

NEW URBAN ARTS
705 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
USA



NEW URBAN



ARTS

ON THE



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NEW URBAN ARTS

is a nationally recognized arts studio and gallery for high school students and emerging artists in Providence, Rhode Island. 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. We serve over 400 high school students, 20 emerging artists and over 2,000 visitors through free youth programs, professional development, artist residencies, public performances, workshops and exhibitions each year. In 2009, the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities named us one of the nation's top 15 youth arts programs with a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award (formerly known as the Coming Up Taller Award).

Visit newurbanarts.org for more information.



News in 2011

New Urban Arts moves into a **new building** and launches a **million dollar capital campaign**. Read more inside!

The Risica Family establishes **The Jeanne Risica Memorial Fund for Art Education** to support our youth programs. Learn more about Jeanne and the Fund inside.

We launched an alumni program, **The Institute of Other Significant Pursuits**, a three-day long conversation for alumni artist mentors about what it means to be a community arts and education practitioner beyond the walls of our studio.

The Center for Cartoon Studies in Vermont dedicates a New Urban Arts scholarship for **Create Comics**, its week-long summer teen program.

The fourth annual **Conversations on Creative Practice** audio program is now available online: newurbanarts.org/blogs_audio.html

Students organized New Urban Arts' first-ever **How-To Fair**, a day-long celebration of things we know how to do.

The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts selects New Urban Arts as one of only 19 arts organizations in the state to receive a general operating support grant.

In 2010 the studio welcomed **four new board members**: Heather Kilmartin, Maryclaire Knight, Peter Crump and Randolph Vialva.

New Urban Arts presented at several conferences this year: **A Better World by Design**, the **Alliance for Arts Communities** annual conference, for the **Urban Teacher Collective**, **Imagining America**, the **ARTOGRAPHY** annual convening, and **Free Minds Free People**.

New Urban Arts students showed work in **Nosotros Somos Tú**, a RISCA-sponsored exhibition at the Courthouse Center for the Arts and the State Capitol, and at **The Magic Child Repository**, an exhibition at **Craftland**.

Arts Mentoring Fellow **Kedrin Frias** collaborated with **Academy for Career Explorations students** on a new mural for their building.

Studio members featured in publications about their art education experiences! **Emmy Bright** and **Andrew Oesch** published an article in **Proximity Magazine #8**; **Peter Hocking** contributed to **Radical Teacher**; and New Urban Arts was featured in **NEA Arts Magazine** 2010 Number 4.

Stay tuned for a report on best practices in high school after school programs by the **U.S. Department of Education**. It will include our studio as one of only 20 case studies from across the country.

"We're so grateful for the people that helped us with our moving parade in August!" Photography by Jori Ketten.

2011 impact report

450 students enrolled in our after-school Youth Mentorship Program this year.

Participation rates have continued to rise, with an average of **180 students actively participating** in the studio each month.

97% agreed or strongly agreed that New Urban Arts is a safe and supportive environment.

76% of students rated New Urban Arts' programs "outstanding."

89% of student participants agreed or strongly agreed that they have built strong, trusting relationships and **95% developed** a way of creating that expresses who they are. **98% agreed** they are more open to trying new things.

21 artists and 3 tutors volunteered over 4,000 hours to mentor Providence high school students this year.

250 hours of summer programming offered paid internships in the arts for 30 youth.

12 seniors participated in College Visions, a year-long college preparatory program, and are attending colleges around the country, among them: Hampshire College in Massachusetts, Temple University in Pennsylvania, Guilford College in North Carolina, University of Vermont in Burlington, Syracuse University in New York, Brandeis University in Massachusetts, and the Rhode Island School of Design.

2,000 people attended 23 events and exhibitions at New Urban Arts this year, the majority free and open to the public.

Over \$82,000 in donations received via the Annual Campaign.

NUA is my refuge. – Jessabel Santos, student

Dear friend,

Thank you for making another amazing year possible at New Urban Arts!

You are reading this newsletter because of your connection to our community as a volunteer, a donor, an alumnus, an artist mentor, a board member, a visitor, a friend, a fan and more. Your energy and support make ALL of our work possible.

In December 2010, after a lot of thought and hard work, the New Urban Arts Board of Directors purchased 705 Westminster Street, a larger building down the street from us that's in great shape. Leaving the only home we've ever had was a tough decision but we felt it was incredibly important to secure our future for generations of young people to come. And the new space is just beautiful.

Noel, one of our students, admitted that he was angry when he first learned about moving to this new building. He said: "I thought all the memories of the old space would just go away. That the new generation of young artists would take over and make NUA a different space." But after some thought and reflection he wrote on our blog:

"It's not the space that makes New Urban Arts, it's the people. It's people like you, me and all these people around us that make the studio wonderful."

