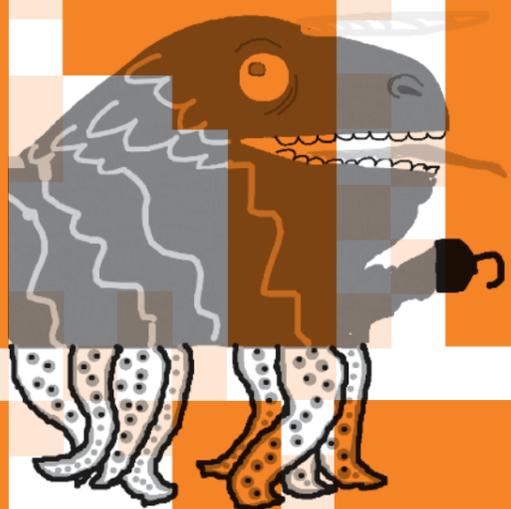


NEW URBAN ARTS
705 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
USA

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Dana's Creature, Hallowings, Serpentingles, and Candy; three-part Exquisite Corpse drawings by students and artist mentors **Zan, Katrina, Angelica, and LeDon.**



“The atmosphere felt the same. The New Urban Arts mantra was still alive and well, even in the digital space.” —2021 Student Survey



Dear Friends,

"See you in the studio!" For years, these five words were an unofficial slogan of New Urban Arts. Deceptively simple, they capture so much about the energy of our space. Of course New Urban Arts is an art studio, but it's also a unique social space, one that's simultaneously spontaneous and reliable; you can show up at any time, and no matter when you do, you're guaranteed to see a friend.

Last year, we were forced to contend with the question, "What is New Urban Arts without a studio where you see people?"

Our 2020 summer programs, which were almost entirely virtual, had record enrollment and high attendance. As a result, we went into the 2020-21 school year optimistic about the year ahead. Our studio team worked tirelessly to meet students in every possible virtual venue, using both drop-in and scheduled programming, along with home delivery of art supplies so that virtual programs had a hands-on component. However, despite these efforts, youth engagement was the lowest it had been in years.

While our studio programs were completely virtual, NUA Knights, our satellite program at Central High School, offered a mix of virtual and in-person programs. Our afterschool educators at NUA Knights were all Central staff and faculty, and programs took place within the school. As a result, we were able to offer in-person programs there as an extension of the Providence Public School District's instructional model. (As you may know, PPSD middle and high schools used a hybrid model last year; each school divided students into two cohorts that alternated in-person and virtual school days, so schools operated at half capacity.) In-person programs at Central meant that we were able to engage more students through NUA Knights than in the studio, but attendance still lagged behind previous years.

New Urban Arts wasn't alone in the challenges we encountered; afterschool programs across the country saw sharp

decreases in attendance during the 2020-21 school year—a reflection of the devastating impacts of COVID on students' lives. Remote learning was rife with problems including faulty technology, low participation rates, and lack of human connection. Students experienced severe screen fatigue; after spending school days online, they were far less interested in virtual afterschool programs.

Youth also had increased responsibilities at home that kept them from participating in afterschool programs. They took on additional childcare and eldercare while parents worked. High school students, often the tech-savviest members of their households, sacrificed their own educational time to support younger siblings with virtual learning. Many also had to help translate for family members navigating life under COVID, including the healthcare and unemployment systems.

Unable to engage as many young people as usual, we made other efforts to reach them on a scale more comparable to a typical year of New Urban Arts' programming. Most notably, we distributed art supplies to about 1,500 students in and around Providence. You can read more about this initiative on page 7 of this newsletter.

So, what is New Urban Arts without a studio where you see people? Honestly, I still don't really know if there's a good answer to this question, but I'm proud of all the hard work that our team did to find one. At the same time, I'm relieved and delighted to say that, in July of 2021, in-person programs resumed at the studio, just in time for summer programs. In August and September, students and parents started getting in touch to ask about afterschool programs. I can't remember a year where we've received so many inquiries before the school year even began. While we're still operating at a

reduced capacity (see next page), it's been such a relief to be able to, "yes, we're open again!"

Finally, I'd like to share some reflections from the studio. As you may know, since 2014, New Urban Arts has built a cadre of staff teaching artists—resident artist mentors (RAMs)—while seeking to reduce our reliance on volunteers. We made this investment for a number of reasons, including a commitment to equity and a desire to invest in the professional development of a stable group of teaching artists. We expected this

to make a major impact on the quality of our programs. However, we couldn't have predicted that a pandemic was coming that would make volunteer engagement almost impossible; without RAMs, it's hard to imagine how the studio could

have offered any kind of meaningful programs during the height of the pandemic, virtual or otherwise. We are so grateful to all of New Urban Arts' supporters that understand the value of RAMs and have generously supported the program.

