

2016 Annual Campaign

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Lisa Smulyan
Louie Montoya

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Marisa Albanese

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Mary and Don McClure
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Susan Sakash
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Ty Alper and Tamar L. Todd
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Alexis Green

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Alina Breynaert
Allan and Mickey Fournier

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Ari Savitzky
Barbara Morin

Beatriz Lopez
Ben Ellcome
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Beth Nixon
Bill Cozzens and Carla Childs

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Caitlin Cali

Camille Montano
Carla Sanger in honor of Elia Gurna and in memory of Michael Gurowitz

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Dorothy Jungels

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Elizabeth Pollard in memory of Carole Harman

Emily Ustach and Mike Eng
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Grace Zwolinski
Hilary Treadwell
Holly Ewald

Holly Wach
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Nancy Safian and Jonathan Saltzman
Nicholas Reville on behalf of David Reville

Pamela Laurenzo
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Patrick and Lyn Malone

Paula Hurd
Perri and Jonathan Leviss

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Peter Macphee
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Rachel Shipps

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Susan Zoll
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Sylvia Hampton

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Ferguson

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Diane Hoffman
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Green & Greenberg
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Sarah Sturtevant
Sin Desserts
Tacey Hellewell

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The Music Please
The Narragansett Brewing Company

The Red Fez
Tim Davis
Tommy Donovan

Vuthy Lay
Walker Mettling
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NEW URBAN ARTS
705 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
USA

NEW URBAN ARTS

The studio reopens...



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...with more space!

(clockwise from top left)
Ashley Paniagua Cavallaro,
Youth Program Manager and
Daniel Schleifer, Executive
Director; Students (L to R)
Saderloune Fevry, Maileni
Mendoza, and Sheila Cruz;
Student Teneka Cooke. Spiky
Character Art by student
Elizabeth Jweinat.

New Urban Arts is an arts studio and gallery for high school students and artists in Providence, RI.

New Urban Arts' free, year-round out-of-school programs promote sustained mentoring relationships between urban high school students and trained artist mentors who, together, engage in youth leadership, risk taking, collaboration, and self-directed learning.

We believe that all young people, no matter their place in society, should have the opportunity to become more creative and independent thinkers. As a nationally recognized community arts studio, 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.

Founded in 1997 by four college and ten high school students, New Urban Arts has received local and national

recognition for our innovative approach to arts education. Over the years, we've served over 3,500 high school students and 200 artists. In 2009, The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities awarded us the Coming Up Taller Award, the nation's highest honor for out-of-school arts programs. In 2011, we purchased and renovated our new home at 705 Westminster Street, only 100 feet from our previous home at 743 Westminster.

Find out more at www.newurbanarts.org

DEDICATED TO LIFELONG CREATIVE PRACTICE



The Minerva Foundation



TriMix Foundation



Ocean State Charities Trust

TEXTRON

New Urban Arts is my home away from home. The only place on earth that you can just walk into and be embraced regardless of background. The most supportive place on earth!!!

—Sissy R., student



Letter from the Executive Director

Welcome to our 20th year! We started this year with a bang, by unveiling the **new New Urban Arts**, a freshly renovated studio with nearly twice as much space for public high school students in Providence to create, explore, connect, and find their paths.

A lot of hard work and positive energy from New Urban Arts’ community made this possible. **We have a saying at New Urban Arts, “there’s no such thing as a normal year.”** It seems as though every year brings a new challenge, and when one doesn’t come along on its own, we find a way to challenge ourselves!

In 2014, Rhode Island voters set the stage for our big challenge of 2015–16 when they approved a **Creative and Cultural Economy Bond** initiative. Among other things, this initiative established a \$6.9 million fund for competitive matching grants for capital improvements to arts organizations that own or control their spaces. We’ve owned our studio at 705 Westminster Street since 2011, so we were eligible for the funding.

