

News in 2008

Jason Yoon, a New York native and former Artist Mentor, joins New Urban Arts as its second **Executive Director** in February 2008. He is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design and New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

The **President's Committee on Arts and Humanities** honors New Urban Arts as a **Coming Up Taller** semi-finalist award winner and one of the top fifty arts and humanities based programs in the country serving youth beyond the school hours.

New Urban Arts' nationally recognized Youth Mentorship Program will be highlighted in the **National Endowment for the Arts Annual Report**.

New Urban Arts' **Youth Mentorship Program** enrollment grows to 305 high school students this year, an increase from 180 in 2007.

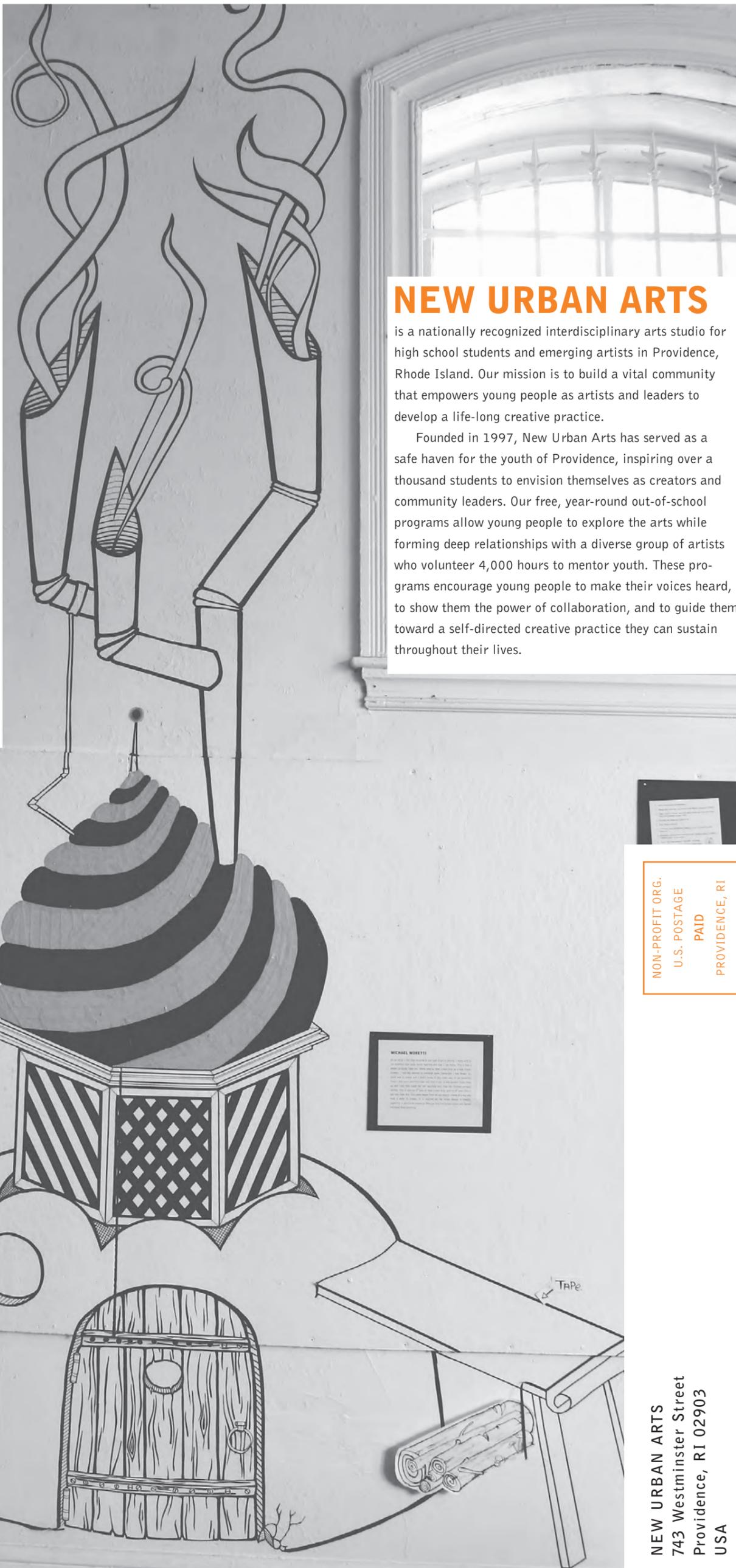
This spring, nearly 500 people attended the **Art Party**, our end-of-the-year student exhibition and fashion show. Total gallery attendance for the year reaches over 2300.

