NEW URBAN ARTS


20 YEARS OF NEW URBAN ARTS

DEDICATED TO LIFELONG CREATIVE PRACTICE
2017–18 Events

Friday, November 17
Minter Show

Saturday, December 9
Cardboard Pancakes Holiday Art Sale

Friday, February 16
Mid-Year Makings Art Show

Sunday, March 18
Not College Fair

Friday, April 20
Annual Event and Birthday Bash

Friday, May 11
Art Party Year End Art Show and Senior Send Off

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We just completed New Urban Arts’ 20th year providing arts education and youth development programs to Providence’s young people. However, upon walking into New Urban Arts for the first time, people often ask us how old the organization is, and they are shocked to learn that we’ve been part of Providence’s community for this long. I get the impression that most people are expecting to hear that we just started.

I often wonder why New Urban Arts feels so fresh to those who encounter it for the first time. Obviously, our students play a huge role in this. They are young; they are at the forefront of new directions in culture, and the scene in our studio always reflects this. The art on the walls, the music in the air, and conversations around every table are always inevitably now.

But it goes deeper than that; New Urban Arts prides itself on providing young people a flexibility of ways to engage with our space. On any given day after school, you’ll see young people socializing with friends and young people alone, deeply focused on their work. You’ll see young people working closely with mentors and young people working independently on art projects. And of course, you’ll see everything in between.

In order to cultivate a space that can safely offer this level of flexibility, our staff must constantly pay attention, reflect, and adapt. For this space to function smoothly, we need a beginner’s mindset, and I think that this is what visitors are picking up on when they assume we are a new organization.

This perception stands in contrast to the vital day-to-day operations that it takes to operate New Urban Arts in 2017. We depend on policies and procedures that have been carefully created and documented over 20 years. We prepare detailed reports on programs and finances that are reviewed by our board of directors and our funders. We attend long meetings with partners where we hammer out the details of our collaborations.

Am I discouraged that our 20 years of hard work and experience aren’t immediately evident? Not at all; I am heartened by the fact that we project a sense that, as an organization, we are still in a state of learning.

To me, it signals that we have held onto the mindfulness that characterizes new endeavors but too often turns out as projects become institutions.

In 2016–17, our staff brought all of their attentiveness and adaptability to bear as New Urban Arts learned how to operationalize an additional 2,400 square feet of program space, and the result was our most successful year ever of engaging young people. I’m so grateful to them and to all of the leaders, past and present, who have worked to make the beginner’s mindset an integral part of our organizational culture. It allows us to weather changes with grace and clarity of purpose.

Inside, you’ll read a conversation between four of our staff, Ashley, Oren, and Yohibe, all of whom are alumni, and Tamara, our longest-serving staff member. One of my favorite things about this conversation is the consensus that, despite our growth, there are fundamental things about New Urban Arts’ vibe that haven’t changed. I love that Yohibe says she can picture herself having the same experience in our current studio that she had at our old home.

As New Urban Arts grows and becomes a larger, more complex institution, it will take intentionality and care to ensure that, in another 20 years, we can say again that the vibe hasn’t changed—that we are still a flexible, relationship-driven space for young people.

I’m certain that this community is up for the task.

Sincerely,

Daniel Schleifer

ABOUT NEW URBAN ARTS

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 the 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. Last summer, we remodeled the building adding 2,400 square feet of additional program space.

Find out more at www.newurbanarts.org

Learn more online at: newurbanarts.org

2016–17 financials

INCOME $758,947

EXPENSES $656,228

Management and General $95,392
Development $89,613
Program Services $478,223
Fiscal Year-End Statement

Government Grants $200,334
Capital Campaign Contributions $230,002
Individual Donations $127,996
Foundations and other grants $955,975
2016–17 Highlights

In the summer of 2016, with support from the RI State Council on the Arts, other funders, and matching donors, we renovated our basement, adding 2,400 square feet of programming space. During construction, we relocated our office to Inspiring Minds and ran summer programs at various partner sites around the city: Youth Pride Inc., The Steel Yard, and the Providence Public Library.