We agree with Noel! After spending the summer of 2011 working with a contractor on renovations, we moved to our new place in August and we're just now beginning to enjoy and explore our studio. Now we need your help to make this a true home, as inspiring, as creative and as nurturing as the program that we've been building for the last thirteen years. Please help us settle in, maintain our traditions and continue our quest for a secure future.

We recently launched **a major million dollar Capital Campaign** to own our building outright, seed the Founders Fund and be able to care for our new studio now and into the future. You can read more about it in the newsletter.

Thank you for all you continue to do.

Sincerely,



Myrth York, Chair, Board of Directors



Jason Yoon, Executive Director

October 2011

2010–11 Studio Participants

sandra olson award winners

Carolina "CJ" Jimenez
Jay Glasson
Jane Androski
Susan Smulyan
Virginia Branch

staff

Dan Schleifer,
Development
Associate
Emmy Bright,
Arts Mentoring
Fellow
Jane Androski,
VISTA Summer
Associate
Jason Yoon,
Executive
Director
Jesse Banks III,
Program
Coordinator
Kedrin Frias,
Arts Mentoring
Fellow
Laurencia Strauss,
Summer Art
Inquiry Artist
Scholar
Peter Hocking,
Summer Art
Inquiry Advisor
Priscilla Carrion,
Studio
Coordinator
Sarah Meyer,
Program Director
Tamara Kaplan,
Operations
Manager

board of directors

Derek Schusterbauer,
Graphic Designer
Don DeSantis,
President, Carpenter
Square Construction
Heather Kilmartin,
Associate Attorney,
Taylor Duane Barton &
Gilman, LLP
Holly Ewald,
Community Artist
Leticia Tejada,
Owner and Founder,
Studio South
Lisa Carcieri,
Media and Advertising
Manager, Neighborhood
Health Plan of RI
Maryclaire Knight,
Knight Consulting
Michael Tanaka,
Former Director of
Public and Community
Relations, Office of the
Lieutenant Governor, RI
Myrth York,
PRESIDENT,
Philanthropist
Randolph Vialva,
Case Manager, John
Hope Settlement House
Sharon Lloyd Clark,
Development Director,
Brown University
Susan Smulyan,
VICE PRESIDENT,
Brown University
Professor
Teal Butterworth,
Moses Brown School

studio team advisory board

Ava Ginsburg
Brigette Larmena
Chris Medina
Caitin Cali,
Mentor
Carolina "CJ" Jimenez,
Chair
Erik Grajeda
Herny Guerrero
Legend Lowell
Manuela Vadis
Michi Olivo
Noel Puello
Stephanie Acevedo
Yolibel Gonzalez
artist mentors
Abel Hernandez
Alice Costas
Andrew Migliori
Andrew Oesch
Caitlin Cali
Carole Ann Penney
Dylan Block-Harley
Evan Monteiro
Jamie Fagant
Jamila Woods
Jess Fields
Jorge Vargas
Jori Ketten
Kevin Gonsalves
Lois Harada
Maria DiFranco
Melissa Mendes
Morgan Fagant
Rob MacInnis
Sam Merritt
Victoria Ruiz

studio study buddies

Christina Lawrence
Jadrian Miles
Sophie Tintori

studio assistants

Karen Lee
Lara Crystal-Ornelas
Louis Martinez
Shannon Falvey

project volunteers

Adrienne Adeyemi*
Adrienne Benz*
Alessandra Briggs
Alyssa Kichula
Amy Johnson
Andrew Lowsowky,
Museum of Westminster
Street
Aneudy Alba*
Angelo Manioudakis
Art Middleton
Anna West
Ashley Escobedo*
Chloe Kline
Bert Crenca
Bethany Allard
Breck Petrillo
Bremen Donovan*
Caity McLaughlin
Carolina "CJ"
Jimenez*
Charlotte Hornsby
Christopher Johnson
Clay Rockefeller
David Karoff*
Deborah Obalil

Delia Kovak
Dean Abanilla
Drake Patten
Ellen Twadell
Emely Barroso*
Emily Ustach*
Erik Gould*
Grace Kuipers
Hannah Mellion,
Farm Fresh RI
Heather Gaydos*
Heath Marlow
Heather Vieira*
Heidi Brinig
Holly Ewald*
Ian Cozzens*
Indigo Bethea
Jack Richter
Jay Glasson
Jay Zhengabot
JD Gonzalez, S.O.L.
Jane Androski*
Jeff Hutchison*
Jen Lial
John Tabor Jacobson*
Julian JR Robinson*
Jenn Rice*
Jordan Goffin,
Providence Public
Library
Joseph DeFrancesco
Julia Gualtieri *
Julius Kolawole,
African Alliance of RI
Kate Holden*
Kate Sanders-Fleming*
Kate Schapira
Kath Connolly
Katharine Mead
Kevin Delaney