Launched **Conversations on Creative Practice**, a series that invited unique individuals to share how they integrate creativity into their personal and professional lives. Conversations was hosted by **New Urban Arts Mentoring Fellows**, Peter Hocking and Andrew Desch.

New Urban Arts' first **Spring Fling Silent Auction** event raised over \$2500 to support our after-school arts mentoring programs. A big thank you to the artist mentors, staff, board members, and friends who donated artwork for the event.

Mayor David Cicilline awarded **The Urban Social Empowerment Collective (U.S.E.)**, a collective of 10 youth development organizations in Providence, New Urban Arts among them, to develop a city-wide plan to sustain out-of-school programs for teenagers.

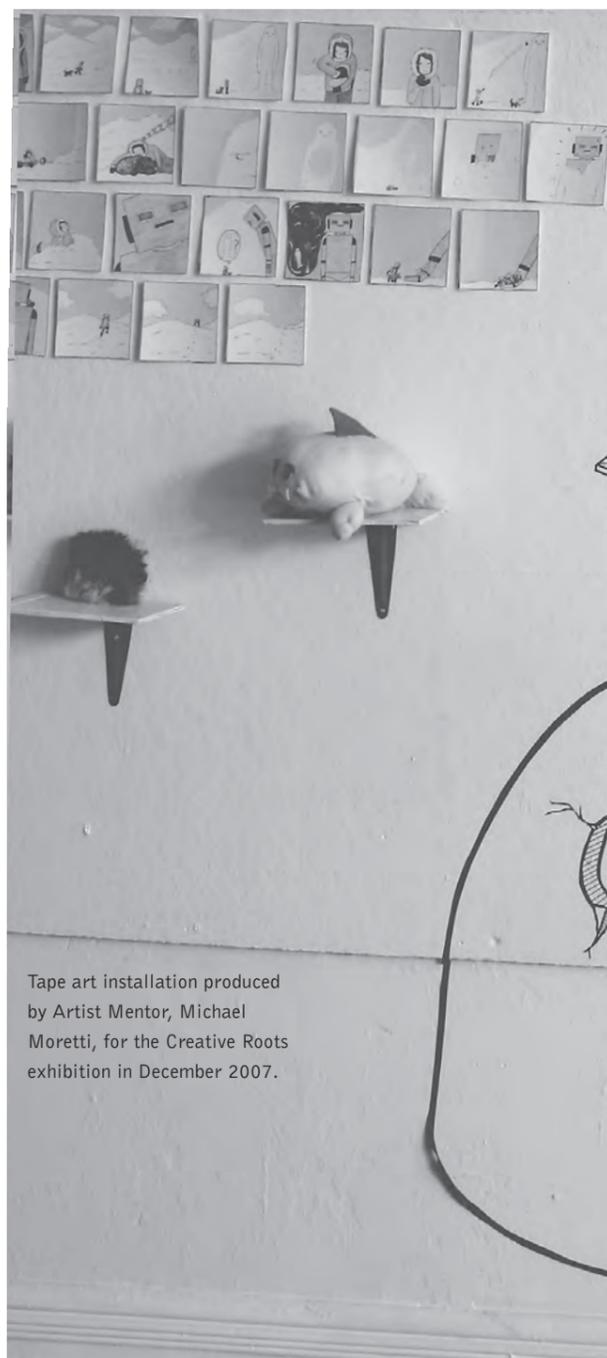
Visit newurbanarts.org or call 401 751-4556 for more information.



NEW URBAN ARTS

is a nationally recognized interdisciplinary arts studio 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 life-long creative practice.

Founded in 1997, New Urban Arts has served as a safe haven for the youth of Providence, inspiring over a thousand students to envision themselves as creators and community leaders. Our free, year-round out-of-school programs allow young people to explore the arts while forming deep relationships with a diverse group of artists who volunteer 4,000 hours to mentor youth. These programs encourage young people to make their voices heard, to show them the power of collaboration, and to guide them toward a self-directed creative practice they can sustain throughout their lives.



Tape art installation produced by Artist Mentor, Michael Moretti, for the Creative Roots exhibition in December 2007.

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NEW URBAN ARTS

DEDICATED TO LIFELONG CREATIVITY

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friend,

How do you know when something has changed for the better? That, as a result of your intervention, a different outcome has occurred than would have in your absence? **Heavy stuff!**

We work with amazing youth and artists and it feels silly to claim credit for their success. The best educators I know talk about giving students power through choices. That young people choose to be smart, to be successful, to make amazing art, to be positive community members. Effective learning communities simply make those choices possible.

That's how I think of New Urban Arts. As an incubator that creates conditions that make change possible. This newsletter has some stories from the past year in our studio that give you a sense of the kind of learning community New Urban Arts is and the kinds of choices we're making possible.