The timing was perfect for expansion. In 2011–12 (our first year at 705 Westminster), we enrolled 277 students. Since then **enrollment has nearly doubled**, hovering around 500 students for the past two years. Our studio space was becoming crowded and difficult to use. Tables were covered with supplies, and ongoing projects were tucked away in any available space between shelves. Students and mentors became accustomed to finding corners of tables to work on. Screen printing and sewing shared a cramped space, and ink sometimes spilled on sewing projects.

Not only was the timing ideal, so was our building. We had a raw, dry basement with high ceilings, ripe for renovation. But to transform it, we had to secure that grant!

The **Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA)** released the grant application in the summer of 2015. So, while the 2015–16 program year began in typical fashion with our **Summer programs**, we were thinking a year ahead to renovations that we hoped would be underway by the summer of 2016.

We started meeting with our amazing architects, **Peter Case** and **Rob Williams** of **Truth Box, Inc.** We shared the results of a community design process led by our board, which took feedback from our board, staff, students, and volunteers. Truth Box began working to bring everyone’s input to life, and by September, they had a blueprint that satisfied all of our stakeholders.

We arrived at a plan to convert the basement into 2,400 square feet of additional program space and 1,200 square feet of optimized storage, with the following key features:

- A sound-proof music rehearsal and recording space.
- A multi-purpose classroom space.
- A digital media lab.
- A designated area for sewing, apparel, and fashion.

Truth Box’s plan also called for thoughtful linkages between the ground floor and basement, including a central open staircase and the creative use of transparent materials. This plan was the centerpiece of our RISCA application, which we submitted in fall of 2015.

In January of 2016, we were awarded the RISCA grant. We celebrated and then got back to work, led by **board member John Risica**, who volunteered to chair our building committee. Through a competitive bid process, we selected **Case Construction** as our general contractor, and **NUA Studio Organizer Owen Muir** worked hard to ensure that the building was ready to hand over to them on June 1, after the 2015–16 **Youth Mentorship in the Arts** program ended.

Meanwhile, a number of incredible donors stepped up to help us meet the matching requirement of the RISCA grant. We are so grateful to our capital campaign donors for helping us to make these renovations a reality!

May was a very busy month. After the **Art Party**, our year-end celebration, on May 13, we had about two weeks to move everything into storage and relocate our office to a temporary home down the block at **Inspiring Minds**, where the staff served as gracious hosts. The renovations also forced us to hold our 2016 summer programs at various sites around the city. Thank you to **The Providence Public Library**, **The Steel Yard**, and **Youth Pride, Inc.** for opening their spaces to our young people!

