

en piste

REGROUPEMENT NATIONAL DES ARTS DU CIRQUE
NATIONAL CIRCUS ARTS ALLIANCE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

24 April 2025, from 9:19 to 10:23 a.m.

Robin des Bois

Parc Lafontaine, Montréal

MINUTES 2025

Present

Board of Directors

Tim Roberts	President	École de cirque de Québec
Rosalie Beauchamp	Vice-President	Le Monastère
Alice Kop	Secretary General	La compagnie des autres
Marie-Hélène Côté	Treasurer	Artist
Maude Arseneault	Administrator	Artist
Anahareo Dolle	Administrator	Wonderbolt Productions
Éric Langlois	Administrator	École nationale de cirque
Karine Lavoie	Administrator	Cirque Hors Piste
Nathalie Nicolas	Administratrice	Artiste
Irena Purshke	Administratrice	Artiste

Individual members

Alexandra Royer	Jean-Félix Bélanger
Andréane Leclerc	Jinny Jacinto
Anouk Vallée-Charest	Judy Salloum
Ariel Cronin	Lysandre Murphy-Gauthier
Carole Demers	Maxim Laurin
Caroline Petrement	Mirko Trierenberg
Catherine Viens	Pascal Duguay Gosselin
Céline Jolin	Pauline Baud
Charlotte Gagnon	Rémi Jacques
Evelyne Laforest	Roxanne de Bruyn
Francis Gadbois	Sabine Jean
Frédéric Lemieux-Cormier	Tanya Burka
Frédérique Cournoyer Lessard	Vladimir Lissouba
Gonzalo Coloma	Zed Cézard

Corporate Members

Aaron Marquise — TOHU
Benoit Mathieu — TOHU
Eliza Gélinas-Lance — Cirque Hors Piste
Emilie Vachon — L'Aubergine
Emmanuel Bochud — HUPR
Fred Gérard — HUPR
Guillaume Blais — Le Monastère
Isabelle Chassé — Les 7 Doigts

Julia Sanchez — TOHU | MICC
Manon Fath — Le Monastère
Marianella Michaud — HUPR
Nicolette Hazewinkel — Productions Éclats de Rire
Pablo Maneyrol — TOHU
Pascal Contamine — Cirque Hors Piste
Pascale Bélanger — TOHU
Raphael Fréchette — L'Aubergine / Productions Ratatouille
Samuel Tétreault — Les 7 Doigts
Thomas Lenglard — TOHU
Vanessa Rigaux — MTL Clowns
Vincent Poliquin-Simms — Poliquin-Simms2
Wanderson Santos — L'Aubergine

Educational Organization Members

Anna-Karyna Barlati — ENC
Khafidatou Abiola — École de cirque de Verdun
Kim Bellavance — SODAM-Cirkana
Mathieu Mallet — École de cirque de Verdun
Patrice Aubertin — ENC
Rafaël De La Durantaye — École de Cirque des Îles
Roger Gaudet — École de Cirque des Îles
Tristan Evariste — École de cirque de Verdun

Associate Members

François Boudreault — Cliquez Cirque
Roger Hobden
Caroline Beaudreault — Centre des arts Juliette-Lassonde
Maude Locat — Diffusion En Scène

Employee of a Member Company

Lise-Andrée Champagne

Guests

Roland Naccache, Auditeur, firme Robert Naccache et Ass.

Team Members

Nadia Drouin	Executive Director
Éloi Savoie	Interim Director of Communications
Mathilde Perahia	Director of Continuing Education and Development
Alba Lopez Pedrero	Member Services Coordinator
Matthieu Gagnon	Digital Development Coordinator
Emmanuel Cyr	Project Manager
Francine Arseneault	Assistant director
Mélanie Pilote	Accountant

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Chair of the Board of Directors, Tim Roberts, read the statement of territorial recognition and, with the support of Nadia Drouin, moved to call the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m.