Thank you for making these stories real, whether you're a donor, a volunteer, student, artist mentor, board member, your support makes this vital community possible.

Sincerely,

Jason Sung Won Yoon
Executive Director



Above: Our new executive director, Jason Yoon, has brought a love of salsa dancing to the studio. He gives student Kevin Chin some pointers; Above right: Studio Study Buddy, Dan Schliefer, tutors Sidney Argueta and Arianna Purro in Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry.

Inclusion: Everyone is on Equal Footing

This year marked a significant transition for New Urban Arts, as we replaced our founding Director, Tyler Denmead, with our new Executive Director, Jason Yoon. The leadership transition spanned a year and was laid out into 4 phases: strategic decisions, public announcement and search launch, selection process, and transition. It included a seven month interim period when former Program Director, Tamara Kaplan, served as the Interim Executive Director. It was a great opportunity to connect with our whole community. The Search Committee included committed members of our Board of Directors, volunteer artist mentors, staff, high school students and alumni. Candidates presented their creative practice at a town hall open to the public. Ten years of relationships came together in remarkable and unexpected ways to sustain New Urban Arts into its next decade through a successful leadership transition.

A big part of our search was involving the students in the interview process. Arts Mentoring Fellow, Andrew Oesch talked with Angel Peña, a New Urban Arts senior about his involvement.

Andrew: Can you talk about the search process?

Angel: It was fun because I got to pick somebody that could contribute to New Urban Arts and the process was more about students deciding what they wanted. It was important because it comes down to the students anyway. We are going to be interacting with that person. **We have a voice in making big decisions with the studio. Not a lot of organizations give you that opportunity.**

Andrew: How do you think that experience changed you?

Angel: I got really into it, making sure they [candidates] were asked tough questions to make sure they were the right person. I wanted someone who would help New Urban Arts progress. **Because New Urban Arts has done so much for me, I wanted to better New Urban Arts with a good new director.** When I was interviewing, I asked questions related to New Urban Arts like "how would you help New Urban Arts?"

Andrew: How do you think the experience carried on throughout the rest of the year?

Angel: It was important to me because it made me feel

important to the studio. That you actually valued my opinion. It has changed my direction and what I am doing now around the studio. Instead of doing artwork, I am organizing different activities. I am taking on more of a leadership role. Everyone contributes differently to the studio and I feel like ever since you've given me the opportunity to take on more leadership, I've done that. **Once that door was opened, I walked right through.**

Andrew: How do you think artwork affects the way you are a leader?

Angel: I feel like what has helped is the environment and the people that surround you. We can express ourselves constructively and get something moving. **At New Urban Arts, we are more about openness and being flexible.** In the studio you can express your ideas, and yourself. We butt heads sometimes, but we still move forward and at the end of the day, we still listen to each other. It takes us awhile to plan, but when it actually happens, we are successful and everyone enjoys it. **We have leadership that lets students work things out.**

At New Urban Arts, we have people who are kind of in charge, but they let everyone else take over. Sarah [Meyer, Program Director] or Jason [Yoon, Executive Director] will bring something up and then let everyone else talk about it and they sit back and then bring something else up.

2008 Studio Participants



staff

Jesse Banks III,
Studio Manager
Abel Hernandez,
Studio Assistant
Peter Hocking,
Arts Mentoring Fellow
Tamara Kaplan,
Interim Executive
Director, Operations
Manager
Sarah Meyer,
Program Director
Andrew Oesch,
Arts Mentoring Fellow
Emily Ustach,
Summer Studio
Coordinator, Interim
Office Manager
Jason Yoon,
Executive Director

artist mentors

Adrienne Benz
Jason Brockert
McKenzie Burrus-
Granger
Carrie Cannon
Lauren Carter
Jean Cozzens
Bremen Donovan
Ben Fino-Radin
Kedrin Frias
Erik Gould
Christine Hochkeppel
Jeff Hutchison
Gretta Johnson
David Karoff
Stacy Magner
Melissa Mendes
Michael Moretti
Carrie Sandman
Kian Shenfield

volunteers

Rick Benjamin
Eve Biddle
Muffy Brandt
Laura Cohen
Corinne Ennis
Claudia Frankenberg
Dylan Going
Annelise Grimm
Seth Gruenwald
Julia Guattieri
Claire Harlan Orsi
Adria Katz
John Kotula
Martha Kuhlman
Jennifer Rice
Kate Sanders-Fleming
George Langford
Mary Longer
Paul McCarthy
Sadie Miller
Chris Paddock
Diego Perez
Breck Petrillo
Jack Richter
Sandy Richter
Dan Schliefer
Lydia Stein
Alyssa Holland Short
Molly Thomas