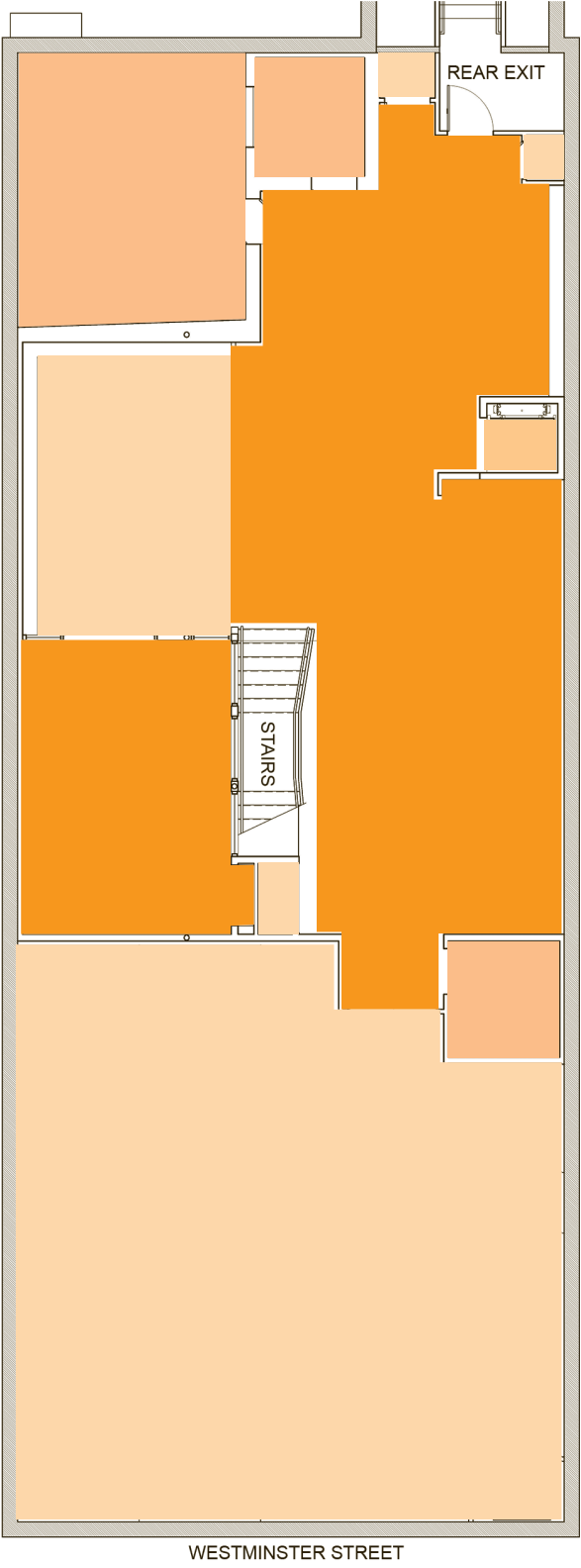
The renovations chugged along on schedule, and by September, as we moved back in, they were nearly complete. We put the studio back together and worked to set up and equip our new spaces with all the right gear. **Sandira Blass** and **InMusic** were particularly instrumental in providing equipment for the recording studio.

Finally, on October 7, 2016, we reopened to the public with 330 people attending our grand reopening and summer exhibition. A week later, programs began in the newly renovated space, and since then, every day after school, young people have flooded into the studio. They’ve been using every corner of the space.

Every day, I try to leave my desk to explore the space for a little while. I see our screen printers, and they have enough room to work without bumping elbows. Our young apparel designers finally have a space of their own. On the first day, students immediately found the classroom space and began using it for homework and creative writing. We now have enough computers that students don’t have to compete for them, and lastly, the recording studio is constantly packed!

As we head into our 20th year, we are filled with gratitude to everyone who made this transformation possible: our funders and individual donors, our community partners, our volunteers, and all of our other supports. We hope you’ll come visit our new space!

Dan Schleifer



As we head into our 20th year, we are filled with gratitude to everyone who made this transformation possible.

(clockwise from top left) New Urban Arts’ Grand Re-Opening cake; View of the renovated studio with stairway metalwork panels from the summer 2016 program with The Steel Yard; Senior Sissy Rosso sharing her New Urban Arts story at New Urban Arts Annual Event; Architectural layout of the renovated basement.



Studio Expands to Meet Organizational Growth

New Urban Arts’ 2015–16 program year marked a significant milestone for organizational growth.

In order to better manage ongoing high enrollment in our **Youth Mentorship in the Arts** program, we prepared for an expansion of our studio space and increased our staffing. We began by conducting a **community design process** led by our board, which included students, volunteers, alumni, and staff. Based on the results of this process, **Truth Box Architects** drafted plans for the basement expansion. The architectural plan was included with an application to the **Rhode Island State Council on the Arts’ (RISCA) Cultural Facilities Grant Program**, a grant program that awards capital matching funds to arts organizations that own their spaces. In January of 2016, we were awarded the RISCA grant and began preparing for construction to take place over the summer of 2016.

The major renovation—planned during most of the 2015–16 year and completed in fall 2016—**added 2,400 square feet of additional programing space**.

Student enrollment and participation continued at high levels, falling only slightly from the all-time high records that we set in 2014–15.

This year New Urban Arts had more alumni students serving as mentors and staff than at any other point in our history.

As the organization continues to grow, **alumni are taking on more leadership** in all areas. As volunteers, staff, and members of our board of directors, alumni are influencing the direction and operations of New Urban Arts.