In September 2016, we welcomed new board members Mieillete McFarlane and Hugh Poltz, along with our new Resident Artist Mentor (RAM) in music production Tom Van Buskirk and our new Director of Development Sophia Mackenzie. We also welcomed Mara O’Day as our new, full-time coordinator of our A Life After School (ALAS) Program, kicking off the first year of ALAS as a year-round program. Mara worked one-on-one with 36 students and recent alumni. Students were accepted to RIC, Providence College, RISD, Mount Holyoke, and University of Rhode Island. Most of our students received competitive financial aid; two received full-ride scholarships. Mara also worked with students looking for alternatives to college, including work training and gap year programs.

In October 2016, New Urban Arts kicked off our 20th anniversary year with a grand re-opening, inviting the public into our renovated basement for the first time and displaying artwork from summer programs.

In October 2016, we enrolled in the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), which allows us to be reimbursed for a percentage of our costs of snacks.

In February 2017, New Urban Arts was approved to offer an Advanced Coursework Network class in music production, to begin in September 2017.

The Advanced Coursework Network is a program of the RI Department of Education, allows community organizations to offer for-credit courses to high school students.

In March 2017, we debuted a new promotional video, which you can see at https://vimeo.com/205934951.

In April 2017, New Urban Arts’ board of directors used funds from our reserves to seed an endowment of $50,000 held at the Rhode Island Foundation.

In April 2017, we launched our new website, redesigned by Design Agency, the design firm of former artist-mentor and former board member Jane Androski.

In April 2017, we continued the celebration of our 20th anniversary with an annual fundraising party and a panel discussion at Brown University.

In May 2017, New Urban Arts’ 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, our largest source of funding, was renewed at a higher level for five years (through FY22–27). We received funding for existing programs and to create a new program at Central High School, NUA Knights. In addition to Central, we continue to partner with Classical High School and the Trinity Academy of the Performing Arts (TAPA).

In June 2017, Executive Director Daniel Schleiter and VISTA Saulo Castilla helped celebrate the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts’ 50th anniversary, presenting over 60 performances and speeches.

New Urban Arts means stepping out of your comfort zone and learning to embrace the weird and not exactly perfect.

—Anna A., student

2016–17 IMPACT REPORT

507 students enrolled in our after-school Youth Mentorship Program this year. On average, 70 students attended each day. 223 unique students attended each month.

96% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they have built strong, trusting relationships with peers and adults.

100% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they have developed a way of creating that expresses who they are.

about the youth we serve

36 seniors participated in A Life After School (ALAS).

39% of students identified as LGBTQ.

61% Female
34% Male
6% Other/Questioning

37% Latina/Hispanic
27% Multiracial
18% African American
12% White
6% Asian American

82% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.*

* For a household of four with two children in Providence, this means an annual income of $45,700 or less.
New Urban Arts: Then and Now

This year New Urban Arts celebrated its 20th year of serving young people in Providence. To honor this milestone, we sat down with four of our current staff members who have been involved with the organization in multiple capacities to reflect on New Urban Arts. Joining the conversation were, Tamara Kaplan, Owen Muir, Ashley Panagiou Cavallaro, and Yolibel Gonzalez.

How did you first hear about New Urban Arts?

Yolibel: I first heard about NUA in the 8th grade, from a friend who said “I’m doing NUA next year you should come too.” That was at the start of 8th grade and I could not wait for the year to be over so I could go to NUA.

Ashley: So there was this person named Owen who was taking photos at Classical when I was a freshman. I was really curious about photography and so I asked him what class he was taking and he said it wasn’t a class, but this place across the street from Classical called New Urban Arts.

Tamara: How long ago was that?

Yolibel: 8 years ago for me.

Ashley: That was 16 years ago for me.

Owen: For myself there was a group of friends who I was hanging out with in the 9th grade and they brought me over—that was back in ’98–’99.

Tamara: I was introduced to NUA in grad school at RISD. I was in the museum education program and working at the RISD Museum but was thinking a lot about communities and having these conversations with James Montford who was working there at the time. He was telling me about this place downtown and he brought me here. That was back in ’98 that I was introduced to NUA, I started working here in 2000.

What is different about New Urban Arts now from when you first became involved? What is the same?

