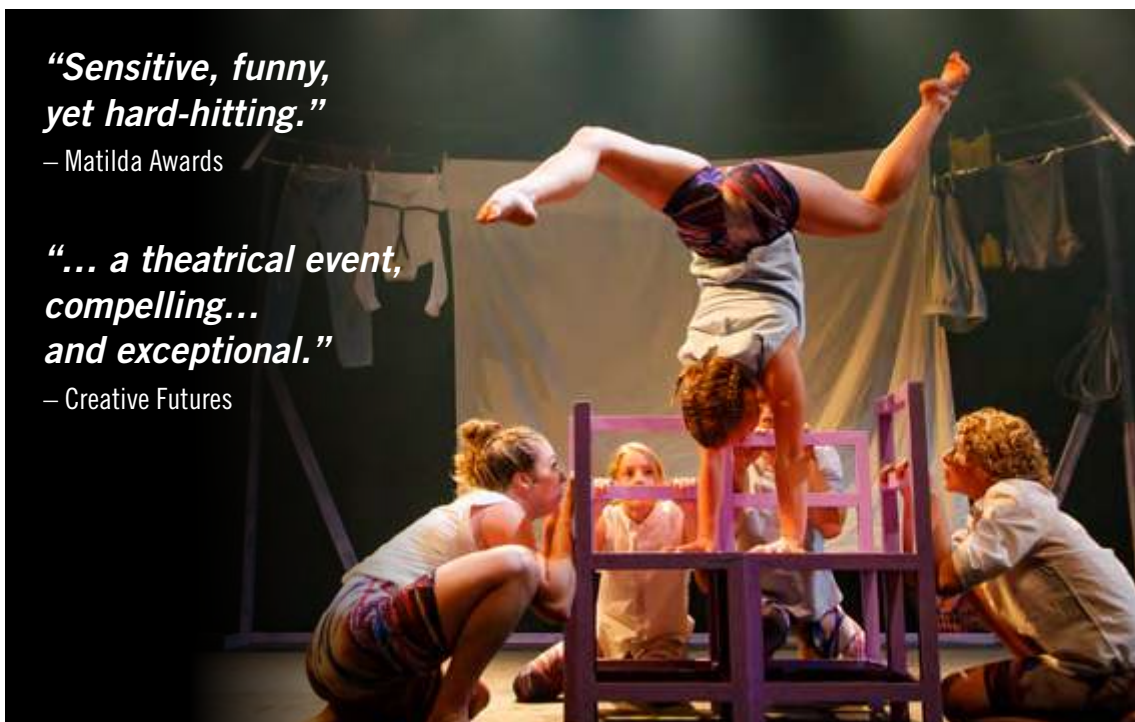
From an original concept by Jo Thomas.

***"Sensitive, funny,
yet hard-hitting."***

– Matilda Awards

***"... a theatrical event,
compelling...
and exceptional."***

– Creative Futures



SOCIAL CIRCUS



1,170
participants

2
participants
in bursary
program

87
workshops/
programs

Strengthening communities and engaging young people – our social circus programs are all about striving to ensure our circus programs are as accessible as possible.

In 2019 we focused on expanding our reach in regional and remote communities working with partners including ArTour and the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, the Queensland Government through the Playing Queensland Fund, as well as local governments, venues, and community organisations all over Queensland.

In 2019 Flipside trainers and artists were on the road in regional and remote Queensland for 99 days (up from 40 in 2018).

Flipside trainers and artists collaborated with Indelability Arts to help develop Indelability's award-winning *Wilbur the Optical Whale* (pictured during its 2020 Adelaide Fringe Festival season).

Our Explore the Possibilities program marked ten years bringing parents, carers, circus trainers, and physical therapists together to work with children with high and special needs.

Photo by David Sakko.

