

New Urban Arts - Policy on Police - Adopted 2021

We, as staff and volunteers of New Urban Arts, commit to engaging in restorative justice and de-escalation; we will call law enforcement only if there is an imminent threat of harm¹ that cannot be addressed by other emergency services, such as medical and/or mental health services. Understanding the historical and ongoing oppression of communities of color by police, we will only call for police intervention as a last resort. NUA will attempt to: provide warnings before police are called, notify everyone in the space if police are called, and offer support to anyone in the space following the call. Furthermore, the organization will designate one staff member to be the primary point of contact for law enforcement and will voluntarily assist in police investigations only if that staff member determines that it will prevent harm from coming to our community.²

One exception to the above policy is that New Urban Arts will contact the police in order to file incident reports in instances where it is required in order to make an insurance claim. On such occasions, we will make every effort to contact police at a time when students are not present in the space.

This policy in no way supersedes our mandated obligation, under Rhode Island state law, to report instances of suspected child abuse or neglect to DCYF.³ Furthermore, exceptions to this policy will be made for programs taking place on the property of community partners that may have different policies regarding police interaction.

This policy will be publicly posted in visible locations, shared with partner organizations and included in all job and volunteer applications. It will be revisited by staff, volunteers, and students after every instance in which police are called.

This policy will be most effective when accompanied by substantive policies and practices around restorative justice and de-escalation. As such, New Urban Arts commits to training staff and volunteers in restorative justice, de-escalation, and other alternatives to violence. In addition, staff and volunteers will be made aware of various alternatives to calling the police.

Staff and volunteers will be asked to affirm their willingness to comply with this policy, either at the time of its passage/amendment or at the time of their onboarding/orientation.

Currently, NUA trains all program staff in restorative justice. By December 1, 2021, we will create a plan to:

- Train volunteers in restorative justice
- Train volunteers and staff in de-escalation and other alternatives to violence
- Maintain and regularly update our list of alternatives to calling the police, including:
 - Mental health services
 - Behavioral health services
 - Mediation services
- Seek funds for onsite mental health services.

¹ [RI General Laws: § 16-2-17. Right to a safe school](#)

² Unless compliance is required by law because a warrant has been issued. [RI General Law: § 12-9-11. Commanding assistance in execution of warrant](#)

³ [RI General Laws: § 40-11-3. Duty to report](#)

Resources:

- **Project Weber Renew**, provides harm reduction and recovery resources, (401) 383-4888.
<http://www.weberrenew.org/>
- **BH Link**, 18+ mental health and substance support, 401-414-LINK (5465),
<https://www.bhlink.org/> 18 and under, 858-543-5465 (KID-LINK)
- **Nonviolence Institute**, gang violence prevention, 401-785-2320
<https://www.nonviolenceinstitute.org/>
- **Providence Fire Stations' Safe Stations program**, addiction support,
<https://pvdsafestations.com/>

Related Documents:

Student Safety Policy
Emergency Procedures