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 7 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.

Students featured in publications about their art education experiences! Emmy Bright and Andrew Gesch 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 of the people that helped us with our moving parade in August!” Photography by Jori Ketten.
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, 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. 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 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 and 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 and into the future. You can read more about it in the newsletter.

Thank you for all you continue to do.

Sincerely,

Myrh York, Chair, Board of Directors
Jason Yoon, Executive Director

October 2011
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 Myrk 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building acquisition</td>
<td>$363,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction and renovation</td>
<td>$277,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Founder’s Fund</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance, contingencies</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign expenses</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Jeane 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 Jeane Risica Fund for Art Education. Held in trust at the RI Foundation, it will be funded through the sale of Jeane’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 Jeane Risica please visit http://jeanerisica.tumblr.com or search Jeane Risica on Facebook.

Noel and Jesse welcome our first guests to 705 Westminster street after our moving parade. Photography by Jori Kotten.
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 Call, artist mentor

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

New Urban Arts was one of the first places in high school where I felt like I could be myself. The people here encourage 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
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.

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 alumni 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.

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.
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

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.

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 mumbles of “marshmallow,” there was a sense of newness, bravery, and excitement that felt, well, the opposite of boring.

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, alumna artist mentor

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


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, alumna artist mentor