John Tabor Jacobson
Emmy Thelander
Tom Van Buskirk
Emily Ustach
Celestino Vazquez
Kik Williams
Jung Ok Yoon
Meredith Younger
Jay Zehngebot
Bowie Zunino

studio team advisory board

Mary Adewusi, Chair
Amanda Abreu
Aneudy Alba
CJ
Karen Joy Castillo
Kevin Gonsalves
Kate Holden
Elizabeth Keith
Rebecca Padilla
Angel Peña
Juan Cortez
Dania Sanchez
Rosalia Velis

students

Aaron Ling
Abigail Catillo
Alexander Gonzalez
Alison Migliori
Alyce Brown
Amanda Fernandez
Amanda Abreu
Amanda Measamom
Andrea Ayala
Andrea Freerks
Andrew Grieco
Andrew Migliori
Aneudy Alba
Angel Corprew-Brown
Angel Peña
Angela Guzman
Anna DeLeori
Aqeela Littlejohn
Ariana Purro
Arlene Lopez
Ashley Tavares
Ashley Morsi
Ashley Medrano
Ashley Escobedo
Astrid Garcia

Ava Ginsburg
Benlin Bailey
Bolajiple Adeyoye
Brian Lockett
Brian Pineda
Brian Sical
Brittany Njie
Brooke Taylor
Bryant Gil
Caeli Carr Potter
Carlos Pineda
Carolina Salgado
Cassy Tierney
Chambo Tep
Charlene Wooten
Charmaine Porter
Cheyenne Doran
Chezz Sanchez
Chris Lewis
Christian Vialva
Christina Rodrigues
Christopher Calderon
Christopher Castro
Cindy Cabrera
CJ
Claribel Cruz



College Corner

Thank you for helping New Urban Arts students access higher education! Our seniors were accepted to over 30 colleges and universities. We asked two students about the college application process. **Karen Joy Castillo** is at Tufts University on scholarship and participated in **College Visions**, a partner program that provides college advising. **Laura Huaranga** is at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) on scholarship and worked with Artist Mentor **Adrienne Benz** on the complex process of applying to a top art school.

Why did you pick your schools?

Karen: I never heard of Tufts until College Visions. Tufts was a reach school, really selective. It's diverse compared to other northeast schools, 27% of students are of color. It's not too large. I was looking at big schools, but Simon Moore [College Visions Founder and Director] told me to consider size if I wanted close relationships with professors. He introduced me to new schools that meet 100% of financial need. Another reason I chose Tufts was the financial aid.

Laura: Senior year I realized all I was doing was making art. It was one of the few things that made me really happy. I talked with my mentor Adrienne and she suggested making it a career. RISD was my first choice.

What support was important to you?

Karen: College Visions helped clarify everything. They helped with my essay and financial aid, which is really confusing. They brought us to different colleges, which I benefited from. My parents didn't have time to do all that because they work a lot. I talked to students about workload, professors, and social life. When you visit a college, it changes your perspective.

Laura: Adrienne helped more than I can say. I only applied to RISD because of her. The application is a lot of work. I had to submit a lot of artwork and a home test. My family moved to Providence from Peru the summer before high school. We were fortunate to win a visa lottery. I never met visual artists until New Urban Arts—it changed the way I viewed art and made me feel better about art as a career. I met artists who were happy. That's how I define success, doing something you like.

What are you excited about?

Karen: I'm excited about meeting new people, experiencing college life and becoming independent.

Laura: For the knowledge, new experiences, meeting new people, and finding new interests.

What's your advice for younger students?

Karen: Keep an open mind. Visiting colleges is really, really important.

Laura: Plan ahead! Practice! In my experience, talent has nothing to do with how successful you are, practice and hard work do. Focus on what you want and just work hard.

For more information about College Visions, please visit

www.collegevisions.org

To get involved with portfolio preparation at New Urban Arts, please contact us!

www.newurbanarts.org

NEW PROGRAMMING at the studio

School Vacation Week: We are now open during February and April school vacation weeks, when we invite visiting artists to the studio.

Studio Study Buddy: Out-of-school tutoring by volunteer mentors who tutor students individually as they prepare for exams, edit papers and finish challenging homework while at our studio.

Studio Team Advisory Board: A youth leadership board also known as STAB. Check out the interviews with STAB Chairs on page 6.

Conversations: A public series in which unique individuals share their creative practice. Whether they are gardeners, painters, or plumbers, these individuals discuss how they integrate creativity into their personal and professional lives. Listen to the live recordings podcasted online at www.newurbanarts.org.