Yolibel: Since I started the space has drastically changed. When I was in high school my first two years were spent at the old studio and my second two years were spent here in the new studio. Now NUA has gone from having one floor to having two floors. When we first moved into this studio the idea of having two floors was a distant dream.

Ashley: hmm... I think that so many things are different. The way I see NUA is different. As a student I didn’t see the intentionality behind the work. It was so amazing because I knew it was there. All the people who have been involved have brought a lot of grit and polish to NUA as we have grown.

Owen: NUA still has a warm and welcoming feel. I can see that in the students. You can have a real shy or hesitant student come in for the first time and watch them warm up as they get to know this place. I think NUA now is more rooted in the community. When I was in school not many folks knew about it—now most kids have heard of it if they haven’t visited.

Ashley: When I was a student there wasn’t a summer program and there wasn’t STAB (Studio Team Advisory Board). I felt like as a student I had ownership of this place, as did everyone. Now I feel like students have a really strong voice and true investment in the studio.

Tamara: That is interesting. Because as organizations get older there is a tendency for the people you are serving to feel a loss of connection. At New Urban Arts we have always been really intentional about keeping students connected to the growth, having a voice. We have grown but we have always been intentional in that growth—everyone has hands in the pot in a different way.

Tamara: I wonder if you all can see your younger selves in this current studio space.

Yolibel: I can! I can picture myself running around and hiding; drawing with Aneudy.

Ashley: When people come in they always say it feels the same. The electricity is still there in the air. It had been years since I had been to NUA and I came in and the walls still echoed moments that I would have in the old space. Someone came in the other day and said it still smells like NUA.

Owen: When the sun starts to go down and the lights come on and people are in pockets around the studio working—it starts to feel the same.

Ashley: When I was in high school I wasn’t thinking of anything more to the studio because it was so great. But I did find myself a bit more in love looking for a place like this—and finding bits and pieces of things like it, but not a full place. And then trying to explain to it to the rest of the world and to other people that a place like this is possible, that it has been done, and it can be done again.

Tamara: New Urban Arts tries to embody humanity at its core. It doesn’t matter the rhetoric happening outside of New Urban Arts—at school or in other social settings. When you start from a place of love and being intentional about that—you flip the script.

Ashley: So many people who come to this place, board members, artist mentors, strangers off the street say “I wish I had a place like this when I was in High School!” What would the world look like or be if everyone could belong to a place that starts with love?

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) 735-4556 for more information.
2016–17 People

Artist Mentors
Alan Troy ○
Alexandra Perela ○○
Carmel Dunne ○
Dana Henk ○
Diane Exner ○
Emily Sue ○
Eric Averman ○
Hannah Blane ○
Jason Finkelstein ○
Kali Yaragi ○
Katie Gill ○
Katia O'Connell ○
Krivin Lamomar ○
Mel Soto ○
Miggs Fagoray ○
Purna Volfish ○
Triban Robin ○
Tinho Horan ○
Vaghuran Garman ○
Vally Lay ○○
Zulile Ewutu ○

Studio Team

Advisory Board (STAB)

Alain Diec ○
Alicia Terra ○
Anthony Tomzy ○
Ariel Lottado ○
Brion Ain ○
Elizabeth Arrint ○
George Dault ○
Jose Turbi ○
Khaliel Williams ○
Klari Sinicro ○
Maria Ramirez ○
Paolina Fernandez ○
Yael Vasquez ○

Staff

Daniel Schleifer ○
Sophia Mackenzie ○
Tamera Kaplan ○
Emily Lueck ○
Owen Mair ○
Ashley Panigrahi ○

Resident Artist Mentors

Tom Van Bork ○ ○
Aneddy Ale ○ ○
Jan Cezanne ○ ○

American VISTA

Saoló Castilla ○ ○

ALAS Coordinator

Mara O'Day ○ ○

Studio Advocate

Kevin Lamomar ○

Studio Assistants

Jordan Monett ○
Adrian Fernandez ○

Board of Directors

Maryclare Knight ○ ○
Mary Lee Partington ○ ○
Vick Chair ○ ○
Rebecca Sloc ○ ○
Douglas Bell ○ ○
(Treasurer ○ ○
(Secretary ○ ○
David Ames ○ ○
Hugh Poll ○ ○
John Risco ○ ○
Lois Harada ○ ○
Maria Cimeti ○ ○
Michael Faumber ○ ○
Michelene McFarlane ○ ○
Paul Monett ○ ○
Stephan Dellasto ○ ○
Vernell Cudahy ○ ○

Award Winners

Maryclare Knight ○ ○
Jan Cezanne ○ ○
Truth Box Architects ○ ○

Hats off! Our 20 Year Bash brought former students, mentors, staff, and board members back to NUA.

