

My Nose Turns Red



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Just like our students, we persevere. We are thankful for our circus family and appreciate the many hours our board has dedicated to working through this crisis. Both ArtsWave and the American Circus Educators helped us navigate the waters through dialogue and resources. We want to thank our funders and donors for your ongoing support.

We have been back to in-person classes since July 2020 at a reduced capacity. All performances in 2020 were virtual. Due to the pandemic, we reduced all of our classes and camps to eight students for 2020. We raised it to twelve in 2021. When the vaccine is available for 5-11-years-olds, we will raise it to 15 students per class.

Our work with Hispanic immigrant students from Roberts Paideia Academy that Transformations CDC serves is one shining light. Since MNTR could not get into the schools last year, Transformations director Nancy Sullivan transported seven students throughout the Winter/Spring session to our studio, where they learned more advanced circus skills. They participated in the virtual youth circus extravaganza, Pixels, Prisms, and Pies: A Pigment of Your Imagination.

Since coming to our gym meant access to more equipment, we have continued to host Transformations on Tuesday afternoons. Mia Gorman, Natalie Roenker, and Steve Roenker coached while Nancy Sullivan and I cheer them on.

We are also excited about our new Circus in the Parks program. We piloted three performances in 2021 and are planning on performing at ten parks next year. Circus in the Parks meets our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access goals by providing diverse students the opportunity to create a sense of belonging and engage the public.

As Cincinnati's premier youth circus, we are working to broaden our access by partnering with other organizations. We are committed to creating an inclusive environment where children and youth can challenge themselves physically, collaborate, create acts, create a sense of belonging, and develop essential life skills.

Our core mission is to provide a framework for youth transformation through circus arts.



Jean St. John
Executive Director



INTRODUCTION | 2021 By the Numbers

Founded: 1984, Youth Circus 1997



Years of Youth Circus

23



Total Registrations

646



Increase of

200%



Underserved Students
Who Attend for Free

34%



Total Hours Spent
Learning Zoom

∞

In 2021 My Nose Turns Red Students Traveled...

100 
Miles by
German Wheel

2,000 
Miles on
the Unicycle

INTRODUCTION

Our Mission

Through the art of the theatrical clown and the one-ring circus, My Nose Turns Red cultivates a supportive environment that inspires youth to challenge themselves, develop essential life skills, and engage audiences.

My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus (MNTR) provides a non-competitive, safe environment for students of all ages to be courageous, to set personal goals, to persevere, to work together, to be inspired, and to have fun. MNTR serves through after-school programs, year-round classes at the Evendale Cultural Arts Center, and summer camps. Through funding from ArtsWave, the National Endowment for the Arts, Ohio Arts Council, and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, MNTR is able to provide free after-school circus classes and summer camps to underserved youth.

History

My Nose Turns Red was founded in 1984 when co-founders Jean St. John and Steve Roenker began touring as theatrical clowns, Juice and Shootang, bringing their art form to thousands of children through school performances, workshops, and residencies. In 1997, MNTR created a circus program designed to give youth the opportunity to experience the joys and challenges of circus training and performing.



INTRODUCTION | Board & Staff

Board of Directors

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Monisha House



Staff



Steve Roenker, Artistic Director/Program Manager, MNTR Co-Founder
Co-founder and artistic director of My Nose Turns Red, has 30+ years of experience as a performer and arts educator. While Steve still loves to perform and conduct residencies, his real love is the youth circus program. Steve considers himself lucky to work with all these great children.



Jean St John, Executive Director, MNTR Co-Founder
Co-founded MNTR 37 years ago with Steve Roenker. They performed their clown act to countless schools, libraries, festivals, children's museums, and clown festivals as well as conducting school residencies. In 1997, they began the youth circus program. On April 1, 2019, Jean became the executive director of My Nose Turns Red. She is very proud of all the circus students and is constantly amazed at their courage, strength, discipline, and talent.



Jesse Alford, Head Coach
Jesse is the past board president of the American Youth Circus Organization and the American Circus Educators. He is immensely grateful for the opportunity to get to teach such an incredible group of My Nose Turns Red students! Jesse stepped down as head coach after ten years May 2022.



Natalie Roenker, Coach/Social Circus Project Manager
Natalie grew up in the My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus program. She is a graduate of Northern Kentucky University in theatre and dance. She has completed Cirque du Monde's social circus training program and participated in Carrie Heller's Adaptive Recreational Circus Arts Training at the Circus Arts Institute. She has also been on the American Youth Circus Organization and American Circus Educators' work-study team since 2014.

PROGRAMING

Classes and Camps

My Nose Turns Red offers your child the opportunity to run away and join the circus without leaving home. Students learn how to juggle, balance on the rolling globe, and learn the basics of creating a clown character. Classes are highly engaging; challenging youth to walk on the wire, balance on the rola bola, and build human pyramids, which builds their physical literacy and hand-eye coordination. Students play a wide variety of circus games that build teamwork and cooperation, trust, and friendship. We strive to build your children's selfconfidence and creativity in a safe and non-competitive environment. My Nose Turns Red classes are led by highly experienced, professional circus coaches and experienced assistant coaches. Gym wheel coaches are certified by Internationaler Rhönradturn-Verband.

My Nose Turns Red conducts weekly after-school circus classes in the Greater Cincinnati Area. After-school classes are led by director Steve Roenker, Natalie Roenker, and Circus Youth in Action teens for 6-12 weeks. In 2021, after-school circus classes were held at:

- Fairview-Clifton German Language School
- Hyde Park Elementary School
- Roberts Paideia Academy
- Academy of World Languages

Social Circus

My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus has been nationally recognized as a member of the Social Circus Network with the American Circus Educators Association. The Social Circus Network is designed to bring up-to-date research and resources to the network in order to increase youth circus participation and improve program design. Social Circus Social Circus is a term used by the circus sector to describe the utilization of circus arts to uplift youth and build their self-confidence, trust, and solidarity.