Louis Martinez
Lucie Searle
Lyra Montiero,
Museum of Westminster
Street
Marissa Paterhoster
Marlon Carey
Marvin Ronning
Maximus Parthus
Maxine Wright*
Melissa Walsh
Meredith Younger*
Micah Salkind
Michael Cirelli
Michael Fournier
Michael A. Hébert,
RI Department of
Transportation
Natasha Brooks-
Sperduti
Nik Perry
Olivia Verdugo
Paloma McGregor
Paul Tavarez*
Peter Hocking*
Rebecca Volynsky*
Regie Gibson
Robyn Schroeder
Rick Benjamin
Rob Pecchia
Sara Bergman
Sarah Bernstein
Sarah Greenfield*
Sara Whiteley
Sarah Reiter
Saulo Castillo*
Seth Gruenwald
Susan Sakash
Susan Rezendes,
African Alliance of RI
Virginia Branch

Walker Mettling
Wayne Assing, RISD
Zachary Clark*

2010–11 enrolled students

A'Lantra Briggs
Aaron Cabreja
Aaron Daniels
Aaron Kaplan
Abel Quiroa
Abigail Sanchez
Abigail Falvey
Abner Sanchez
Adam Baffoni
Adderlin Taveras
Adeline Santos
Adonis Fonseca
Adriel Cruz
Africa Smith
Albert Kashouh
Albert Wooten
Alex Cornford
Alex Lopes
Alex Kha
Alex Ok
Alexander Knight
Alexandra Benavides
Alexandria Crystal
Alexieff
Alexis Tavares
Alexis Villani
Alina Ramos
Alize Huntley
Alliyah Drammeh
Amanda Beaton
Amanda Alvarez
Amaury Fernandez
Amos Paye
Amy Ramos

Amy Caraballo
Anastassy Saldana
Andy Rosario
Angela Murcia
Angelina Serrano
Anjelica Veglia
Anthony Jannini
Anthony Paris
Aranza Gonzalez
Aress Byrd
Arrissa Tavares
Ashley Alvarez
Ashley Dominguez
Asia Perry
Austin O'goffa
Ava Ginsburg
Ayowole Tom-Jones
Belinda
Khamsonphou
Billy Alvarez
Bob Capcap
Bobbi-Lisette
Shavers
Brandon Melgar
Breanna Harte
Brett Anderson
Brian Gabino
Brianna Torchon
Brigette Larmena
Brittany Pope
Bryant Ortega
Bryant Agala
Bryant Menadashi
Caeli Carr Potter
Carina Perez
Carlos Romero
Carlos Mangum
Carolin Urena
Catherine Lantigua
Cecilia Ramos

Chanel Velasquez
Charbel Khattar
Charmaine Gray
Chesca Garcia
Christayra Sok
Christian Castillo
Christopher Tejada
Christopher Garcia
Christopher Medina
Christopher Jorge
Cristian Duran
Cristian Lopez
Cruz Jimenez-
DaRosa
Daescia Demoranville
Dajah Andrade
Dakota Brown
Dalien Guzman
Damaris Rivera
Daniel Polanco
Danisha Lora
Dante Gonzales
Daria Montaquila
Darlene Cruz
Davi DeBarros
David Berkerey
David Coreat
Dayanna Moreno
Daywin Poshn
Deanna Wedge
Delmis Medrano
Destiny Maldonado
Devin Roman
Devin Pena
Diana Vargas
Divine Smith
Dominic Scalzi
Donel Jean
Duncan McPherson
Duward Saygbe



The Jeanne Risica Fund for Art Education to benefit New Urban Arts

Jeanne Risica passed away on December 31, 2010. She was a working artist who devoted her life to her craft. In her memory, the Risica family has graciously created the **Jeanne Risica Fund for Art Education**. Held in trust at the RI Foundation, it will be funded through the sale of Jeanne's art and charitable donations. The sole beneficiary of this fund will be New Urban Arts. We are honored to be chosen as the cause that this new fund will support.

To learn more about the art and life of Jeanne Risica please visit <http://jeannerisica.tumblr.com> or search **Jeanne Risica** on Facebook.

Noel and Jesse welcome our first guests to 705 Westminster street after our moving parade. Photography by Jori Ketten.

A Permanent Home for New Urban Arts

On December 28, 2010, with help from a generous bank loan and a few early donations, we bought the S. Chiapanelli Building, a then-vacant, historic commercial storefront building twice the size of our old home. After some necessary renovation and design work, **in August, we officially moved into our new home, 705 Westminster Street!**

Board President Myrth York said "New Urban Arts has transformed the lives of so many young people that when the opportunity arose to acquire this incredible building and secure a permanent home right here in this neighborhood, we couldn't pass it up."