DRIVING SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

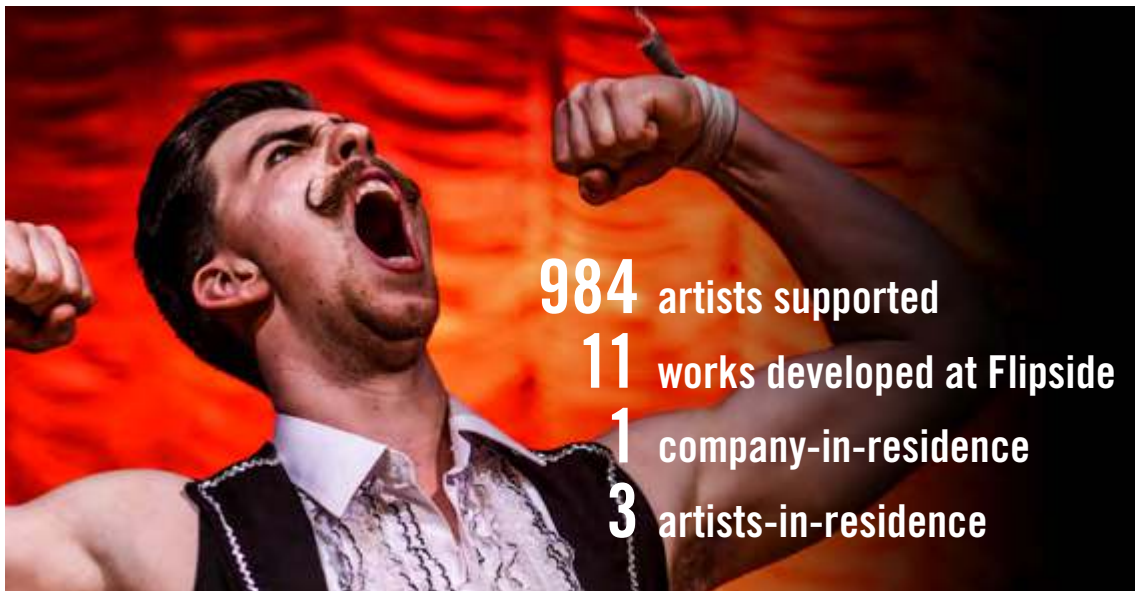
Brisbane is a world leading circus city – home to extraordinary artists and companies and a unique aesthetic that is sought after around the world.

For 21 years Flipside has nurtured Queensland’s circus artists and companies. In 2019, we were home to seven arts organisations; and home away from home for hundreds of artists providing thousands of hours of rehearsal and training space.

Flipside directly employed 76 artists and arts workers in 2019 (up from 49 in 2018) and a further 90 indirectly. 2019 also saw the company begin to develop a range of programs that support connections between young artists and professional artists.

“As an independent artist, having access to a well administered, friendly and supporting arts space is important. Over the last five years Flipside Circus has been this ... providing opportunity and access; they have provided space through their artist-in-residence program which enabled me to create an award winning (and now touring) solo show, affordable space hire to run a small teaching business that sustains my practice, and affordable training access at suitable times for an artist working independently. They fill a fundamental and necessary role in this industry that allows for the propagation of new emerging artists, new art, and new idea.”

– Alex Mizzen, Artist/Director/Facilitator and former Flipside artist-in-residence



Thank you

2019 Government partner



**Queensland
Government**

Flipside Circus is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland part of the Department of Environment and Science.

2019 project partner



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

2019 partners



2019 project supporters

Assembly of Elephants
BCL Production Services
Brisbane Powerhouse
Cirque du Soleil
Counterpilot
Creative Futures Photography
Lukas Davidson
Dylan Evans
Eyeball Media
Lead Based Ink
Daniel Meldrum
OCC Therapy
PixelFrame
Printworks
Queensland Performing Arts Centre
Councillor Andrew Wines, Councillor for Enoggera Ward

The Flipside team

Board

Chair: Hamish Clift
 Treasurer: Catherine Nufer-Barr
 Co-secretary: Sarah Thomasson
 Co-secretary: Robert Kronk
 Director: Sean Mee
 Director: Jon Sullivan
 Director: Cameron Hoffman
 Director: Summer Bland
 Director: Felicity Mandile (from July 2019)

Staff

Creative Director/CEO: Robert Kronk
 Administration and finance manager: Joanne Volz
 Program coordinator/trainer: Brooke Hill
 Marketing coordinator: Gabriela Gallardo
 Venue coordinator/trainer: Chris Fleming
 Customer service and administration assistant (to April): Kitty Malcolm
 Customer service and administration assistant (from April): Rebecca Campbell

Trainers and support staff

Aliya Abisheva	Ellen Cox	Laurinda Harradine	Mozes Mozes
Alexa Loporati	Frances Miller	Louise Tyler	Pearl Thompson
Alex Weckes-Huck	Isabelle Lawton	Luke Quadrio	PhoebeArmstrong
Amelia Smith	Jacob Ramis	Lulu O'Brien	PhoebeWaltham
Amy Stuart	Josephine O'Boyle	Maite Miramontes	Prudence Hartley
David Sampford	Kelsey Adams	Mayu Muto	Regan Henry
Eliza Gawne	Lara Croydon	Mikayla Adams	Skip Walker-Milne
Elizabeth Bloomer			

Trainee trainers

Alana Langley
 Alicia Maccarone
 Kelsey Booth
 Mia Hughes

Volunteers

Flipside's amazing community and families.