Studio Yoga: We had intended to try out "Turkey Yoga" for only the month of November, but once we started we couldn't stop! We now hold free yoga sessions every week that integrate yoga, stretching and dance.

Salsa Instruction: Executive Director, Jason Yoon, brings his own creative practice to the studio, sharing his love of Latin dance and music, filling our studio with the sounds of "1, 2, 3, Su-zy-Q!"

Clarita Tejeda
Courtney Brennan
Crystal Moreno
Dailen Williams
Dale Robinson
Dan Lawlor
Dana Heng
Dania Sanchez
Daniel Taveras
Daniel Valmas
Daphney Pierre
Darlena Inlavongsa
Darmelis Cruz
Darren Canonico
David Cortez
David Desrosiers
Denise Rivera
Elias Dominguer
Elizabeth Keith
Elizabeth Medrano
Emely Barroso
Emmanuel Nwadiashi
Esteben Ortiz
Estefany Urena
Eunice David
Evan Monteiro

Farouk Ajakaiye
Fatima Cruz
Felicia Smith
Fidan Mustafayara
Ford Thanakhun
Frances Adewusi
Franehesa Lopez
Funmi Adeyo
Gabriela Tolentino
Glenda Vasquez
Gregory Valverde
Hannah Lutz Winkler
Hannah Candelaria
Harold Threats
Heather Vieira
Hector Ranen
Hector Linares
Howard Lara
Jacinta Robinson
Jackson Boerner
Jacob Peguero
Jacqueline Paniagua
Jahzmyn House
Jamal Stutts
James Canonico
Jamin Brodeur

Jamyle Garmon
Janessa Frias
Jarge Yubran
Jasmine Lopez
Jason Ovando
Jason Pineda
Javier Molina
Jazmin Interiano
Jazmin Rosa
Jennifer Recinos
Jennifer Rodriguez
Jennifer Ventura
Jessica Peguero
Jessica Blandin
Jillian Burdick
Jimmy Tang
Jinel Brito
Jocelyn Foribio
Jocelyn Cadoret
Jordan Johnsars
Jose Ortiz
Jose Pereira
Jose Sanchez
Josh Lumber
Joshua Smith
Joshua Gonzalez

Jovanna Guerra
Juan Cortez
Julian Tavarez
Justin Chambliss
Karen Rice
Karen Joy Castillo
Karla Quiroz
Karla Mariee
Karol Cruz
Kate Holden
Kayla Grybas
Kayla Crum
Kayla Gonzalez
Kaylee Giron
Kenny Olson
Kevin Gonsalves
Kevin Pilon
Kierra Mills
Kiviana Ventura
Krysta Schenck
Laura Huaranga
Laura Avaranga
Lena Pan
Leonore McCarthy
Leticia Escotto
Lezlie Harris

Lili Wilhite
Linda Bertholdt
Lisbeth Avabs
Lisegi Feliz
Louis Javier
Luis Veras
Luis Hernandez
Lynda Tha
Lyssa Minn
Madelin Ortiz
Madeline Ramirez
Manuela Sanchez
Maria Consuegra
Marilis Hopp
Maritza Gomez
Mary Khang
Mary Adewusi
Matthew DeCosta
Maxine Kali Wright
Maylee Torres
Melissa Perez
Melissa Nunez
Michael Calderon
Michelle Gauthier
Michele Downing
Michelle Migliori

Miguel Garcia
Mikeyla Pelaez
Mirza Berganza
Monique Cartwright
Natalia Navarro
Nathan Spearman
Neil Robertson
Nick Hafferty
Nordibel Rodriguez
Obralkis Ciprian
Olga Gelina
Osmery Guerra
Paofue Yang
Paul Tavarez
Paula Nieves
Pedro Gonzalez
Phillip Huerta
Pierre Mislin
Raquel Perdomo
Raziel Chavez
Rebecca Volynsky
Rhiannon Ketchem
Ronnie Fernandez
Rosalia Velis
Rosemary Guerra
Rumaldo Urizar Jr.