2. Appointment of a chair

Tim Roberts proposed Karine Lavoie as chair of the meeting. The proposal was seconded by Marie-Hélène Côté. Karine Lavoie was appointed chair of the meeting.

3. Appointment of a Secretary

Tim Roberts proposed the appointment of Alice Kop as meeting secretary. The proposal was seconded by Irena Purschke. Alice Kop was appointed meeting secretary.

4. Declaration of Quorum by Chair

The meeting chair asked whether a quorum had been reached. Nadia Drouin confirmed to the chair that a quorum had been reached for the meeting to proceed.

5. Acceptance of visitors

The chair of the meeting mentions that there are non-members or non-voters participating in the AGM. En Piste has always accepted their presence.

On a proposal from Nathalie Nicolas, seconded by Céline Jolin, it is unanimously resolved to invite non-voting members and other visitors to attend the general meeting, without the right to vote.

6. Reading and adoption of the Agenda

The chairperson reminds the meeting that the agenda was shared with the meeting when the notice of the AGM was sent out within the time limits required by the general regulations, i.e. 15 calendar days before the day of the meeting.

She reads out the agenda, adds that members will be given the floor later that morning and asks the AGM participants if any corrections or additions to the agenda are proposed. No one speaks up.

On a proposal from Samuel Tétreault, seconded by Alice Kop, it is unanimously resolved to adopt the agenda.

7. Reading and Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM of 9 April, 2024.

The chairman of the meeting reminds those present that the minutes were also sent to members with the notice of meeting. He will not read them out but asks for their adoption.

On a proposal from Samuel Tétreault, seconded by Marie-Hélène Côté it was unanimously resolved to adopt the minutes of the 2024 annual general meeting.

8. Presentation of the Annual Report for the 2024 Fiscal Year and the Outlook for 2025

The chairman of the meeting gave the floor to Tim.

8.1 President's report

The president notes that, once again this year, the circus community has operated in a precarious environment, balancing like a tightrope walker between ambition and resilience. He emphasizes that the sector's collective passion continues to provide the momentum needed to push the boundaries of what is possible.

He observes that the circus ecosystem remains fragile. Challenges related to developing a qualified next generation, persistent underfunding, and a lack of adequate infrastructure remain central concerns. As president of En Piste and a school director, he says he is particularly attuned to these challenges, noting that the infrastructure needed to support the next generation of talent remains insufficient.

The president emphasizes, however, that despite constraints and obstacles, the community continues to believe in the essential role of the circus arts in society. The year 2024, he says, has once again demonstrated the sector's ability to turn difficulties into drivers of progress. He specifically mentions the collective work carried out within the Front commun pour les arts and the mobilization around the economic brief presented to the Minister of Culture; actions that have made it possible to take significant steps in defense of the community.

Noting that artistic expression has been a part of human life long before the emergence of modern institutions, he asserts that disciplines such as drawing, theater, poetry, dance, and the circus remain vehicles for connection, memory, and resistance. He emphasizes the collective responsibility to continue dreaming, building, and defending what gives the sector its vitality.

The president also emphasizes that the next generation benefits from the struggles of the past and that it is now up to them to carry the torch, to inspire and to convince. Despite challenges that are sometimes perceived as insurmountable, he reaffirms that the circus arts are an essential element of culture and collective identity. Every difficulty represents an opportunity to demonstrate the community's resilience and its ability to reinvent its practices.

In conclusion, he thanks everyone who brings the circus arts to life—artists, administrators, partners, and the public—whose passion and commitment enable the sector to continue moving forward.

8.2 Report of the Executive Director

Nadia Drouin takes the floor. She informs the participants that the activity report was sent to them prior to the meeting. She thanks those present for responding to the call for the annual general meeting, as well as the community members joining remotely from across Canada.