My Nose Turns Red's strategic plan calls for 30% of enrolled students to be underserved and attend for free. In 2021, it was 34%. This included scholarships, two 24-week sessions at Roberts Paideia Academy, Academy of World Languages, and ongoing programming at Diocesan Catholic Children's Home.

Our Social Circus programming also includes The TALL Institute, an organization for adults with intellectual and developmental challenges as well as L.A.D.D. During the spring of 2021, we were able to conduct after-school for Transformations, CDC because the director, Nancy Sullivan provided transportation. In the fall, we were able to return to the schools.

Circus Youth in Action

Circus Youth in Action (CYA) is My Nose Turns Red's creative youth arts leadership development program for teens 14+. Members are a part of MNTR's Advanced Circus Ensemble. They receive instruction on safety, giving instruction, etc. as well as creating solo and group acts. CYA members are valuable members of MNTR's teaching staff. Many serve as assistant instructors at camps and after-school programs.

Community Engagement

My Nose Turns Red engages the community through performances, workshops, and special events. It was a slow start in 2021 to return to live performances. We performed at the Fairview-Clifton Faust Festival, the American Girls Heritage Festival, the Clifton Methodist "Under the Big Top" event, the Wilson Elementary School opening, and "Back to the 60's" event at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center. We held live, in-person summer camps at an eight member capacity and were able to hold our two-week advanced Summer Circus camp. We held the showcase at the Evendale Pavilion, which was the first in-person performance since the 2019 Circ-A-Thon. We took the show on the road to the Mt. Echo Pavilion and back to the Big Art Party. The concept of Circus in the Parks was developed as a way to present live performance for free in Cincinnati Parks.



PERFORMANCES

Pixels, Prisms & Pies: a pigment of your imagination

We were able to perform our annual Youth Circus Extravaganza virtually. Pixels, Prisms & Pies: A Pigment of Your Imagination virtually. Each student had to take their own photo directed at the emerging pie. The concept of the virtual performance was created by the Circus Youth in Action team. All of our meetings were virtual and they met with Matt Steffen, our designer, in creating the poster design.



Circ-A-Thon 2021

Circ-A-Thon 2021 was held in-person at the Fairview-Clifton German Language School.

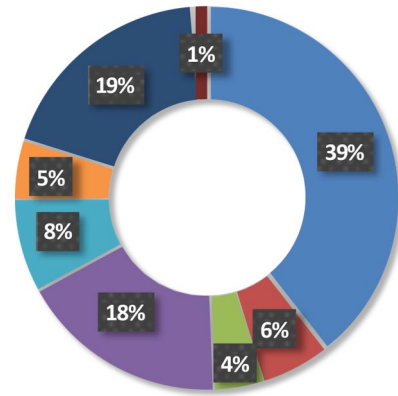
The crowds were down as many people did not feel comfortable being around others yet but we were thrilled to be performing live.



FINANCES | 2021 Financial Report

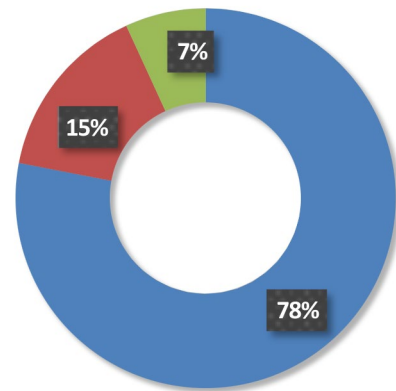
FY 2021 REVENUE

Federal Rescue Funds	\$ 87,092	39%
Federal and State Grants	\$ 12,707	6%
Artswave Grants	\$ 9,200	4%
Foundation Grants	\$ 39,000	18%
Other Contributions	\$ 17,288	8%
Special Event Income	\$ 10,908	5%
Tuition and Fees	\$ 41,637	19%
Performances and other	\$ 2,855	1%
Total	\$ 220,687	100%



FY 2021 EXPENSES BY FUNCTIONAL AREA

Program	\$ 131,536	78%
Administration	\$ 25,511	15%
Fundraising	\$ 11,563	7%
Total	\$ 168,610	100%



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SEE US IN ACTION



This past summer, My Nose Turns Red Youth Circus returned to in-person performances in a new program, Circus in the Parks. The performances were the first time the organization has presented an in-person performance since December 2019.

Youth Circus, while not a traditional sport, requires perseverance, athletic ability, and teamwork. Students learn how to ride a unicycle, balance objects, and balance on objects. They improve their hand-eye by learning to juggle and ability to move objects with the diabolo and hooping. They learn gymnastics through the gym (German) wheel and partner acrobatics.

Circus in the Parks will present ten free performances at Cincinnati Parks in the Summer of 2022. The 18 circus performers will dazzle the audience with their circus skills and ability to engage audiences. Skills include unicycle, juggling, diabolo (Chinese Yo-Yo), hooping, wire walking, rola bola, hooping, and fantastic skills on the rolling gym (German) wheels.



<https://youtu.be/7LGs-jAkV74>

SUPPORT YOUTH CIRCUS!

visit: mynoseturnsred.org

contact: Jean St. John
info@mynoseturnsred.org
859-581-7100

donate: online at
mynoseturnsred.org/support-us

or by check made out to
My Nose Turns Red Theatre Company
PO Box 14445 - Cincinnati, OH 45250





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