Sam Geerah
Sam Craven
Sasha Morales
Saulo Castillo
Sennin Nelson
Sergio Cabrera
Shakiah Faris
Shaonessy Santana
Sharon Weissburg
Sheldon Allen
Sheyna Vargas
Shirley Castillo
Sidney Argueta
Simeon Ogun
Sofia Morales
Sofia Cifuentes
Stauz Ma
Stephan McCants Jr
Stephanie Haveras
Stephanie Acevedo
Stephanie Johnson
Stephanie Corton
Stephanie Taveras
Stephanie Carew
Stephany Vasquez
Tamara Gonzalez

Taniquewah Jett
Tatiana Batista
Taylor Heywood
Thalia Marte
Tiffany Urena
Tiffany Abreu
Tina Meetran
Torie Morro
Uahzmym House
Valentina Jean-Claude
Vanessa Poulin
Wendy Ramos
Wilfredo Rodriguez
William Soriano
Yaruska Ordenola
Yescalín Delacruz
Yisselle De La Cruz
Yrette Ctoribio
Yuselly Mendoza
Zexion
Zoily Lopez

Voice: Young People Prevail



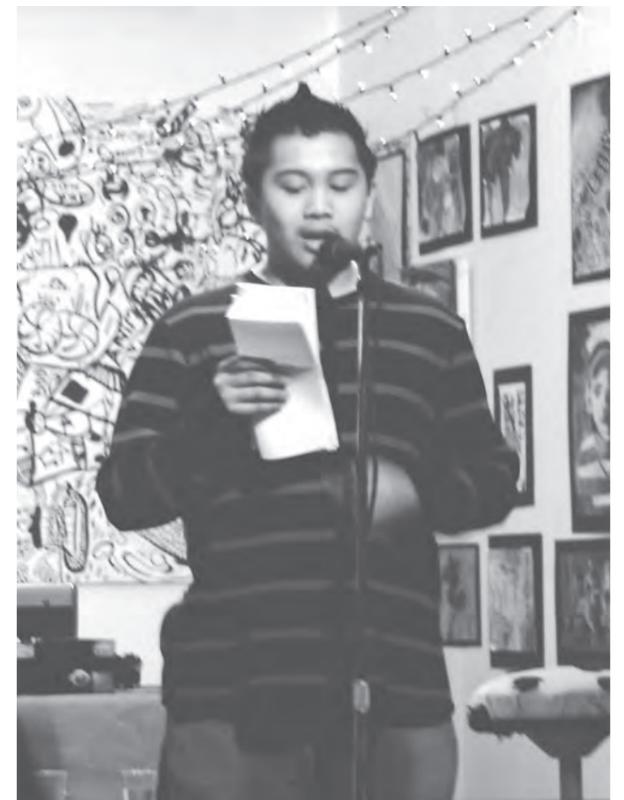
New Urban Arts is a big part of me. I learned a lot from coming over here.... I made new friends that I probably never would have talked to if I hadn't come here.

Sheyna Vargas, 17, student



New Urban Arts means to me that everyone should have art, do art, be art—be involved in art of some kind. It means innovative ideas and work that might inspire you and awe you. It means changing people's concepts of what art is and can be.

Torie Morro, 15, student



Out there in the real world, I feel like I don't belong. But when I step through these front doors, I feel like there just maybe be a place where I can fit in. A place where being different and creative is celebrated.

Emely Barroso, 15, student



Left: Gallery visitor enjoys artworks by artist mentor Erik Gould. Below left: Students look at negatives during summer Photography Apprenticeship Program. Below right: Student Philip Huerta performs at the Youth Open Mic. Bottom: Volunteer John Jacobson and student Juan Cortez work on graffiti murals during the Art Lock-in.



Above: Silkscreen poster by Dania Sanchez. "The images in this poster are pictures I took, pictures I found online, and pictures I drew. This is the house I lived in for the past 8 years. In October, we were told that we had to move and they were going to demolish our house because Carpenter Mills was going to be renovated and turned into condominiums. I made the poster to express my feelings towards the situation."

I learned that there is no right or wrong way of being creative. To me creativity is about expressing a certain idea or thought, or being inspired by your surroundings and creating new and original artwork.

Dania Sanchez, 17, Student



To some people New Urban Arts is just bricks and windows that sit on a corner of an inner city street, but to me it is the most warm and inviting place I've ever known.

Michael Moretti, 20, Alumni



Clockwise from top right: Volunteer, Seth Gruenwald teaches music to student Juan Cortez during Spring Break; Executive Director, Jason Yoon and student Evan Monteiro read publications at the zine swap; "Bearing Witness," prints by student Hannah Candelaria; "Clay Pen," sculptures by student Jackson Boerner.

Connection: Authentic Experiences and Bonds Fuel Us

We believe that everyone needs a mentor—someone to trust, to share honesty with, and enable us to be accountable to ourselves. Students direct their own learning with the support of skilled Artist Mentors. Artist Mentors build **reciprocal relationships** with students, teaching and learning simultaneously. The role of artist mentors is based on the belief that being present to another's learning is more valuable than proving what we know. Last September, we launched the **Arts Mentoring Fellowship** to support our artist mentors' work with students and help them pursue careers in the arts and community engagement. Last year, Peter Hocking served as a Fellow and was a mentor to Lauren Carter. Lauren has been a mentor at New Urban Arts since 2005. Jason Yoon spoke with them about their relationship:

Jason: What do you have in common as artists?