As part of this building project, **we've kicked off a year-long million dollar fundraising campaign**. The goal of the campaign is to own this building outright, free up more funds for arts and youth programs, pay for construction and renovation and build the **Founders Fund**—which will support ongoing

innovation at New Urban Arts and help us steward our new home.

We need your help and hope you will get involved. We need volunteers to spread the word about this project, to be ambassadors for New Urban Arts, to share their personal stories of what makes this community so important. We're already halfway to our campaign goal and every gift to the campaign truly makes a difference and will help secure New Urban Arts' future for generations of Providence youth.

To make a personal donation to the New Urban Arts Capital Campaign, please visit our campaign site www.newurbanarts.org/705.html

or mail a gift to 705 Westminster St, Providence, RI 02903 (attn. Capital Campaign). If you would like talk about the campaign more with someone from New Urban Arts, please contact us at 401.751.4556.

Help Us Reach Our Goal!

New Urban Arts Capital Campaign Budget

Building acquisition	\$363,000
Construction and renovation	\$277,000
The Founder's Fund	\$200,000
Insurance, contingencies	\$107,000
Campaign expenses	\$53,000
Campaign Goal	\$1,000,000



Eddie Tejada	Francis Thao	Janill Urena	Jose De La Cruz	Krista Vargas	Maria Flores	Noel Puello	Sayda Saavedra	Treicy Hernandez
Edvin Cordon	Francisco Rijo	Jarolyn Fernandez	Joseph Adewusi	Kristina Muller	Maria Munoz	Norlan Olivo	Sergius Paulus	Tremell Lincoln
Edward Leon	Francisco Sullivan	Jasmin Fajardo	Joseph Gook-Nuh	Krystal Chen	Marlena Jennings	Odina Ellis	Sesilly Cruz	Tunasia Towns
Egide Ndikumana	Gabriel Lozaden	Jasmin Francisa	Josh Byrd	Kyle Scott	Marydjina Barionnette	Olivia Williams	Shadow Akenz	Two Spencer
Elias Dominguez	Genesis Francis	Jasmin Morillo	Joshua Morillo	Laura Weil	Mathias Vialva	Oreshula Osstema	Shanty Pineda	Tyler Sandifer
Elizabeth Medrano	Genesis Saldana	Jasmine Herrera	Joshue Morillo	Lauren Ashley	Matthew Sanchez	Oscar Morales	Sharinna Tejada	Ulises Rivera
Elizabeth Sherman-Drill	Genesis Monsanto	Jasmine Cordon	Juan DeLeon	Childress	Mauro Orellana	Pacia Moreno	Sharon Delgadillo	Vania Ortiz
Elizabeth Ramon	George Gonzales	Javellys Polanco	Judhitza Monge	Laurie Cepeda	Max Bazik	Pamela Campos	Sherly Torres	Vardy Mynthil
Elizabeth Estes	Georgina Dauda	Jefferson Chhin	Julia Cooper	Leandra Loarca	Max Binder	Paul Turner	Shirla Auguste	Victor Randall
Elizabeth Arindolie	Giancarlos Herrera	Jeleny Dele'on	Julia Moreno	Leeroy Jenkins	Maxine Wright	Pedro Reyes	Shirley Castillo	Victoria Hetherington
Elizabeth Gognon	Gorge Gonzales	Jennifer Gordon	Julie Soriano	Legend Alexxis	Maya Gutmann	Perla Benitez	Shirley Seri	Vuthy Lay
Elsie Mateo	Gregory Lombardi Jr.	Jennifer Duran	Julio Coranado	Lowell	McKenzie	Peter Ogada	Shyla Peña	Wendy Ramirez
Elvin Estevez	Greta Kroessler	Jenny Morales	Julisa Lopez	Leiby Peralta	Mayra Mendoza	Peter Quinones	Sierra Clayton	William Soviano
Emely Cabrera	Guadalupe Ortiz	Jeremy Ferreira	Julisa Carabello	Lenin Mora	Melina Favalessa	Phillip Noble	Skarlet Maldonado	Winifred Hurst
Emily Peguero	Haiie Baton-Kirk	Jeremy Suero	Justin Carey	Leonardo Hernandez	Melina Falishiea	Prisca Yangambi	Somali DaSilva	Yainelis Andujar
Emma Wallace	Halle Lessa	Jeremy Paz	Justin Rivera	Leslie Almonte	Melissa Roberts	Priscila Mayol	Stephanie Elias	Yolibel Gonzalez
Emmanuel Johnson	Haneefah Abdullah	Jeronima Nix	Karen De Los Santos	Leslie Curiel	Melissa Morales	Priscilla Santiago	Stephanie Leiva	Yomaira Messon