As of this writing, we are still waiting to bring volunteer artist mentors back into the studio, so that we can maximize the space available to students. In the absence of volunteers, all of our administrative staff have been spending at least one day a week in the studio to add some extra capacity to our program team. As a result, I've had the opportunity, for the first time in many years, to work directly with students and experience firsthand the power of New Urban Arts. As always, I find myself in awe of what young people and committed arts educators can achieve together.

Sincerely,

Daniel Schleifer, December 2021



2020-21

WILDESTONES

Foliage Monster, a three-part Exquisite Corpse drawing by students and artist mentors Zan, Katrina, and Angelica.

JULY 2020 Alum **Pamela Fernandez** joined the team to assist with our summer art programs, and former mentor and studio advocate **Shelly Hyson** joined us to run a weekly drop-in discussion group.

SEPTEMBER 2020 Alum and former mentor **Jobanny Cabrera** joined us as our Youth Programs Assistant. **Dean Sudarsky** joined become our Resident Artist Mentor in Literary Arts after former Literary Arts RAM **Addy Schuetz** transitioned to a new role as our A Life After School Program Coordinator.

OCTOBER 2020 New Urban Arts, along with our community partner organizations in the **Providence Youth Arts Collaborative (PYAC)**, hosted focus groups on the future of arts teaching and learning in Providence as part of the City of Providence’s planning process for the new Creative Providence Cultural Plan.

A group of volunteers, led by Resident Artist Mentor **Dana Heng**, launched Refri PVD, a free food refrigerator for community members facing food insecurity. Refri PVD was hosted by New Urban Arts until September 2021, when it moved to a new location up the street at Urban Greens Co-op Market.

JANUARY 2021 We teamed up with high school art teachers across the **Providence Public School District** to provide every high school art student their own art supply kit; we distributed about 1,100 kits across the city. Read more about this project on page 7.

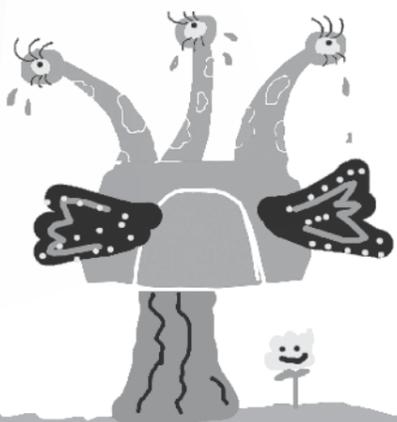
Director of Development **Sophia Mackenzie** left New Urban Arts after five years leading our development efforts. In April, we welcomed **Washawn Jones** as our new director of development. Washawn brings an extensive background in development and sales and is eagerly getting to know the New Urban Arts community.

APRIL 2021 New Urban Arts hosted a month of events in April about career explorations and life pathways. Students learned about a wide range of careers and attended workshops on gap years, professional emails, and resumes. The month culminated in a virtual panel discussion on careers in the arts featuring alumni, former artist mentors, and a current board member.

SUMMER 2021 New Urban Arts embarked on a project to reflect on our mission and values as we approach our 25th anniversary. We are thrilled to partner with **MJ Robinson** as we reflect on our past impact and look to clarify our role for the next 25 years.



Refri PVD was hosted outside New Urban Arts studio from October 2020 through September 2021.