Peter: We're both ambivalent about locating ourselves in one place as an artist. We both ask **"how do you do something in the world that matters?"** We question if art is the way to do something significant, and ultimately, if really art matters.

Lauren: I've had issues with my arts practice for years. Teaching had become a huge part of my life, but I wasn't sure how art and teaching fit into my life. **Peter and I talked about drawing connections between my mentoring and teaching and my personal art practice.** I didn't want to exclude either part of myself. We talked about using art to interact with people; it opened up my definition of art. Our conversations allowed me to see how I could merge education and my art.

Jason: Peter, are there things you've learned from Lauren?

Peter: I feel an affinity for Lauren when I watch her teach. She is a brilliantly intuitive listener and through listening, a teacher. Remember that film she and Andrew (New Urban Arts film student) made where they filmed one side of the studio then projected it on the wall on the other side so it looked like you were seeing through the wall? **Andrew had an idea and Lauren was helping him figure out how to make that idea work.** It was a really beautiful moment to watch.



Above: Artist mentor Lauren Carter and student Andrew Migliori making movies. Below right: Artist mentor Ben Fino-Radin and student Shakiah Faris develop an idea for a future project.

Jason: How do you think your relationship mirrors young people and artist mentors?

Lauren: It seems like an obvious parallel. **At all ages we're learning about life and relating to others and how to pursue whatever you're interested in.** What Peter and I were able to do was have a friendship that included mentoring and that's what happens with the students I mentor here.

Peter: Being an art mentor is a range of approaches. One of the approaches I was trying to avoid was being the professor. **I think we entered conversations that weren't about teaching and learning, but sharing questions and answers.**



Leadership: The Baton is Yours for the Taking



Two recent high school graduates remained involved at New Urban Arts as alumni and worked to further invest in youth leadership at the studio. Mary Adewusi and Aneudy Alba are leaders of the **Studio Team Advisory Board** at New Urban Arts. Mary explains:

"We listen to the pulse of the studio and don't impose decisions. We ask students about their interests, things like 'what featured artists would you like, what new mentoring programs, what do you think of the new Executive Director? What would you like the summer studio to be?'"

Also known as STAB, this collective of students and alumni advise staff and the board of directors, represent the organization to community leaders and supporters, assist in the recruitment and orientation of new students, interview and hire artist mentors, and organize art exhibits, events, publications and workshops for the public.

Left: Mary Adewusi (right), chair of S.T.A.B., with Emily Ustach (left), summer studio coordinator, and Adrienne Adeyemi (middle), studio alum, at the Summer Art in the Park Event.

An Interview with Aneudy, the 2008-09 STAB Chair, on his experience as a member of the Studio Team Advisory Board:

What did you learn for next year as you take on the role of the STAB Chair? I learned how to facilitate. We're like the UN, I have to make sure I keep the peace, make sure **everyone's thoughts and opinions are heard.** **What were STAB's biggest successes last year?** People put their differences aside for the greater good. I know it sounds corny, but our expression is to "be the change we want to see in the world." **It was great to see them [the students] becoming change.** They went from being students who used the space [New Urban Arts studio] to students who helped the space.

What's an example of when you saw that transformation? I was asked to host our youth open mic this year. I host a lot of events, but felt like it was time to give someone else a shot this year. So I coached Kate [Holden, New Urban Arts student and fellow STAB member] through it even though she didn't need it. I was her "Sarah." [Sarah Meyer, New Urban Arts Program Director]. **I was the one with the clipboard that night! What does that mean, you were "her Sarah?"** **Mary: [To Aneudy] You were the go-to guy.** People went to you with questions. If they had last minute stage fright they went to you for support and that's what Sarah usually does. You knew what was going on with every aspect of the event.



Above top: Volunteer, Tom Van Burskirk, teaches student Juan Cortez sound recording during Spring Break. Above bottom: Artist mentor Ben Fino-Radin and students record their first radio show.

I like working with artist mentors. Their way of looking at things can help you view the world differently. Kind of like putting on a new pair of glasses!

Elizabeth Keith, 17, student

Resource Guide Now Available



Above: Shrines to "Who you are no longer," created by students and mentors using pre-made birdhouses, writing prompts, collage treatments and photo transfers.

