



Smithsonian  
*Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage*

July 30, 2017

Mr. Thom Wall  
1036 Dautel Lane  
St Louis, Missouri 63146

Dear Thom,

Thank you for your recent participation at the Circus Arts program at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which marked an important milestone in our shared commitment to the people and creative communities whose life and work enrich our country's diversity and cultural life in countless ways. We thank you for participating this year and for sharing your own life and work with the circus arts in so many ways that inspired curiosity in our public to experience and learn more.

Every Festival is an annual moment in time that takes place on the National Mall, which is our country's most important and symbolic public space in the ceremonial heart of Washington, DC. Over the past fifty years, the Festival has hosted participating artists from every U.S. state and more than 100 countries from around the world while touching the lives of millions of visitors on site as well as through the media.

The Festival's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary circus arts program happened at a pivotal time in circus history, and we are pleased that the Smithsonian provided the opportunity for the public to learn a lot more about circus life and work directly from participating artists like you. Providing for such direct experiential learning opportunities is what the Festival does best and how we together with you contribute to the Smithsonian's core focus on "the increase and diffusion of knowledge."

I would like to thank you especially for your many contributions to Festival presentations and events relating to the art of juggling, its history, and the roles that juggling and object manipulation play in circus-related communities globally. The program's dedicated juggling venue enabled the public to meet and learn directly from master jugglers like you while also getting inspired to explore more because of the close-up opportunities offered through your engaging performances, too.

Thank you once again for your dedication to your craft and for working so diligently throughout the entire two-week Circus Arts program at the 2017 Smithsonian Folklife Festival to share the experience and expand the learning. Please keep in touch!

Sincerely,

Preston Scott  
Curator / 2017 Circus Arts Program