In 2015–16, we hired two **Resident Artist Mentors (RAMs)**, **Aneudy Alba** and **Ian Cozzens**, each at 20 hours per week. RAMs are part-time employees who focus and specialize in a specific media in the studio. This year, our RAMs focused on two of the most popular art forms in our studio: screen printing and two-dimensional media. The RAM position was developed through a strategic planning process that included feedback from youth, staff, volunteers, board members, and other stakeholders. The RAM position supports the following objectives:

- Increase the consistency, stability, and presence of adult artist mentors, which is key to the development of the relationships that make our programs strong.
- Add more staff to help maintain studio facilities and equipment.
- Develop a paid teaching staff who receive professional development around best practices in youth development and arts education, thereby improving the quality of our programs.
- Improve the ability of program and teaching staff to collaborate on strategies that support the growth and learning of individual students and the entire studio community.



It means there is more to life than all the drama and normal everyday bitter moments. There is something that can bring the happiness out of you.

— De’Audre T., student

2015–16 IMPACT REPORT

478 students
enrolled in our after-school **Youth Mentorship Program** this year. **On average, 54 students attended each day. Average monthly attendance was 190 unique students.**

17 seniors
participated in **A Life After School (ALAS)**, and 12 were college-bound.

7 alumni mentors
out of 18 artist-mentors and two studio study buddies (tutors) total. **This year we received 49 mentor applications for 13 open positions and welcomed seven returning mentors back.**

2,000 attendees
participated in 14 public events.

93% of students
agreed or strongly agreed that they have built strong, trusting relationships with peers and adults.

98% of students
agreed or strongly agreed that they have developed a way of creating that expresses who they are.

Learn more online at: newurbanarts.org/impact/

2016–17 Calendar Events

Friday, October 7
BLOW OUT Celebration—Summer Art Show /
Public Unveiling of New Space / Public Kickoff
of our 20th anniversary year

Friday, November 18
Mentor Show

Saturday, December 3
Cardboard Pancakes Holiday Art Sale

Friday, February 17
Mid-Year Makings Art Show

Friday, April 21
Annual Campaign Event and 20th Birthday Bash

Friday, May 19
Art Party Year End Art Show and Senior Send Off



2015–16 People

Artist Mentors

Afsheen Faisal
Alan Tracy
Carmel Dundon
Diane Exavier
Emily Sun
Katie Gui
Eric Axelman
James Escobedo
Jason Fujikuni
Jesse Banks III
Polina Volfovich
Katie O’Connell
Taliesin Gilkes Bower
Pia Brar
Tycho Horan
Vuthy Lay
Tim Fisher

Study Buddy

Emma Wohl
Mel Soter

A Life After School Mentor

Mara O’Day

Studio Advocate

Brandi Didino

Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB)

Alejandra Mayorga
Alejandro Kunhardt
Ayanna Coburn-Sanderson
George Dauda
Idrees Montequi
Jose Baez
Khaleel Williams
Natalia Rossi
Rochelle Leach
Sidi Wen

Studio Assistants

Emmanuel Rodriguez
Tremmell Lincoln

Staff

Ashley Paniagua
Connie Colvin
Daniel Schleifer
Emily Ustach
Owen Muir
Tamara Kaplan

Resident Artist Mentors

Ian Cozzens
Aneudy Alba

Americorp VISTA

Saulo Castillo

Award Winners

Providence Community
Acupuncture
(Founders’ Award Recipient)
Paul Tavaréz
(Carole Harman Memorial
Award Recipient)
Elia Gurna
(Carole Harman Memorial
Award Recipient)
Douglas Best
(Sandra Olsen
Award Recipient)

Board of Directors

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(Chair)
Mary Lee Partington
(Vice Chair)
Douglas Best
(Secretary)
Stephen DelSesto
(Treasurer)
The Reverend
Dr. David Ames
Maria Cimini
Vernell Clouden
Tom Fitzgerald
Michael Fournier
Lois Harada
Craig Lamp
Diane S. Nahabedian
John Risica
Rocco Sica
Paul Tavaréz

★ New Urban Arts Alumni
◇ New Urban Arts Artist Mentor Alumni

Overview of New Urban Arts Programs

All programs are free and open to high school students.