Risk: A Push into New and Positive Directions

We have a responsibility to support new ideas and initiatives. One great example was **Youth Voice Radio**. **Ben Fino-Radin**, a new Artist Mentor, suggested starting a radio show. Ben and his students produced ten 30-minute radio shows that aired on Brown Student Radio (88.1FM). Youth Voice Radio participant Elizabeth Keith interviewed Ben about it. This interview first appeared in our annual zine, FLIP.

Liz: What do you do at New Urban Arts?

Ben: I am an Artist Mentor. I work with students on producing a radio show three times a month. That basically entails coming to New Urban Arts twice a week with my equipment, setting up and seeing what happens!

Liz: Have you ever mentored before?

Ben: Not formally. But I think that everyone kinda mentors sometimes in their own little ways. Like when a friend needs help with something, and they're like, "Hey, what do you think about this thing? How would you do this?" I think people mentor other people without really realizing it.

Liz: Cool! Okay... How did you start the radio show? What gave you the idea?

Ben: A friend of mine worked at BSR (Brown Student Radio) and it was her idea. She knew I mentored here and said, "What if New Urban Arts had a radio show?" And I was like, "Wow! What if New Urban Arts had a radio show?" I floated the idea past Sarah [Program Director] and Jesse [Studio Manager]. Everyone was really supportive so we just kinda went for it.

Liz: Alright... What did Sarah and the gang think of it? Were they totally behind it and super-excited?

Ben: Yeah! Everyone was super-psyched and really supportive. I think that people at New Urban Arts are really supportive of new ideas that are kind of risky. It could have gone really badly! That's something me and Sarah talked about. She mentioned taking risks as being part of what we do here.

Liz: What usually happens in the show?

Ben: From a listener's [point of view], it's like a discussion panel. I guess that sounds boring, but somehow it's not! I think it's that people don't listen to what teenagers say sometimes. That makes it interesting because students get really opinionated and instigate these really interesting discussions.

Liz: What stands out in your mind from this year?

Ben: Mentors have been reaching out to friends and bringing them here and offering their creativity as a resource to students. Like George who's been doing sound recording workshops and Muffy who did drawing workshops.

Liz: It's telling the kids, "hey, it's okay to be an artist, you won't die, we promise!"

Ben: Yeah, totally! It's cool for you to see that this is something that you can do for the rest of your life. Just to keep makin' stuff! *laughs*

To hear past Youth Voice Radio shows visit:

www.bsrlive.com/archives

The **2007 Summer Art Inquiry** explored shrine-making as a creative practice fueled by a human impulse to link meaning and memory to familiar objects. The urge to establish spaces of refuge outside our daily lives is so innate to the human experience that we subconsciously gather photographs and other meaningful memorabilia on fireplace mantels, desks, bookshelves, and dresser tops. Throughout the third annual Art Inquiry, we drew on many disciplines to construct personal and communal art shrines that communicated what we value, believe, desire, question, remember and celebrate.

A Program Resource Guide entitled **Secular Shrines and Commemorative Art** is now available for free online. Useful for artists, educators, and young people, the resource guide documents the group activities and independent projects that fueled the Inquiry. It can be downloaded at www.newurbanarts.org.

If you would like a printed version of this publication mailed to you, contact info@newurbanarts.org.

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

Find out how to...

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

...enroll as a student at any time.

...mentor for an entire school year or the duration of a special project.

...volunteer, especially if you are skilled at data entry, carpentry or tech support.

...become a donor of tax-deductible art materials and equipment or monetary gifts. Sponsorship opportunities are available for exhibitions, performances and our annual fashion show.

Ask how.

Visit us some time!

We are located at 743 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 are here.

Visit our website at www.newurbanarts.org or call 401 751-4556 for more information.

Right: Students enjoy poetry performances at Chap Book Release Party at White Electric Coffee.

2008 impact report

305 students enrolled in our after-school Youth Mentorship Program this year, three times more than in 2006 when 100 students enrolled.

116 students on average actively participate in the studio each month. Participation rates have continued to rise for the second consecutive year.

52% of underclassmen from 2006-2007 returned to participate in 2007-2008.

10 seniors participated in College Visions, a year-long college preparatory program, and were accepted to over 30 colleges around the country, among them: University of Rochester, Alfred University, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, MassArt, and Tufts University.

19 artists volunteered over 4,300 hours to mentor Providence high school students this year.

300+ hours of programming provided this summer to fifty youth.

100% of students agreed or strongly agreed that New Urban Arts is a safe and supportive environment.

97% of student participants agreed or strongly agreed that they have built strong, trusting relationships and developed a way of creating that expresses who they are.

2,300+ people attended 19 gallery events at New Urban Arts this year. Our events are free and open to the public.

\$70,000 in individual gifts through our Annual Campaign.



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