1. Kwako Aronoma: Former student '97-'00
2. Marcus O’Shea: Former student '97-'00
3. Jason Novis: Former student '00-'01, Former staff '00-'12
4. Aneddy Ale : Former student '03-'06, Former mentor '11-'14, Former Resident Artist Mentor '15-'16, Current staff '17
5. Saoló Castilla: Former student '07-'11, Former mentor '13-'13, Former staff '15-'17
6. Justin Schleifer: Former mentor '08-'09, Former student '10-'10, Former staff '11'
7. Owen Mair: Former student '09-'12, Former mentor '13-'13, Current staff '14'
8. Ashley Panigrahi: Former student '01-'05, Former student '09-'14, Current staff '15'
9. Ona Sanchez: Former student '04-'08
10. Jordan Monett: Former student '12-'13, Former staff '14-'17
11. Sophia Mackenzie: Former student '96-'97, Current staff '16-'17
12. Emily Utashe: Former student '07-'10, Former staff '13-
13. Tamara Kapinos: Former student '08-'11, Former staff '13-
14. Sarah Meyer: Former student '03-'13
15. Kevin Fries: Former student '01-'01, Former mentor '02-'07, Former mentor '07-'15
16. Paul Turner: Former student '05-'06, Former mentor '07-
17. Shane Nolan: Former student '04-
18. Alina Almonte: Former student '06-'06, Former staff '07-
19. Toki Fayyazulla: Former student '09-'13
20. Ollie’s wonderful friend

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 newurbanartists.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/NUAlink2017

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

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

Group photo of past and current staff and artist mentors at the 20th anniversary fundraising event.
Overview of New Urban Arts Programs

All programs are free and open to high school students.

The Youth Mentorship in the Arts Program, our core program, partners artist-mentors with small groups of low-income high school students who develop powerful mentoring relationships through free yearlong after-school programs. 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.
- The **Gallery and Performance Program** includes three annual exhibitions of student artwork.
- The **Studio Advocate** is a Rhode Island College School of Social Work MSW candidate placed at New Urban Arts as a resource to students.
- **Vacation Week Workshops** take place during the week-long April school break.
- **A Life After School (ALAS)** is our post-secondary advising program, including a partnership with College Visions, a local college access program.

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 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 participating stipend upon successful completion of the program, which combines best practices in art education, youth development and summer learning. The two consistent offerings are:

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

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. The relationships that students and mentors build with each other is at the heart of what makes New Urban Arts a special place. Below is a reflection on one such relationship. Emily Sun is a student at Brown University, and has been a mentor for the past three years.

“Over the course of two years of Arts Mentoring I have learned that, upon walking into the studio, I will likely remix the prompts I have prepared. One afternoon I work with Leah, taking apart donated wooden decorations. Leah seems adventurous with materials but, like many students, unsure about her artistic ability, and hesitant to share her thoughts. From earlier interactions, I sense Leah is a deep thinker but needs time for her ideas to flow. As we compose arrangements, we ask each other what forms the wood could take in its new life, the sensations we experience as we touch the fragments. Gradually, we spiral into more abstract themes: growth, rejuvenation, change. Through creative questioning, I strive as a mentor to open spaces where my mentee and I can figure out a process alongside each other. This partnership allows mentees to take risks and grow confident in their voice. Leah ends up giving her poetry a body—on reams of pale wood spread against black paper, she writes of a tree that can no longer bear fruit, but years for spring.”

—Emily Sun, Artist Mentor 2015–present.

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/NUA_News

FACEBOOK
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FLICKR
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