The Youth Mentorship in the Arts Program is our core program that partners artist-mentors with small groups of high school students who develop powerful mentoring relationships during the after school hours of 3–7pm. During this open door, drop-in time, they foster risk taking and self-discovery through community building and creative arts projects designed collaboratively by mentors and youth. Students also access the following services:

- **Studio Study Buddies** are academic tutors who provide homework help and test preparation.
- **Vacation Week Workshops** take place during the week-long April school break.

The Gallery and Performance Program includes three annual exhibitions of student artwork. Exhibitions incorporate performances, fashion shows, and the release of student-published poetry and literature. These events are a formal opportunity for parents to visit the studio.

The Studio Advocate is a Rhode Island College School of Social Work MSW candidate placed at New Urban Arts as a resource to students and mentors.

A Life After School (ALAS) is our post-secondary advising program for youth enrolled at New Urban Arts. The program, in partnership with **College Visions**, provides support for students applying to college, summer programs, jobs, and job training programs.

The Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB), akin to a student government, is a leadership development program serving about 15 students. Their duties include advising staff and the board; representing the organization publicly; orienting new students; selecting artist mentors; and organizing events.

The Summer Art Internships are a suite of summer enrichment programs that are designed to be accessible to low-income high school students. Students are offered a \$400 participation stipend upon successful completion of the program, which combines best practices in art education, youth development, and summer learning. Two programs are consistently offered every summer, and additional **Summer Art Internships** are offered when funds are available. The two programs we offer every summer are:

- **The Summer Art Inquiry** is a thematic arts program in which students collectively explore a common theme through research, art-making, creative writing, and personal inquiry.
- **The Untitlement Project** is a program in which 15 high school students explore relationships, identity, stereotypes, gender, and body image, through creative writing, conversation, and art making.

The Summer Open Studio is an open-enrollment, drop-in summer program that allows students to continue to use our resources.





It means helping young adults find a meaning. As in giving them different ways to express who they are or what they feel. It honestly means a lot.

— Maileni M., student

Program Highlights in 2015–16

NUA mentors and students worked with **Classical High School Environmental Science teacher David Zoglio** to paint a mural on the outside of Classical’s Environmental Sustainability Lab.

In November, **Alumna Roz Raskin** assembled a lineup of local bands whose members include former mentors and students for a **concert benefitting New Urban Arts** in our studio. The concert raised \$1200!

In March, we held a **yard sale** in our back parking lot to help clear excess supplies and equipment from our basement in preparation for the renovation.

April Break Week was led by **Resident Artist Mentors Aneudy Alba and Ian Cozzens**. Students visited artists, designers, studios, and galleries across Rhode Island and Massachusetts including painter **Angelo Marinosci, Jr.**, handbag designer and former mentor **Kent Stetson, DWRI Letterpress**, the **RISD Museum’s Todd Oldham exhibit**, and the world headquarters for **Converse** sneakers.



Get involved...

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

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

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

...become a donor of tax-deductible art materials and equipment or monetary gifts.

Review our current wishlist:
bit.ly/NUAinkind2016

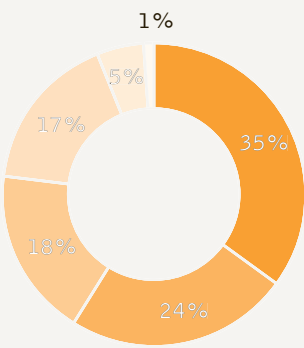
Or donate through Paypal:
bit.ly/NUA-Give

...become a sponsor for exhibitions, performances, and our annual silent auction. Please contact **sophia@newurbanarts.org** for more information on sponsoring New Urban Arts.