94%
of students would recommend New Urban Arts to a friend

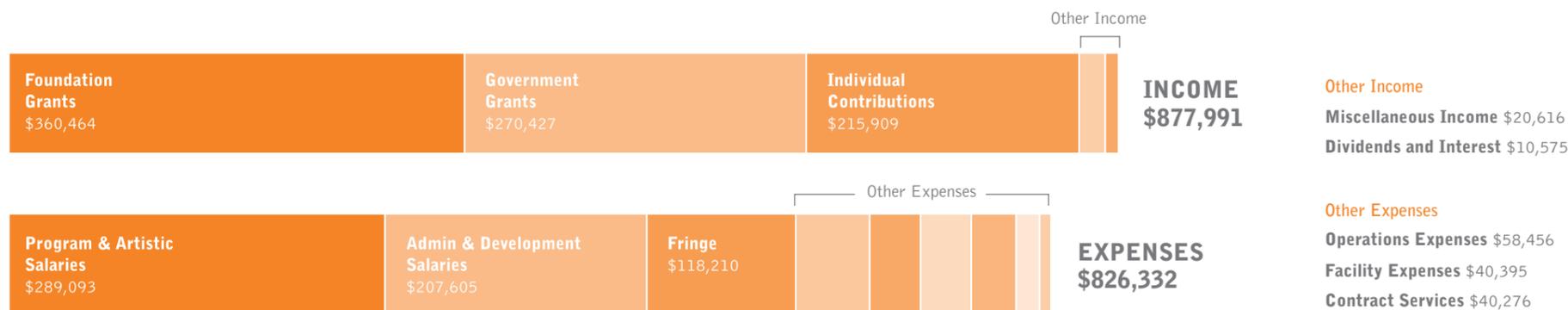
Reese 'n' Pieces, a three-part Exquisite Corpse drawing by student **Angelica** and artist mentors **Zan** and **LeDon**.



Zanasaurus, a three-part Exquisite Corpse drawing by student **Katrina** and artist mentors, **Zan** and **LeDon**.

100%
of students feel safe and supported at New Urban Arts

2020-21 Financials



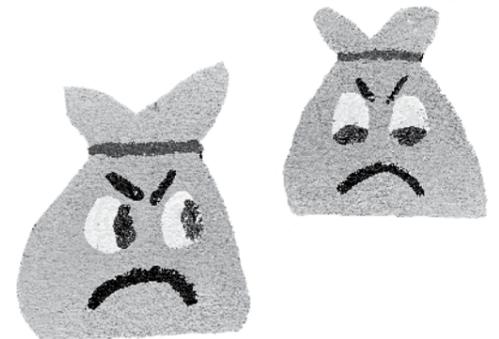
NOTE: These operating result are unaudited and will likely be adjusted during the audit process. These results do not include income or expenses from fiscal sponsorships or our capital campaign. Once completed, our audit will be made available on our website. Our surplus of \$51,000 will help offset our deficit of about \$70,000 in 2019-20. We anticipate that the financial impacts of the pandemic will play out, at the very least, over the period from 2020-2023, so we are taking a long view, with a goal to ensure that the organization’s finances are balanced over the four fiscal years that fall into this timeframe.



NUA Knights students stand by the mural they designed and painted outside of Central High School as part of the April Break partnership with the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center. L to R: **John Cordero, Ida Faye, Alonnie Stovall, Eli Shalan** (Instructor), **Justin Cavinal, Joshua Lopez, Abe Fofanah** (City year), **Lida Ford** (City Year), **Kelly Erickson** (VISTA).

PROGRAMS

During the 2020-21 program year, New Urban Arts' studio programs were virtual, supplemented by home delivery of art supplies. The NUA Knights program at Central High School offered a mixture of virtual and in-person programming.



The Studio at 705 Westminster

Youth Mentorships in the Arts is our core program, partnering artist-mentors with small groups of high school students who develop powerful mentoring relationships through free yearlong after-school programs. Mentors foster self-discovery, community-building, and creative arts projects designed collaboratively with youth. Typically, students have three opportunities during the year to display their artwork, but gallery events were cancelled last year.

The Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB) is our leadership development program. STAB's duties include: advising staff and board, orienting new students, selecting staff and volunteers, and organizing events.

A Life After School (ALAS) is our postsecondary advising program, including our summer College Explorations program. ALAS also supports students not planning to attend college in developing postsecondary plans.

The Summer Art Internships are a suite of summer enrichment programs designed to be accessible to low-income high school students. Students are offered a \$400 stipend upon successful completion of the program, which combines best practices in art education, youth development and summer learning. During the summer of 2020, our summer art internships were the Summer Art Inquiry, a thematic arts program in which students collectively explored a common theme through research, art-making, creative writing and person inquiry, and The STAB Leadership Project, an intensive workshop for STAB.

NUA Knights

The NUA Knights Program is a comprehensive after school and summer program located in Central High School. NUA Knights strives to create a greater sense of community and personalization for Central students by offering a variety of programs. Typically, programs are run by a mix of community members, partner organizations, and the staff and faculty of Central High School. Last year, programs were run exclusively by Central staff and faculty, as the building was closed to community partners.

In 2020-21, NUA Knights offered before-school programming and support through our Breakfast Club program, which offered a variety of activities focused on social and emotional learning. The goal was to maintain a sense of community at Central High School despite the challenges of the pandemic.

