

# Creating Safe Space for High School Students

with:

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New Urban Arts

# About New Urban Arts

Providence, RI





Our mission is to build a vital community that empowers young people as artists and leaders to develop a creative practice they can sustain throughout their lives.

# Programs

- Youth Mentorship in the Arts
  - Artist Mentors
  - Studio Study Buddies
- Summer Arts Internships
  - Art Inquiry
  - Untitlement Project
  - Summer Open Studio
- A Life After School
- Studio Team Advisory Board (S.T.A.B.)





# About Our Students

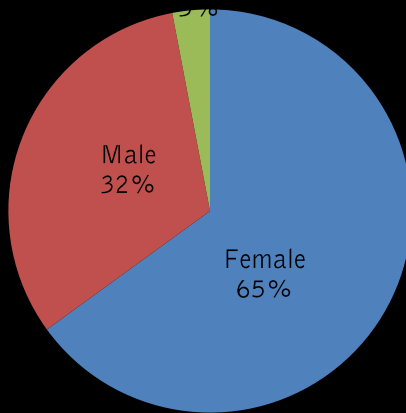


# In 2015-16

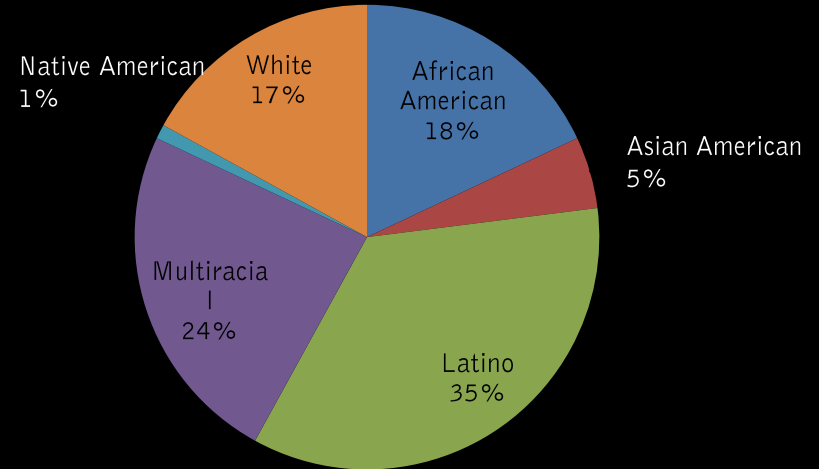
- 478 Registered Students
- 54 Average Daily Attendance
- 116 Attended 30+ days
- 96 Attending once or more a week
- 86% Qualify for free/reduced lunch

# In 2015 - 16

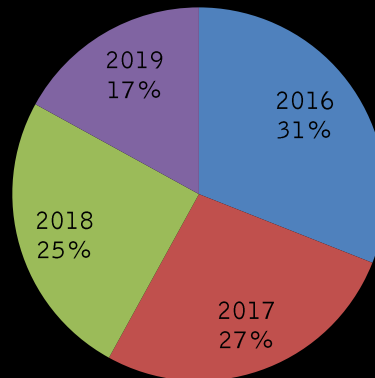
Gender



Race/Ethnicity



Graduation Year



# This is an experiment in participatory webinars!

## Questions:

- What are your questions going into this webinar? What brought you here?
- What are the Community Guidelines for this webinar?

# Community Guidelines

## LIVING LIST

- THERE'S AN AIR OF ACCEPTANCE
  - BUT DON'T ASSUME AGREEMENT
- WE ARE OPEN TO LISTENING
- ALL EXPERIENCES ARE TRUE + VALID
- BE HONEST
- WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE'RE ALL IN A PROCESS;  
LET'S BE PATIENT WITH EACH OTHER
- WE WILL SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN FIGURING  
STUFF OUT AND IN GAINING BASIC SUPPLIES  
AND TECHNICAL SKILLS
- WE GOT YOUR BACK; YOUR BACK IS OURS
- WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE INVISIBLE PROCESSES,  
BOTH CREATIVE AND IN BUILDING  
RELATIONSHIPS
- WE WILL RESPECT EACH OTHER'S CRAFT; WE  
WILL NOT NEGATE EACH OTHER'S PROCESSES
- SOMETIMES THE PROCESS CAN SUCK; THAT'S OK.
- PRACTICE SELF-CARE; YOU DECIDE HOW  
MUCH TO SHARE
- WE HAVE THE FREEDOM TO FAIL
- PRACTICE THE ART OF SAYING NO

- BE AWARE, OPEN, AND ACCEPTING OF  
PEOPLES' BOUNDARIES
- DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS OF PEOPLE,  
PROJECTS, OR PROCESS
- WE CAN CELEBRATE SPONTANEOUSLY
- THERE'S NO WASTED TIME AS LONG  
AS WE REMAIN PRESENT AND ENGAGED
- WE HAVE A FLUID POWER DYNAMIC
- WE WILL CONTINUOUSLY ENGAGE  
DISCUSSIONS OF ACCOUNTABILITY
- STEP UP AND STEP BACK
- YOUR RESPONSE IS RESPONSIVE TO  
STUDENTS' NEEDS

NVA MENTOR RETREAT 9.28.13

SATURDAY 9/28

10 AM

ORIENTATION

# Community Guidelines

- Invite participants to create culture
- Ensures that everyone is on the same page
- Examples
  - One mic, one diva
  - Be respectful
  - Don't yuck my yum
  - Step up, step back
- What are our guidelines for this webinar?