Emmy Pastrana	Hannah Sereby	Jessabel Santos	Karina Lorenti	Lexi Brown	Melvin Matos	Rachel Ricci	Stephy Santana	Yudenis De Jesus
Enid Hoff	Heidy Pamela	Jessica Cruz	Karina Rodriguez	Liam Falvey	Michael Piñeiro	Rachel Rodriguez	Sterling Hightower	Zahida Ali
Enma Cabrera	Campos	Jessica DaRocha	Karina Carenti	Lianra Hosford	Michael Vinas	Ramiro Martinez	Steven Ortiz	Zia Xiang
Ephraim Soe	Henry Duran	Jessy Anderson	Karla Duran	Lili Wilhite Lolade	Michael Lomba	Randall Narvaez	Steven Pina	
Eric Almeida	Herny Guerrero	Joanna Tapia	Kaseem Daley	Ashamu	Michael Morrisette	Raphael Serrano	Steven Marcano	*Alumni students and Alumni artist mentors
Eric Maderos	Ian Rosales	Jocivel Adames	Kathy Vang	Lucy Patterson	Michelle Colomba	Rashon Morales	Suhaley Rosario	
Erik Martinez	Idalvis Suarez	Joelisa Khun	Katie O'Connell	Ludwyard Augustin	Michelle Cruz	Rayhan Reyes	Susan Anderson	
Erik Suriel	Isabel Quezada	Joely Barrios	Kayla Febles	Luis Garcia	Michelle Olivo	Rebecca Shays	Swelky Velez	
Erikson Ordonez	Isabella DeGrasse	Joham Suarez	Kayla Maria	Luis Torres	Michelle Pajaro	Renzo Arteta	Sydney Katic	
Erikson Johnson	Ivan Ramos	Johana Ramirez	Keira Pierre	Luis Velasquez	Mikaela Gonzaga	Richard Brown	Tara Boudreault	
Erin Taber	Ivan Pabon	John Phelps	Kellce Moore	Maddie Siegmund	Mike Renglee	Ridchy Mynthil	Tarris Jefferies	
Erin Fogarty	Ivan Espinal	John Braxton	Keveon Gomera	Maddie Lennox	Mildred Adams	Rob Donelly	Tatiyanna Shields	
Esmeralda Martinez	Jaclyn Lebreux	Johnathan Vinas	Kevin Chhin	Maddy Berkson	Mollanna Thou	Robert Chandler	Tatyanna Ventura	
Esteban Ortiz	Jacob Nyemelah	Johnathan Tavaraz	Kevin Quiroa	Madelin Espinal	Molly Chann	Roberto Estes	Taylor Williams	
Estefany Lopez	Jacques Achille	Johnathan Garcia	Kevin Ramos	Magda Flores	Monirath Phay	Rosa Perez	Thalya Matos	
Estephanie Cruz	Jade Emmanuel	Jonathan Nieves	Kevin Solis	Maima Sayeh	Musu Saygbe	Rosanqel Cruz	Thomas Lenhan	
Ezequiel	Jahnita Demoranville	Jonathan Aponte	Kevin Shepard	Malik Cody	Nancy Hernandez	Rosemelly Quinones	Tiana Vasquez	
Gonzales-Caniez	Jalline Gonzales	Jordan Noble	Khavasey Brown	Malvin Herrera	Naomy Gutierrez	Rudy Barillas	Tiffany Amaral	
Fatima Santamaria	Jamely Sanchez	Jorge Ortiz	Kia Shields	Mandara Arnold	Nestor Muñoz	Ryan Narraez	Tiffany Urena	
Fernando Flaquer	James Baez	Jose Perez	Kimberly Carranza	Manuela Vadis	Nethania Jiminian	Saige Roderick	Timothy Eng	
Florence Badejo	Jamie Cooper	Jose Puello	Kimberly Castillo	Manuela Panjojni'ix	Nicholas Arawole	Salomon Roderick	Tina Meetran	
Floribel Vazquez	Janelle Gomez	Jose Moreira	Kimberly Ordonez	Maodo Lo	Nikaury Reyes	Sara Tolbert	Tommy Encarnacao	
	Janelly DeJesus	Jose Pereira	Knistine Paulus	Maria Zaslavsky	Nitzalie Sanchez	Saulo Castillo	Trashauna Bliss	

Home is where I took my first steps, said my first words, broke my first toy, lost my first tooth. I've always thought of New Urban Arts as my home, and it's where I've experienced my other firsts. First time someone laughed at one of my jokes, first time I danced in public, first time I heard Journey's 'Don't Stop Believing,' first time I led a workshop, first time I stretched my own silkscreen, first time I felt understood.

– Carolina "CJ" Jimenez, alumna student



As someone who felt that she had lost her talent and desire to ever create art after years of being burnt out from meaningless jobs, I realized after starting at NUA that what I thought I had lost, was there all along. New Urban Arts pushed me as an artist and made me see myself in a new light.

– Morgan Fagant, artist mentor

NUA has opened so many doors for me. I always feel loved and appreciated whenever I walk through the doors.