NUA Knights also offered in-person programs during school break weeks. During February break, we provided a Physics Boot Camp, which was a four day, hands-on, credit recovery program for seniors. During April break, NUA Knights partnered with the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center and the RI Audubon Society to teach students about the impacts of stormwater runoff on local communities and waterways. Participating students then painted murals to raise awareness. One mural is around the storm drain at Central High School and another is a temporary mural in Roger Williams Park.

Other programs offered in 2020-21 included Digital Media and Podcasting, Knight Readers Book Club, STEM Programming, Guitar Club, and credit recovery support.

“ I enjoyed the extra time I was able to work with mentors, as I had an easier time joining and scheduling meetings virtually.”

—2021 Student Survey

All New Urban Arts programs are free and open to high school students.

NUA Knights student, **Samuel Saquic-Tino**, paints the storm drain cover as part of the mural program during April Break Week.





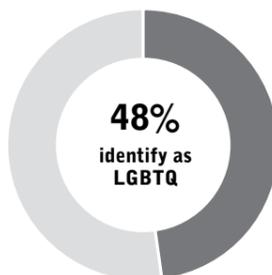
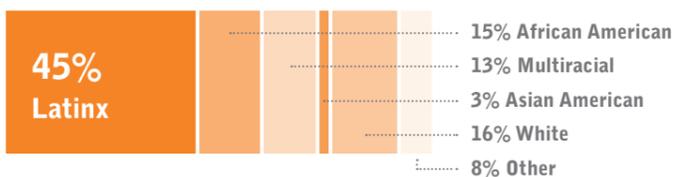
New Urban Arts STAB student, **Jayda Williams** works in the studio during the summer of 2021.

Between our two program sites, our studio at 705 Westminster Street and the NUA Knights program at Central High School, we served 309 students.

NUA Knights | 237 students



The Studio at 705 Westminster | 72 students



For a household of four with two children in Providence, this means an annual income of \$44,955 or less.

40 Students

15 seniors, 10 underclassmen, and 15 alumni participated in the A Life After School (ALAS) program during the year.



94%

of students agreed that they have developed a way of creating that expresses who they are



The Year Ahead

New Urban Arts resumed in-person programs in our studio at 705 Westminster in July of 2021. At the same time, we increased our capacity at Central High School, where, as mentioned, we never fully closed in-person programs. In total, we served about 40 summer students across both program sites. In October 2021, we resumed in-person afterschool programs at the studio and relaunched NUA Knights as a fully in-person program. However, at the studio, we are still operating at a reduced capacity. As the year goes on, we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic, and we hope to return to our open door, drop-in model as soon as it is safely possible.

For the time, being all public programming will remain virtual so that we can prioritize students' access to our studio. Meanwhile, New Urban Arts is excitedly preparing for our 25th Anniversary. Stay tuned for events and programming, to be announced in early 2022!



Sketch of a family member by student, **Naiomie Perez**.

[VIRTUAL] ALAS Reflections

Dean Sudarsky and Addy Schuetz talk about our Life After School Program

Last year, like many after school programs across the country, New Urban Arts moved many of our programs to virtual spaces. Our A Life After School program (ALAS) made that switch easily. Our Resident Artist Mentor in Literary Arts, **Dean Sudarsky**, sat down with ALAS Coordinator **Addy Schuetz** to talk about how the ALAS program navigated the year and some surprising aspects of the [VIRTUAL] ALAS program.

Last year was a tough year for afterschool programs, including New Urban Arts. How did COVID-19 impact the ALAS program specifically?

A: It definitely impacted our program, but with ALAS it didn't reduce student engagement. There are things about the virtual space that enabled ALAS to strengthen our support—students were already used to working with ALAS one-on-one, and that translated well to virtual meetings. During COVID, a lot of students were feeling drained at the end of a full day of virtual school and wouldn't have the energy to do two more hours of virtual art programs with other students, but they did have a need to talk to someone and receive direct support. The flexibility of virtual appointments allowed me to provide that for them.

Another event that was impacted was the Not-College Fair, which used to be a two-hour event where we would invite representatives from non-college based post-secondary programs into the studio so they could talk about different career paths. Obviously, that wasn't possible last year, so I turned it into a month-long event called Career Explorations Month. It was a series of programs all focused on career exploration and paths that may or may not involve college, and we got fantastic engagement from students.

Looking to the year ahead, are you planning on keeping some of the tools you created for virtual programs or do you think you will go back to your pre-virtual engagement strategies?