# Story Time!



What stands out to you in this narrative?



What are the things that allowed this student to ask for help?

# Safe Space



For The first time in a  
long time, blue is  
Calming not saddening



In Time you will grow  
and you will be okay

Gee, Dan and Ashley, I hear the term  
“safe space” all the time!

We are defining safe space as a space where people are comfortable expressing their identity, seeking help addressing personal issues, and respectfully voicing their opinions. It is also a space where people can be confident they won't be harmed.

# Some features of safe space:

- Consistent relationships
- Making young people aware of your willingness to listen and to help
- Being honest when you don't have the answers
- Modeling compassion, kindness, etc.
- Being aware of diverse identities
- Respecting young people's decisions about who they are and taking them seriously
- Trusting students; it's okay to mess up
- Offering unconditional kindness
- Fostering and respecting student autonomy

What else?

Based on what you've  
heard so far, what are your  
Reflections?  
Questions?  
Stories?



# Boundaries



Why are we bringing up boundaries?

Safety is a two-way street!





Story Time!  
Again!

# An Excerpt from our Student & Mentor Safety Policy

“Unacceptable:

Seeking emotional involvement with a student in a manner that supports your emotional needs rather than those of the student.”

So when is it okay to offer your own experience?

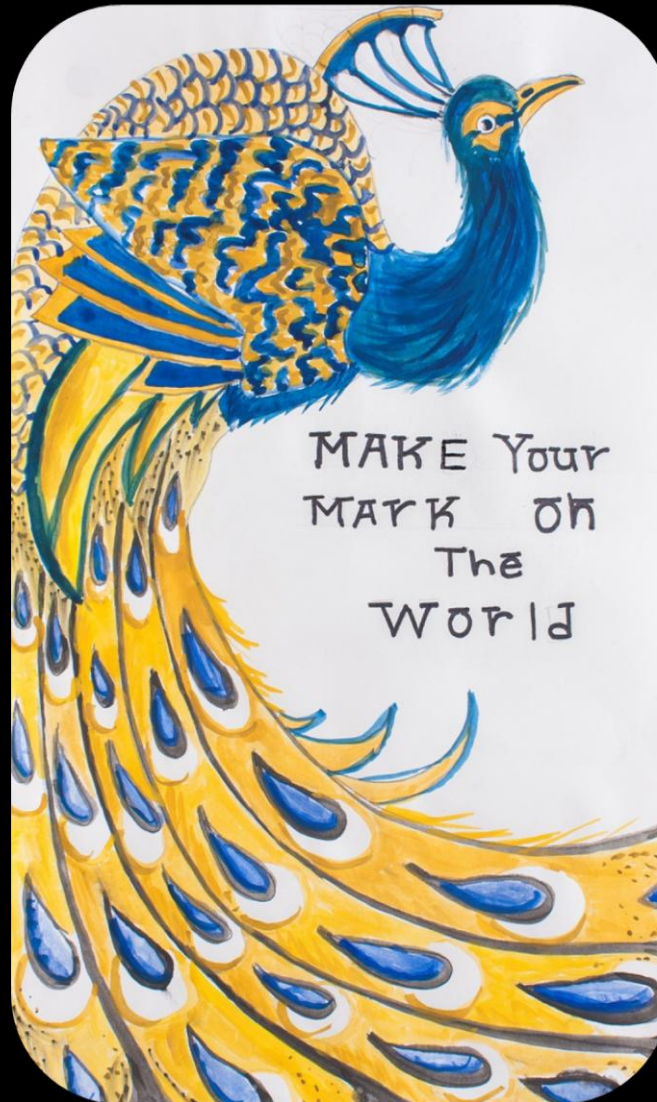
# The 5 Ws of Sharing + One H

- Who – “Who is this for; who is it serving?”
- What – “What is this young person going through?”
- When – “When do I stop?”
- Where – “Where are they in the story?”
- Why – “Why is my experience relevant?”
- How – “How am I making room for their response?”

It's okay to mess up!



Thank  
you.



Questions?

[www.newurbanarts.org](http://www.newurbanarts.org)