Before addressing the formal agenda items, she expresses her deep gratitude to the En Piste team—Mathilde, Matthieu, Emmanuel, Éloi, Francine, Mélanie, and the newest addition, Alba. She emphasizes that none of the achievements presented during this meeting would have been possible without their solidarity, dedication, rigor, creativity, and commitment to the circus arts. She highlights the unique synergy developed within the team and the deeply human dimension of collective work, even mentioning the simple moments of daily life that contribute to a strong sense of cohesion.

She also thanked the board of directors for their availability and commitment, extending a special thank you to the president, Tim Roberts, for his constant support, his vision, and the trust he places in her.

Turning to the members, she noted that the circus holds a unique place in the cultural landscape and that, despite ongoing precariousness, the constant efforts of artists, organizations, and cultural allies have helped advance several key demands. She pointed out

that the community's unity demonstrates its ability to influence public policy and that it is essential to maintain this momentum.

She noted that En Piste has been actively engaged within the Front commun pour les arts, a coalition of 21 organizations. Thanks to this collective effort, greater political attention has been secured, advancing the recognition of the performing arts and placing cultural funding on the public agenda. Furthermore, with the support of the firm AppEco, En Piste presented the Minister of Finance with a strategic economic brief highlighting the economic contribution of professional circus and the need for a strengthened government commitment.

She also highlights the actions taken throughout the year to provide quality services to members, support training, boost dissemination, support coaching, and initiate a major digital shift. It reiterates that every initiative is driven by the conviction that the circus arts must continue to inspire, bring people together, and innovate.

She once again thanked everyone involved in the community and then announced the transition to the presentation of the 2024 achievements, handing the floor to Alba López Pedrero, Member Services Coordinator.

Member Services

Alba presented the report on member services. She notes that in 2024, En Piste expanded its range of personalized services, with a greater focus on safety, professional development, and the digital integration of members.

She adds that the group insurance plan continues to provide valuable protection and has seen a 37% increase in enrollment, demonstrating its value in a context of rising costs. The Support for Training program continued to grow, supporting 207 artists through a combination of workshops, individual coaching, and financial assistance to reimburse training costs. Support for emerging artists took the form of 22 free memberships granted to circus school graduates. This initiative helps ease their transition into the professional world.

Alba adds that as part of En Piste's digital transition, the team is working on the launch of a new interactive portal designed to facilitate access to tools and services.

She then turns the floor over to Mathilde Perahia, Director of Training and Professional Development.

Training

Mathilde Perahia presents a summary of training activities. She notes that in 2024, En Piste continued its dedicated efforts to support professional development within the circus community. Thanks to strategic partnerships, the training offerings were adapted to meet the evolving needs of artists, technicians, and cultural workers.

She reports that 89 artists participated in specialized workshops covering various artistic and technical skills. Among the most notable training programs were workshops on aerial hoop, performance, and improvisation, as well as an advanced course on rigging acrobatic equipment. It also highlights the first edition of the circus arts technical improvement training, developed in response to the critical shortage of qualified technicians in the sector.

En Piste's collaboration with Les Rencontres aériennes de Montréal and recognized experts has allowed us to maintain a high level of expertise and innovation within our general training program.

She notes that, beyond one-off training sessions, En Piste also spearheaded the development of a strategic report on the circus arts training pathway, in partnership with Quebec schools. Submitted in December 2024, this report helps identify priorities for structuring access to training starting in schools.

Mathilde hands the floor to Emmanuel Rock Cyr, Project Manager.

Dissemination

Emmanuel Rock Cyr presents the achievements for the year 2024. He highlights the consolidation of the sector, marked in particular by the extension of the Destination Cirque program for four additional years. This program enabled the presentation of 49 shows at 36 venues, reaching more than 70,000 audience members.

He notes that En Piste invested over \$203,000 to support presenters, who themselves contributed more than \$1.1 million, demonstrating a growing commitment to contemporary circus.

He then presents the new program, Circulation de la relève, designed to support young companies and emerging artists by organizing a tour of at least five venues across the province, providing guidance on creating material, supporting the development of cultural outreach proposals, and digital promotion.