– Shirla Auguste, student





New Urban Arts is the place that I feel most like myself. It is a conduit connecting me to people who are curious about the same things I am curious about, to ideas that have totally changed the landscape of my life. New Urban Arts is quite possibly the most influential and nurturing organization I have ever been a part of, and it brings me immeasurable joy.

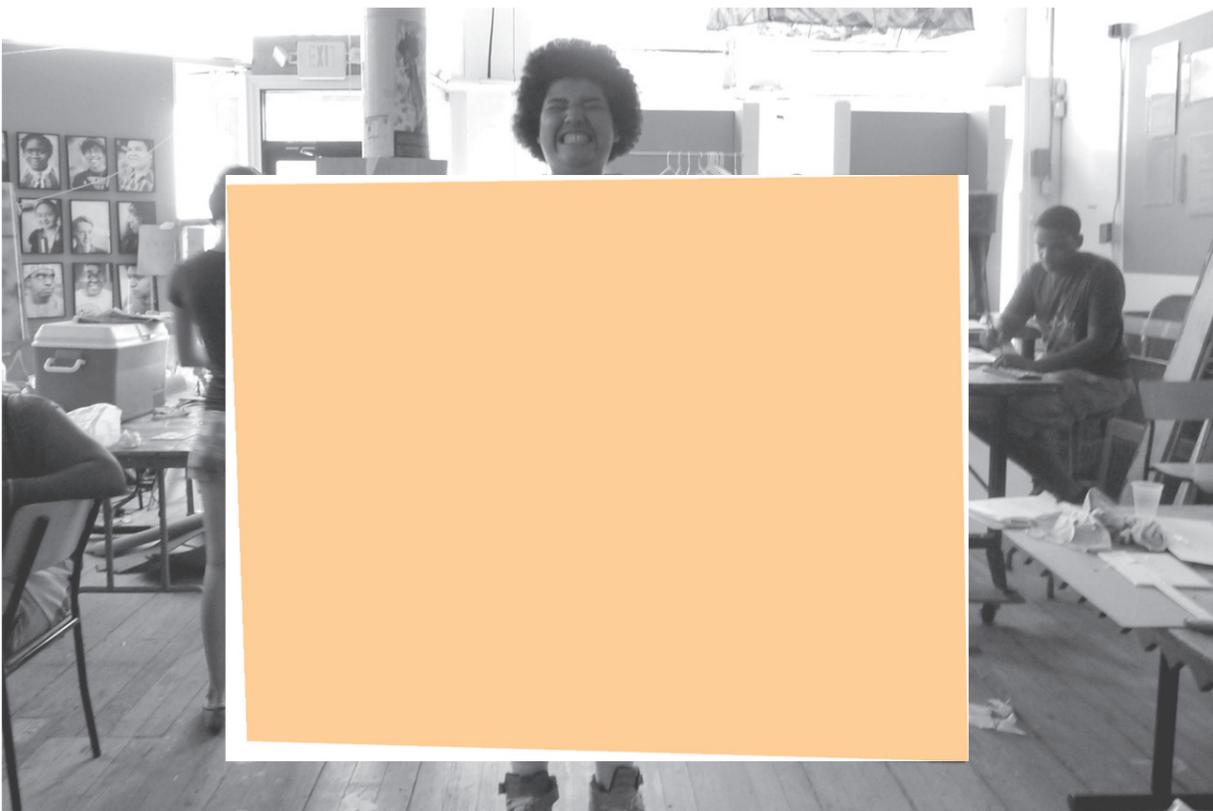
– Caitlin Cali, artist mentor

WHAT DOES N.U.A MEAN TO YOU?



New Urban Arts was one of the first places in high school where I felt like I could be myself. The people here encouraged me to try new things and to go outside my comfort zone. I think that without that, I wouldn't be the person I am today.

– Maxine Wright, student



New Urban Arts is, has been, and will always be another home to me. I have people here I trust and love being around. I have discovered art and how I can be represented through art. I have learned how to work with others in a productive and fun way. Most importantly I have learned more about myself, as a person in our society, here than anywhere else I've been.

– Maya Gutmann-McKenzie, student

Events to look forward to include:

