



PEOPLE

TEAM

Sylvia Wang. CIRCE HEAD. A post grad accounting graduate, Sylvia is Leads development of the CIRCE ECOSYSTEM. Hailing from Shenzhen, China, she's been managing PIXIE and heading up designer relationships, finance and in general product and project development.

Kathleen O'Neill. Designers Circus owner Kathleen O'Neill's passion for clothing and fashion began early. At five years old, she designed and sewed clothing for her Barbies on a little clamp sewing machine; decades later, she would design her own line of clothes hand-woven in Guatemala. For 20 years Kathleen produced offshore and sold to over 500 boutiques in the US. Third world production and a supply chain that crosses borders, and customs requirements produces managers well versed in the complexities of organizing people in the chain.

The Circus itself fundamentally altered the typical DESIGNER-MANUFACTURER-RETAILER-CUSTOMER relationship. The CIRCE chain builds on that disruption.

Diane Butkus not only enjoys the longest staff tenure at the circus, she remembers the old days as a customer waiting for the sale to open at 7 am as a parade of shoppers made their determined hike up five flights of stairs on A Street. An avid reader, longtime writing student and essayist, Diane delights in talking books with the novelists, poets, authors and readers amongst our customers and can often be seen down the street at Brookline Booksmith's terrific Writers

and Readers Series. She likes to pair the stiff, architectural shape of her dress with the softening ruffled look of a summer sweater for a contrast in texture. And her red leather bag is just the right size for a paperback!

Brittney Mancini. Two of our circus staff share a career commitment to health and an after-hours love of music. California transplant **Brittney Mancini**, was a quick study at Designers Circus and also at the BU School of Public Health where she is pursuing a graduate degree in Global Health. When she's not hitting the books or stocking the racks, she enjoys Brazilian dance, salsa and nights out listening to live jazz and blues.

Deb Kay's long career in nursing had many deep satisfactions, while her work here has a singular pleasure - *playing dress-up!* Wondering how *that* dress falls or *this* skirt fits? Ask Deb - she's likely tried it on! And while our cheery, relaxed showroom is happily egalitarian, once a year Deb is delighted to be surrounded by divas. As a long-time volunteer with the New England region of the Metropolitan Opera auditions, Deb assists in organizing the auditions which culminate in a recital for regional semi-finalists at Jordan Hall.

Pamela Wise. You may not have heard about **Pamela Wise'** background as a ballet teacher and modern dancer - but did you know she was "Miss Banana Split" in an ad campaign for Dairy

Queen? (*Ask to see her fruity and flexible photo!*) Pamela also created costumes for a modern dance company; Shout out to Pams husband, he's our connection to the music industry via his connections at Berkely School of Music. Shhhh.

Lisa Strawbridge. If fashion were a poem, **Lisa Strawbridge** would '*take the road less traveled by*' - she loves designs that are strange, eye-catching and beautifully uncommon. She is also drawn to water and lives on a pier - she suggests it may be related to her astrological sign Cancer whose symbol is the crab! A passionate sailor on *Truant*, the wooden 'picnic' boat handmade by her late father-in-law, she loves to sail into Maine's Isleford Dock for a festive meal with her husband and friends. *All a-board!*

Joy Hanken. Some children discovered fashion through paper dolls and tabbed party dresses from a toy store box. **Joy Hanken** learned about fashion and merchandising in the clothing stores of her aunts and uncles and through her parents' designer clothing import business, later completing a fine arts degree and showing and selling her ceramic sculptures on Newbury Street. An avid gardener, Joy's dreamy cottage garden was featured in the Globe Magazine and her visual aesthetics using color, texture and shape inform her work and play at the circus.

Diana Chin. You may have noticed **Diana Chin** is at the ready to help customers and staff in every way possible; no surprise since her life outside the circus has been committed to community service. She

was a founding member of Friends of the Fanueil Branch of the Boston Public Library and help lead the charge decades ago to keep the branch open when budget cuts threatened closure. Twenty-seven years later, she remains a vital part of its' annual *Funky Auction* fundraising committee which supports myriad programs for neighborhood children and families.

Linda Swartz. While sorting hangers at \$.25 an hour in her family's clothing stores might not have been a glamorous introduction to the world of fashion, **Linda Swartz'** early exposure helped develop an appreciation for design, fabric, fit and quality at an early age. Her keen, observer's eye served her well as an artist/photographer and university instructor of photography and her attention to detail attends her passion for gardening and as membership chair of the Affenpinscher Club of America.

Sumner Caughey. Technical lead for the CIRCE. Ten years of development work post graduation from BU in computer science.

Maria Lauer. Marketing lead for CIRCE. Maria is a fine artist, graphic designer, based in Fall River, Mass. When she is not creating visual work or leading a classroom, she is blasting away on her trombone.

Tina Kenney. Tina heads up operations in Portland, Maine. Responsible for the growth and success of the Portland market.

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