He hands the floor to Matthieu Gagnon, digital development coordinator.

Digital

Matthieu Gagnon reports on the progress of the digital transformation. He notes that 2024 was a pivotal year, marked by a comprehensive assessment of systems, the identification of interconnection needs with major cultural platforms (Scène Pro, La Vitrine, and Cultive), and the submission of a digital strategic plan.

It outlines the measures implemented to comply with Bill 25, including the creation of a privacy committee and the publication of practical resources for members.

A sector-wide survey provided a better understanding of the community's digital habits and needs and helped guide future professional development projects. He announced that 2025 will see the rollout of new, high-performance tools designed to improve connectivity, visibility, and innovation within the community.

He then turned the floor over to Éloi Savoie, Director of Communications.

Communications

Éloi Savoie presents the communications report for 2024, a period also marked by a renewed approach to communications.

He emphasizes that the organization has modernized its tools and expanded its reach, recognizing the importance of a strong and consistent presence to promote the discipline. He notes that En Piste first developed its community bulletin board on Facebook, dedicated to posting job openings, internships, artistic collaborations, and professional announcements.

In terms of branding, En Piste undertook a redesign of its communication campaigns, focusing on a more human approach and, in particular, personifying its tools.

The year 2024 also saw the creation of a major new milestone: the Propulsion Award, developed in partnership with the Conseil des arts de Montréal. This \$10,000 grant, intended to recognize an innovative artistic project, was awarded for the first time this year. The prize highlights the vitality and boldness of our community.

Finally, he notes that the ongoing digital transformation will have a significant impact on content distribution. Ultimately, it will enrich En Piste's platforms through the production and promotion of blogs, podcasts, videos, and other digital formats, thereby fostering increased visibility on a national and international scale.

Éloi concludes by noting that these advances demonstrate a renewed commitment to modern, accessible communication rooted in the real needs of the circus community.

He then turns the floor back to Nadia Drouin.

Outlook for 2025

Nadia Drouin outlines the outlook for the coming year. She notes that the sector will face several challenges while seizing significant opportunities. En Piste intends to intensify its advocacy efforts with funders and continue its efforts to demand increased funding for the circus arts from the Canada Council for the Arts and Canadian Heritage.

It also announces joint initiatives with other stakeholders in the arts sector to advocate for the establishment of a national safety net for artists across Canada. This is a fundamental issue for ensuring the dignity and stability of our creators.

She highlights En Piste's active participation in the cultural roundtables announced by Minister Lacombe, focusing on cultural offerings, attendance, audience development, as well as funding strategies and mechanisms. The organization will be there to make the circus's voice heard, defend its uniqueness, and ensure that the sector remains well-represented in future major cultural policies.

Regarding training, she mentions the ongoing efforts with the Ministry of Education to have the discipline recognized within the school curriculum, despite the slowdowns observed in the fall due to issues related to immigration and work permits.

This work, which is part of a very long-term effort, aims to establish a sustainable circus training program in Quebec. However, last fall, we experienced a significant slowdown due to issues related to immigration and work permits that affected our higher education institutions.

She notes that the translation and adaptation of the training frameworks into English have been finalized, allowing for their distribution across Canada.

On the digital front, she notes the upcoming implementation of structural changes aimed at making the organization more agile and efficient. She adds that En Piste has submitted significant proposals to the Canada Council for the Arts—notably a pan-Canadian circus arts mentorship program—which will have a real and positive impact on the professionalization and emergence of the next generation of artists in Canadian provinces outside Quebec.

Partners

She concludes by thanking the public and cultural partners and collaborators whose commitment contributes to the vitality of the sector. She invites members to consult the annual report for further details.

9. Presentation of the audited financial statements for the 2023 Fiscal year

The chairman of the meeting invited Mr Roland Naccache from the firm MNP to present the audited 2023 financial statements, accompanied by the treasurer.

