

How to Join the Circus

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend Circus events and meetings.

"You don't have to be a paying member to have fun with us, and to participate in what we do," Wong says. General meetings are held the third Saturday of every month, 1 to 3 p.m. at Front Street Studio, 1001 E. Second St., Suite 3465.

Paying members vote and have the final say on Circus matters, although everyone attending meetings has a voice in shaping its agenda. Dues are \$40 annually, and 40 hours of Circus-related work. Voting privileges are granted after attending two meetings.

Membership is open to all, because the Dayton Circus is based on the philosophy that everyone has something to contribute to the city's cultural life.

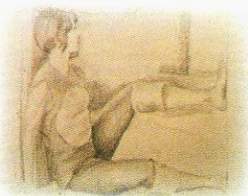
"Everyone is creative," Wong states emphatically. "Everyone is an artist in my opinion."



Circus Folk

Members of the Dayton Circus are as varied and colorful as the ink on a tattooed lady. Here's a small sampling:

Kate Ervin: An urban planner with an art background, Ervin says the Circus helps her "keep one foot in Dayton's creative scene." The vice chair of the board of trustees, she lends her organizational skills to their meetings. "I also try to connect Circus members to people and resources that can help make their ideas happen." Ervin recently hosted a figure drawing session, and taught an urban landscape class at K12. Her upcoming projects include a non-traditional still-life session and an exhibit showcasing citizens' visions for downtown Dayton.



ERVIN

Joel Gillespie: K12 Gallery recently had an opening for Gillespie's paintings. He's been with the Circus for "26 weeks and 19 hours." He joined after Sideshow II. "I will never forget those two amazing nights. It was inspirational and on the border of life changing."

Jeff Opt: An archivist and member of the Circus board of trustees, Opt sees himself as a facilitator, helping to make opportunities for others to create art. Involved with the group since it was a twinkle in Wong's eye, he helped create the inaugural Sideshow, and views the Circus as an opportunity for "meeting new people, making new friends, building community, and hopefully, making something that will change Dayton in a positive way."

Simeon "Story Teller" Oyeyemi: A hip-hop artist and producer, visual artist, teacher and graphic designer, Oyeyemi is currently creating mask drawings in charcoal and working on an album. He sees his role as that of a "voice from the other side of the tracks," and feels that he helps keep the Circus "diverse and multi-artistic." Involved since "day two," Oyeyemi says, "It's not just called 'The Circus'—we are The Circus."



OYEYEMI

Heather Lea Reid: A founding member and the organizer of Sideshow II, Reid is a painter and an "object maker in general." She says that the Circus "has helped me realize that those within Dayton, including me, are capable of more than I have ever imagined." Her art will be on display at the Itty Bitty Shitty Art Show, as well as solo exhibits at Art in Motion (Nov. 23-25), and the K12 Senior Studio (Dec. 3-27).



REID

Lily Whitehead: A henna artist whose goal is "Hennaing Ohio! One body at a time," Whitehead loves being involved in "such a dynamic group of individuals." The Circus has embraced her as an artist, and helped her expand her medium "from simple body art to anything I want it to be. The Circus validates me!"



WHITEHEAD