October 28: Summer Art Inquiry Exhibition

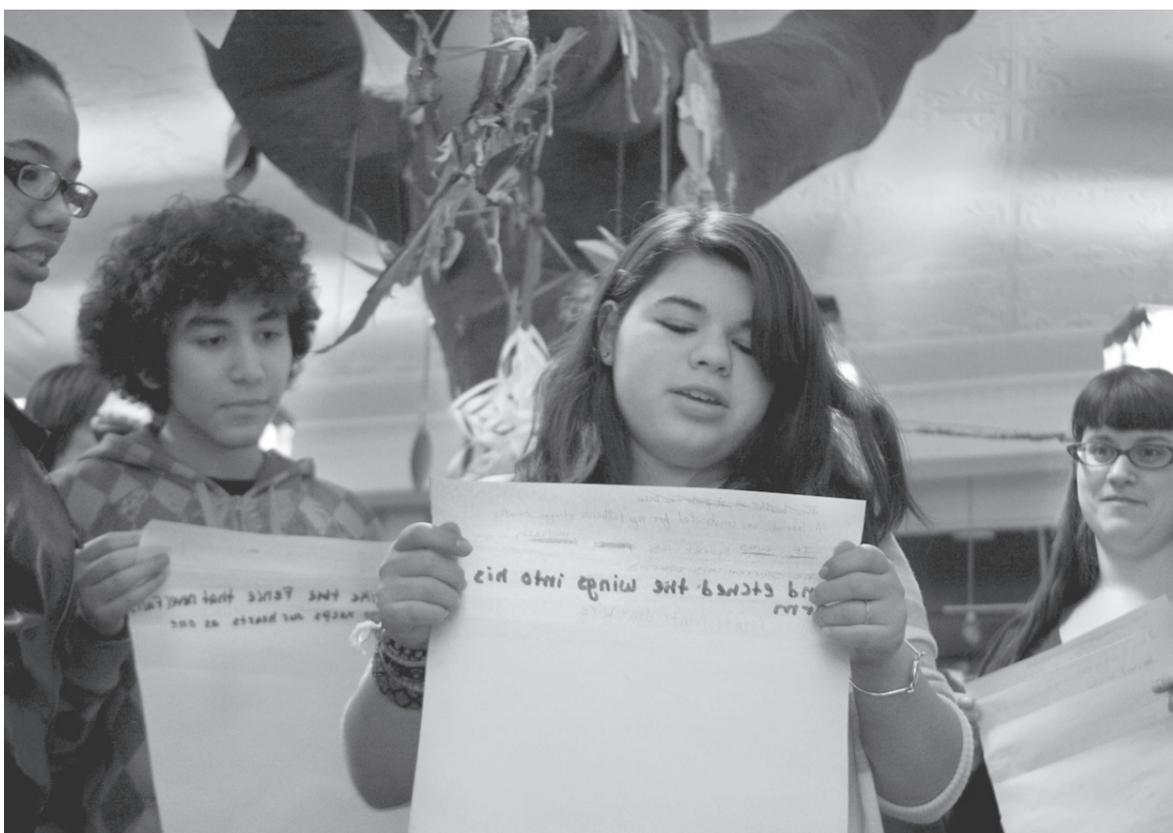
December 9: Artist Mentor Exhibition

February 10: Student Mid-Year Exhibition

March & April: Series of Conversations on Creative Practice

May 18: End of Year Art Party & 15th Year Birthday Celebration

Check www.newurbanarts.org for more details on our gallery events, as well as up-to-date additions to our event calendar.



Students read aloud collaborative poetry written at the Studio Challenge Day, January 2011

Alumni Reunite by Alumna Student Ashley Escobedo

Many big things have been happening in New Urban Arts, and alumni around the country have been talking about them. This past year there has been a handful of alumni get-togethers in **Boston, New York** and, of course, **Providence**. Most of the conversations have been focused on two ideas: the big move and life after New Urban Arts.

You may be surprised that many of our alumni still have strong creative practices. From painting to art education, they are doing big things. The Providence and Boston gatherings had awesome turnouts, mostly from recent alums. The gathering in New York had a lot of alumni from the early years at the studio. But all had fun art making.

In New York and Boston there were **all-out free art-for-all activities** – an afternoon full of art supplies and drawing sessions. **Sarah Greenfield (Boston alumna)** loved the young children that joined in the art making during the Boston session. In New York recent alums made amazing connections. **Sothdra John Nguon**, who at the time had just moved to the

Big Apple, found this event to be really helpful. Living in a huge city, it can be hard to reach out and make new friends, but this event reminded him that NUA is a family.

Providence alums got an experience other gatherings didn't— **a tour of the new space**. As a whole the entire event was focused around the move. From NUA transition stickers to a grand list of things we would take with us, everyone got to think about placemaking. Overall, all the events got to talk about the big move and many had concerns that it would change the feeling of NUA. But one quote sums up what New Urban Arts is and answered most concerns about the move:

It's going to be great. Don't worry ... they will figure it out. The students will figure it out.



Alumna artist mentor Jane Androski

Find out how to...

get involved with New Urban Arts. Everyone brings something unique to the community, and together all of these talents and efforts make us stronger.

...enroll as a student anytime throughout the year.

...mentor for an entire school year, from October through May. We accept applications every September.

...volunteer for the duration of a special project, especially if you are skilled at carpentry, gallery installation or data-entry.