As auditor, he issues a favourable opinion on the financial health of the organization as at 31 December 2023 and does not note any anomalies. The financial statements give a true and fair view of the organization's situation. He details the various sections of the financial statements, including certain corrections to entries in previous statements to comply with the new accounting rules.

Roland Naccache reminds the meeting that the adoption of the financial statements is the responsibility of the Board of Directors. The treasurer, Marie-Hélène Côté, confirms that the Board of Directors adopted the financial statements at the meeting of 25 March. The treasurer thanks the auditor for his presentation.

10. Presentation of the amendment to the general regulations and adoption by the General Assembly

The chairman of the meeting reminds the meeting that the board resolution was part of the documents sent with the notice of meeting and gives the floor to Tim Robert, who explains the reasons for the requested amendment to the general regulations.

It was proposed by members of the board of directors at the board meeting of 3 April 2023 to separate the role of the general management from the role of the secretary on the board of directors.

This separation contributes to stronger, more transparent and more effective governance within an organization. It also makes it possible to better protect the interests of all stakeholders involved.

For example, it guarantees a clear separation of powers within the organization. It can be easier to prevent and manage potential conflicts of interest. The separation of roles increases transparency and accountability within the organization. The secretary can ensure that the minutes of board meetings are kept accurately and that all decisions are documented, which contributes to better governance. And the secretary can be responsible for monitoring regulations and policies, as well as providing advice where necessary.

Tim Roberts reads out the new proposal adopted by the directors since the last general meeting.

The chair of the meeting proposed that the General Assembly vote by a show of hands, both in person and virtually, and reminded those present that associate members do not have the right to vote. Only individual and corporate members have the right to vote.

For: majority! Against: none. The amendment to En Piste's general regulations was accepted unanimously.

11. Appointment of an accounting firm for the 2024 financial year

The floor is given to Marie-Hélène Côté, treasurer. She explains that since the firm Robert Naccache et Ass. has now merged with the firm MNP, it is proposed to go to tender for the 2024 financial year. The general management of En Piste will present the results of its research to the board of directors and an auditor will be chosen by the board.

On a proposal from Jean Saucier, seconded by Raphaël Dubé, it was unanimously resolved to issue a call for tenders to appoint the group's next accounting firm for the 2024 financial year.

12. Review of the online elections and presentation of the 2024-2025 board of directors

The chairman of the meeting gave the floor to Tim Robert. He announced that, given that the number of candidates in the individual, corporate and training organization college

corresponded to the number of positions up for election, the candidates were elected by acclamation. He introduced the new 2024-2025 board of directors.

College of individual members

Currently represented by:

Frédérique Cournoyer Lessard	Artist
Maxim Laurin	Artist
Maude Arseneault	Artist
Nathalie Nicolas	Artist
Olivia Gomez	Cultural worker

College of corporate members

Currently represented by:

Rosalie Beauchamp	Le Monastère
Guillaume Boulay	Flip Fabrique
Alice Kop	La compagnie des autres
Raphael Dubé	Machine de cirque
Anahaero Dölle	Wonderbolt Productions
Karine Lavoie	Cirque Hors Piste

College of Educational Organization Members

Currently represented by:

Éric Langlois	École nationale de cirque
Tim Roberts	École de cirque de Québec
Kim Polisois	École Horizon-Soleil
Mélanie-Bey Robert	École de cirque de Verdun

Tim thanks the outgoing administrators: Stéphane Lavoie, Marie-Hélène Côté, Irena Purschke and Danièle Fournier for their involvement during their term of office. Nadia Drouin invites the new board of directors to a meeting after the general assembly and a photo of the new board. She also thanks the 82 people present at the AGM.

13. Other business

No items were added to the miscellaneous items.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, on a proposal from Raphael De La Durantaye, seconded by Isabelle Chassé, it was unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

These minutes were adopted at the annual general meeting held on April 16, 2025.

Signatures :

Anahareo Doelle
Présidente

Olivia Gomez
Secrétaire