About the Youth We Serve

86% of students

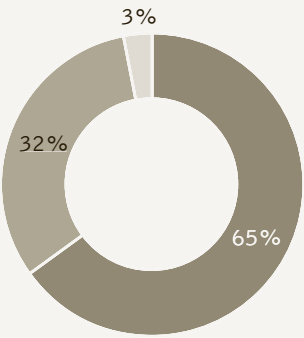
qualified for free or reduced-price lunch.*



35% latino
24% multiracial
18% african american
17% white
5% asian american
1% native american

28% of students

identified as LGBTQ.



65% female
32% male
3% other

* Free lunch is for students from households at or below 130% of the poverty line; reduced-price lunch is for students from households between 130% and 185% of poverty. For a household of four with two children in Providence, 185% of poverty means subsisting on less than \$43,700 per year.



(clockwise from top left) Student in the summer 2015 screenprint studio; Mentor Diane Exavier, right, talking with students during a visit to the RISD Museum; Student Jon Henry; Hands sculpture; Self-care zines made during the summer Art Inquiry “Creative Compassion and the Art of Kindness”; 2015–16 NUA staff.



[NUA] means stepping out of your comfort zone and learning to embrace the weird and not exactly perfect. It means growing and always meeting new people.

— Anna A., student



I wanted to make something that makes other women with hair like me feel beautiful.... My art encompasses both my current struggles and an escape from some of them. It illustrates my journey to self-acceptance and celebration, because black women deserve to feel beautiful, too. I am very proud of how many frontiers I pushed with this painting. I'm in love with how it turned out. Shout out to [artist mentor] Alan for the amazing advice, and constructive criticism, much love! Also shout out to everyone else who motivated me along the way with your lovely words and kindness.

— Yisel Vaquez, student



Interview with Resident Artist Mentor Aneudy Alba

An interview between **student Jose Toribio** and **Resident Artist Mentor Aneudy Alba**. Aneudy is New Urban Arts' Resident Artist Mentor in two-dimensional media at New Urban Arts. Aneudy supports students interested in drawing, painting and other flat media. Jose is currently in his senior year at **Providence Career and Technical Academy** and a member of the **Studio Team Advisory Board**.

Jose Toribio:What appeals to you about being a Resident Artist Mentor?

Aneudy Alba: As a former student, the opportunity to give back to a place that had given me so much as a youth seemed like a task I felt I had to fulfill. I struggled at first, but now can confidently say that I am contributing in making a difference in the lives of our students as my mentors once did for me.

JT: How does the process of your students' work change after each lesson or exercise?

AA: I would say that first, a student's thought process changes, then the work reflects that. Once you teach them how to see and what to look for, their works take on a new form. Once you have a process down, it becomes second nature, and you can see the difference in the confidence of their art.

JT:What do you focus on with students who are new, and why and how is that different from students who you see regularly, and alumni?

AA: For new students I first need to know what their goals are, and then see where they are in the development of their skill set. Some students have never drawn from observation, others want to learn how to paint, and some want to build diverse portfolios for art school applications. I treat it on a case by case basis, some students are perfectly happy to just be given the opportunity to draw and paint at all.

For students I see regularly it's about pushing them out of their comfort zones and having them try new things, different materials, in order to push them.

JT: How would you support a student who isn't confident in their work?

AA: I tell them the truth, that it's incremental and takes time and practice. Also, more often than not, I assure them that they are better than I was at their age.

JT:Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

AA: I don't know, I can't see the future, if I did I'd make a killing as a fortune teller, maybe hit a couple of lotteries.

JT: Do students have a hard time pronouncing your name when they first meet you?

AA: Some do, others are native Spanish speakers, but eventually they all get it.

JT: Do you like abstract or more detailed work?

AA: I can appreciate both, but I'm a sucker for realism or good line work.

JT:What is your favorite painting and why?

AA: My favorite painting is in my personal collection, a piece painted by Angelo Marinosci Jr. It depicts a solemn man, it's haunting. My favorite famous works include the works of Durer, Rembrandt, but most importantly, Kehinde Wiley.

