Creating Safe Space for High School Students

with:
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New Urban Arts
About New Urban Arts
Providence, RI
Our mission is to build a vital community that empowers young people as artists and leaders to develop a creative practice they can sustain throughout their lives.
Programs

• Youth Mentorship in the Arts
  – Artist Mentors
  – Studio Study Buddies

• Summer Arts Internships
  – Art Inquiry
  – Untitlelment Project
  – Summer Open Studio

• A Life After School

• Studio Team Advisory Board (S.T.A.B.)
In 2015-16

- 478 Registered Students
- 54 Average Daily Attendance
- 116 Attended 30+ days
- 96 Attending once or more a week
- 86% Qualify for free/reduced lunch
In 2015 - 16

Gender
- Male: 32%
- Female: 65%

Race/Ethnicity
- Latino: 35%
- African American: 18%
- Multiracial: 24%
- White: 17%
- Native American: 1%
- Asian American: 5%

Graduation Year
- 2017: 27%
- 2018: 25%
- 2016: 31%
- 2019: 17%
This is an experiment in participatory webinars!

Questions:

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

LIVING LIST

- There's an air of acceptance but don't assume agreement
- We are open to listening
- All experiences are true and valid
- Be honest
- We recognize that we're all in a process; let's be patient with each other
- We will support each other in figuring stuff out and in gaining basic supplies and technical skills
- We got your back; your back is yours
- We acknowledge the invisible processes, both creative and in building relationships
- We will respect each other's craft; we will not negate each other's processes
- Sometimes the process can suck; that's ok.
- Practice self-care; you decide how much to share
- We have the freedom to fail
- Practice the art of saying no

- Be aware, open, and accepting of people's boundaries
- Don't make assumptions of people, projects, or process
- We can celebrate spontaneously
- There's no wasted time as long as we remain present and engaged
- We have a fluid power dynamic
- We will continuously engage discussions of accountability
- Step up and step back
- Your response is responsive to students' needs

NUA MENTOR RETREAT 9.28.13

OrientatIOn

SaturDay 9/28

10 AM
Community Guidelines

• Invite participants to create culture
• Ensures that everyone is on the same page
• Examples
  – One mic, one diva
  – Be respectful
  – Don’t yuck my yum
  – Step up, step back
• What are our guidelines for this webinar?
Story Time!
What stands out to you in this narrative?

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

For the first time in a long time, blue is calming not saddening.

In time you will grow and you will be okay.
Gee, Dan and Ashley, I hear the term “safe space” all the time!

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

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

What else?
Based on what you’ve heard so far, what are your Reflections? Questions? Stories?
Boundaries

Why are we bringing up boundaries?
Safety is a two-way street!
Story Time! Again!
An Excerpt from our Student & Mentor Safety Policy

“Unacceptable:

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

So when is it okay to offer your own experience?
The 5 Ws of Sharing + One H

- **Who** – “Who is this for; who is it serving?”
- **What** – “What is this young person going through?”
- **When** – “When do I stop?”
- **Where** – “Where are they in the story?”
- **Why** – “Why is my experience relevant?”
- **How** – “How am I making room for their response?”
It’s okay to mess up!
Thank you.

MAKE YOUR MARK ON THE WORLD

Questions?

www.newurbanarts.org