A: Most likely a combination of the two. My goal is to offer both virtual and in-person options for individual meetings and workshops. I have to assume things are not going to go right back to normal and students will continue to need a variety of ways to engage. Certain other tools that we implemented last year have proven useful, like the digital newsletter related to college and career opportunities and structured workshops on essay writing or resume building, which had a comparatively high turnout for virtual programs.

Any personal highlights or successes from last year you were particularly excited about?

A: It was really fun to be with students as they submitted their college applications and received their decisions. Many students requested that I be with them on the computer when they opened their college letters, and I supported them if they didn't get in and celebrated with them if they did. I got to be around for so many of those moments that are very emotional and pivotal for young people.

And then there's the successes we're always excited about: three of our students received the Carter Roger Williams scholarship, which is Rhode Island's biggest scholarship and funds up to \$20,000 a year for all four years of college, and only five people are awarded that scholarship every year. For all three of those students, that scholarship made the difference in whether or not they were able to attend their top choice college.

Lastly, we started this great partnership with Crafting the Future, an organization that works to increase the diversity of artists in craft fields. They partner with youth organizations around the country to provide scholarships to Black youth, Indigenous youth, and other youth of color to attend renowned craft schools and programs around the country. We're really excited about this program because we want to encourage and make it possible for students who are interested to pursue careers in the arts, which is a difficult field for any young person to enter, and which Black or indigenous students or students of color face even more obstacles trying to break into. Working with Crafting the Future means that New Urban Arts is guaranteed four of these scholarships to give out to graduating students, which is pretty exciting.



94%

of students agreed that they have built strong, trusting relationships with peers and adults



Birdettes, a three-part Exquisite Corpse drawing by students and artist mentors **LeDon, Zan, and Katrina**.

PEOPLE

Staff

Addy Schuetz ◇
ALAS Coordinator
Andres Bonilla Garcia
Resident Artist
Mentor in Music
Ashley Paniagua ★◇
Studio Director
Dana Heng ★◇
Resident Artist Mentor
Daniel Schleifer ◇
Executive Director
Dean Sudarsky ◇
Literary Arts Resident
Artist Mentor
Eli Shalan
NUA Knights
Program Coordinator
Emily Ustach ◇
Deputy Director
Ian Cozzens ◇
Resident Artist Mentor
Jeannie Castillo-LaPierre
Business Manager

Jobanny Cabrera ★◇
Youth Programs Assistant
Kevin Harper
Operations Coordinator/
Resident Artist Mentor
Rebecca Kerner
Development Associate
Sherly Torres ★
Painting and Drawing
Studio Assistant
Washawn Jones
Director of Development

2020-21 Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB)

Jamie Gonzales
Jayda Williams
Jayson Rodriguez
Joseph Sabater
Lateefat Oguntade
Michellet Brand
Naomie Perez
Soondus Hammad

Board of Directors

Aarav Sundaresh ◇
Adrienne Adeyemi ★◇
Cassie Balzano
Treasurer
Corey Fontes
Vice Chair
Emily Gonzalez
Hugh Peltz
Jennifer Petreccia
Jordan Seaberry
Judy Croyl
Marcela Betancur
Chair
Maria Cimini
Michaela Bland
Pamela Laurenzo
Secretary
Rodney Eric López
Wini Lambrecht

We would like to thank the members of our staff and board of directors who transitioned from New Urban Arts during the 2020-21 year:

Staff

Charmaine Porter, Sophia Mackenzie, Tracy Jacques, Tom Van Buskirk, Zan Berry

Board

Angel Peña, Lois Harada, Michael Tanaka

VISTA Member

Kelly Eriksen

★ New Urban Arts Alumni
◇ New Urban Arts Former
Volunteer Artist Mentor

Get Involved

Enroll as a Student anytime throughout the year by visiting our website to complete an online enrollment form: newurbanarts.org/enroll

Become a Donor of tax-deductible art materials, equipment, or monetary gifts. To inquire about in-kind donations, please email: becky@newurbanarts.org

Donate through Paypal online at: bit.ly/NUA-Give

Follow us! Keep track of all the latest developments by following us on social media at: [@newurbanarts](https://www.instagram.com/newurbanarts) [f](https://www.facebook.com/newurbanarts) [@](https://www.tiktok.com/@newurbanarts)

Share New Urban Arts with friends who will connect with our mission.



Self Portrait by student **Vic Ritter**, from summer 2020's Creative Commissions program.