...become a donor of tax-deductible art materials and equipment or monetary gifts. Support New Urban Arts throughout the year by becoming a monthly sustainer at newurbanarts.org/getinvolved_donate.html.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for exhibitions, performances and our annual fashion show.

Application forms for students, artist mentors and volunteers are online at www.newurbanarts.org or at our studio at 705 Westminster Street.



Art Skills Share in Kennedy Plaza, Summer 2011. All photography by Jesse Banks III and New Urban Arts.



Silent Studio Challenge

by Artist Mentor Alice Costas

It's hard to do new things. But sometimes it's also pretty hard to sit around tapping your fingers against whatever surface you have been sitting at for an hour, utterly bored, thinking about all of the awesome things you could be doing (or making) instead. So, you push yourself into something new. And maybe it's difficult and you're not sure how you feel about it at the beginning, but then something great happens.

On January 28th we decided to try something new. Way, way new: silence. We had our first ever studio-wide **Challenge Day**. We started by getting to know each other's names courtesy of the **Student Team Advisory Board**. Next, studio alumni opened their own histories to new students in some intense storytelling circles. They shared their experience of crossing the street from school to our community arts studio.

New Urban Arts is a great place to express yourself and to BE yourself. For me it is a home away from home.

– Sierra Clayton, student

And then, the unprecedented happened: we were silent for one hour. And we made art. Amazing, beautiful, wing-beating things. Poems, drawings, secret collages that fleshed out our own wishes and thoughts in a safe space, representations of our hearts connected by twinkling lights, and we had a conversation about New Urban Arts on the wall. It was amazing.

Sure, there was a box drawn on the floor that you could talk inside and, sure, you could say the safe word: **Marshmallow**. But in that strange clipping of scissors, occasional yelps of surprise or encouragement, and murmurs of "marshmallow," there was a sense of newness, bravery, and excitement that felt, well, the opposite of boring.

Student Legend Lowell participates in Writing on the Wall at Studio Challenge Day, January 2011

The Institute of Other Significant Pursuits

Last year, ten New Urban Arts alumni mentors, four arts mentoring fellows, and several staff members launched The Institute of Other Significant Pursuits in hopes of introducing **a new way to continue supporting artist mentors beyond the boundaries of our studio**. Held the weekend of August 28-30, 2010, the Institute explored the effect of Arts Mentoring on the development of creative practice in the lives of former mentors and also looked at the issues and challenges of creating an effective practice as a community-engaged artist.

Participants shared experiences, documented the ways in which their experience at New Urban Arts has shaped their thinking, and left the Institute with an action plan for next steps in their work. Reflecting on the weekend, one participant commented, **"My biggest takeaway is connecting who I am to what I do and how I do it, to thereby create a sustainable, sustaining practice and a personal sense of meaning in living."**

The Institute included a public event, **Connecting Narratives: A Public Storytelling Night**, attended by over 50 community artists and NUA supporters, that highlighted the complexities of community arts education and practice.

Sitting in the Questions

The publication documenting our first Institute of Other Significant Pursuits is now available.

It can be downloaded for free at:

www.newurbanarts.org

A limited edition artist publication is available for purchase by contacting us. A printed edition is available for purchase online at Lulu Press: <http://stores.lulu.com/newurbanarts>

I found myself listening to poetry or collaboratively drawing and recognizing that the people with whom I was sharing my weekend were so clearly world changers.

– Zach Clark, alumnus artist mentor



Storytelling Night at the Institute of Other Significant Pursuits, August 2010

Studio Life Online

To find out what New Urban Arts is up to, including the latest opportunities to get involved and connect with the studio, sign up to receive our Monthly E-news at www.newurbanarts.org

Get an inside look at New Urban Arts on Flickr:
www.flickr.com/photos/newurbanarts

Join the conversation on our blog:
newurbanarts.blogspot.com

Follow us on Twitter:
twitter.com/newurbanarts

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www.facebook.com/newurbanarts

Download the free curriculum from our thematic summer program, the Art Inquiry:
www.newurbanarts.org/blogs.html

Purchase printed publications of our Program Resource Guides online at Lulu Press. This format allows readers to easily adapt activities to their own educational environment or personal artistic practice. "Encountering Encounter" from our 2010 Summer Art Inquiry is available now:
<http://stores.lulu.com/newurbanarts>

Check out our online resources on mail art, including live video demonstrations and a large archive of letters written to Providence that we collected through a public letter-writing project called "Dear Providence":
<http://dearprovidence.org/>



Students teaching one another how to knit and crochet at the How-To Fair, April 2011

thank you!

Visit us sometime! We are located at 705 Westminster Street in the West End of Providence, Rhode Island. The best time to catch the studio vibe is weekdays from 3-5pm when students and artist mentors are here.

Visit our website at www.newurbanarts.org or call 401.751.4556 for more information.

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Student Carmella has a good time in the Studio Summer Programs.



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