JT:You have been both a mentor and a Resident Artist Mentor, what is the difference between the two?

AA: I have added responsibilities as a Resident Artist Mentor, thinking about and implementing systems in the supply areas and how student work is stored, as well as helping students develop focused portfolios for their school applications and keeping an eye on how both mentors and students are generally doing, trying to be of assistance and making sure everything runs smoothly.

JT:You also DJ for Karaoke Nights...what's that like?

AA: Stressful, but fun. I have to be on the lookout for the best possible version of a song, then hope it's clean, we've had a few slip-ups. Overall it's a good, fun time though when everyone can get a little silly.

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 bit.ly.com/NUA_News

FACEBOOK
facebook.com/newurbanarts

FLICKR
flickr.com/photos/newurbanarts/

TWITTER
twitter.com/newurbanarts

INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/newurbanarts

Mentor Highlight: Diane Exavier

New Urban Arts is powered by a group of volunteer artist mentors who make our core programs a reality. These artists volunteer their time to work with students four hours a week for 28 weeks. Each November, we introduce our mentors to the wider public and to students with our mentor art show. This past year’s show, **Give Love**, brought together visual and performing artists for an evening of magic and community.

Writing mentor Diane Exavier reflected on the event as part of a writing series entitled **Dear Drake, Love Diane**. For more on Diane, follow her Tumblr: <http://d-exavier.tumblr.com/>



My projects are capturing the happiness of people. As a photographer I feel like the “happy moments” are the best moments to capture. I like when people are happy and smiling because it is a beautiful thing to see. This is a new project, but all of my photos have been of smiles. The most challenging part was getting the right photo and the process. Having to make a bunch of test strips and redo prints when they don’t come out right. Don’t get me wrong; it’s totally worth it when you get that perfect print.

— Evelise Gomez, student

“Dear Drake #38”

Dear Drake,

There are places of shelter where women speak of fire before fathers and sons play the cello.

I’ve been there.

I was there tonight.

I wish I were actually a genius.

I wish I were so crazy, too crazy, so insane to imagine this other thing, this other way I keep talking about.

But it’s not even that hard.

You put a bunch of cheese cubes in a bowl and you ask people to give love.

You create a space.

You acknowledge that lots of spaces are traps, are prisons, are oppressive, are hindering, are scary, are sad, are unhealthy, are just not it.

You make a commitment to do something else.

You invite people to the party.

You play the cello with your dad.

You and some women recite poems that call upon bodies of water.

You and some women call upon your bodies. You put them in this space.

You stand on your own two feet and talk to a new friend about the problem with some songs and how and why and at what cost you find yourself continuing to dance to them, to sing them, to play them on repeat.

Sometimes you encounter someone else’s journey.

Sometimes people show up without expectation, with their only cause being an invitation.

They aren’t necessarily looking to get their lives changed.

That much is key. To live you just have to do it and try, if you can, to keep yourself from measuring the use, the coins, the transactional worth of any number of interactions. You have to stop thinking about what you are owed. You have to stop thinking about what you can get.

You have to start thinking about how you can be with people. It’s not so hard to imagine.

PYC Student Leadership

New Urban Arts partnered for a second year with the **Providence Youth Caucus (PYC)**, sending three youth representatives to participate in a student-led coalition with five other Providence youth organizations. The PYC unites youth from across Providence to work together for citywide education changes like restorative justice practices and personalized learning. This year, students helped to organize a forum focused on education issues, which ultimately informed the **Providence Public School Department’s** search for a new superintendent.



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 3-7pm when students and artist mentors are here.

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

(clockwise from top left) Resident Artist Mentor Aneudy Alba, left, with student Jose Toribio; Mentor Diane Exavier; Student Evelise Gomez’s “Project Smiles” photo, featuring NUA student Mia Rivera; Student Idrees Montique facilitates a session at the Providence Youth Caucus’ Superintendents Forum; Student Yisel Vaquez’s painting “Melanin Radiance”; “Mona Lisa Mauled by Tiger” painting by senior Garty Bartuah.