100%

of students say they feel valued



“ It was great to work with mentors in a space where interests often intermingled and I was able to explore art. I also had the opportunity to create bonds with all of my mentors, and now I feel like I have a community surrounding and supporting me.” —2021 Student Survey

Art Supplies in the Hands of Youth

Since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, New Urban Arts has made it a priority to get art supplies into the hands of students. In the spring of 2020 we partnered with Jerry's Art-O-Rama and Dash Bicycle Delivery to arrange for contactless delivery of around 250 art kits to Providence high school students.

In the fall, Providence Public Schools reopened with a hybrid model for middle and high schools; each school divided students into two cohorts that alternated in-person and virtual school days, so schools could operate at half capacity. Teachers were in school every day, teaching simultaneously in-person and online.

In December, we began hearing from Providence art teachers about the challenges of teaching in these conditions. In general, our schools are short on art supplies, and teachers were concerned about whether it was safe to share equipment and materials. Furthermore, on any given day, half of a school's students were attending virtually, limited to whatever art supplies they had at home. So, in January 2021, we worked with art teachers to distribute supplies to young people across the district. We polled art teachers to figure out which supplies were most needed, placed a huge wholesale order, and packed them into kits, which we distributed to teachers to give to students. We were able to get kits to over 1,100

students—every Providence high school student that was enrolled in an art class, including those in the Virtual Learning Academy. Kits included graphite and color pencils, oil pastels, water color sets, pencil sharpeners, rulers, erasers, and glue sticks. Students also received information on New Urban Arts, so they could learn how to get involved with our programs.

Our board of directors was instrumental in this effort, showing up over a weekend to pack kits and prepare them for distribution to teachers. Board member Aarav Sundaresh, who teaches art at Classical High School, was particularly important, serving as a liaison to PPSD art teachers.

Between these two initiatives and the art supplies we distributed to students participating in our virtual programs, we delivered roughly 1,500 kits of art supplies to students in Providence and surrounding communities.

“ New Urban Arts is like a fun little community of friends who all have a shared interest; it's amazing.”

—2021 Student Survey

You can hear more about this program in a piece by the Public's Radio at: bit.ly/rpr-nua

1,500 Art Kits

were delivered to students' homes in Providence and surrounding communities.

Operations Coordinator and Resident Artist Mentor in Fashion, **Kevin Harper**, helps pack art kits.



Our Mission

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.

Recognition

New Urban Arts has received both local and national recognition for our innovative approach to arts education. In our **24 years**, we've served over **6,000 high school students** and received national recognition from various institutions, including the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities through a Coming Up Taller Award (the nation's highest honor for out-of-school arts programs).

2021 Annual Campaign

Lauren Abman ♡
 Adrienne Adeyemi ♡★
 Alexandrina Agloro ♡
 Kristi and Lucien Agniel
 Liza Aguiar in memory of Morgan Stone
 Rosemarie Aguinaga
 Christina Alderman
 Bethany Allard
 Dr. David Ames and Dr. Carol Landau
 Chris Anderson
 Jane Androski ♡
 Anonymous
 Pat and Charley Appleton in honor of Myrth York & David Green
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 Artists Development Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation
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 Dr. Marshall Carpenter and Mary Kate Grzebien
 Rachel Carpenter
 Nancy Carroll

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 Dieni Charlot
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 Gretchen Dow Simpson
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 Suzanne Duff
 Shauna Duffy
 Scott and Sheila Duhamel in honor of Matthew Iannotti
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 Suzanne Fortier
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 Gwen Fournier in honor of Winnie and Phil Fournier
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 Michelina and Eugene Fournier
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 Megan Hallan in memory of Morgan Stone
 Sue Hanauer in honor of Judy Croyle
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 Susan Harada in honor of Paul I. Rubinfeld
 David and Catherine Harada in honor of Lois Harada
 Deb DeCarlo
 Kevin Harper ★ and Janella Watson
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 Ruth Harvey and Mike Fay
 Mara Harwel
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 Douglas and Cory Kallfelz
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 Judy and Stanley Kaplan in honor of Tamara Kaplan
 David Karoff ♡ and Barbara Hunger
 Tamar Katz and Ed Hardy
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 Amie and Nick Kershaw
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New Urban Arts 2021 Annual Campaign began on July 1, 2020 and concluded on June 30, 2021. If you find any errors or omissions, we apologize and ask that you please notify washawn@newurbanarts.org.

PUBLICATION LAYOUT by Jane Androski ♡

