

# New Urban Arts



July 2021 – June 2022 Year-End Program Report

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## **Introduction**

In July 2021, after a year of virtual programs, New Urban Arts reopened the studio for in-person programs, and remained open for the 2021-22 Youth Mentorship in the Arts afterschool program, except for a two-week break during the January 2022 COVID surge.

Historically, Youth Mentorship in the Arts, our academic year program, has been drop-in and open enrollment. Upon reopening, we initially put various strictures in place around attendance and enrollment to ensure social distancing and equitable access. We also elected not to relaunch our volunteer artist mentor program, to maximize the space available to students. Over the course of the year, we were able to relax most of these strictures, even holding a public exhibition of student artwork in April, which took place as a weeklong open house instead of a one-night event. Nevertheless, we kept masking requirements in place.

New Urban Arts saw some significant staffing changes, including the departure of both program site directors. In January of 2022, we welcomed Kelly Harlow as our new NUA Knights Director, but we ended the school year without a Studio Director in place. The position was finally filled in the fall of 2022, when we welcomed Joselina Fay. Many peers in the afterschool and non-profit world also faced significant turnover in year two of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, unlike many other after school programs, we had almost no turnover among our front-line program staff. This was likely due to our investment in these positions over the past five years, raising their hourly wages and covering health insurance for part-time employees. This is a significant cost for a non-profit, but paid off in our ability to provide consistent programming during major staff transitions and a global health pandemic.

During 2021-22, we also moved our administrative offices from our studio into a small, adjacent building, purchased in spring 2020. In the summer of 2021, we converted the building into an office space and moved in. Phase 2 of the project—physically annexing the new office to our studio and expanding the studio program space to occupy our former office area—was not completed until December of 2022. This move allowed us to make more use of studio space for students, and provide a more focused work space for administrative work. However, there were growing pains and challenges during the nearly 18 months during which our administrative staff did not have direct access to the studio. To mitigate this, office staffers each spent one day per week in the studio during program hours.

In the Fall of 2021, New Urban Arts engaged MJ Robinson, an author, illustrator, educator, and community organizer, to help the organization reflect on and revise the organization's core documents, including the mission, vision, values, and purpose statements. This process engaged multiple stakeholders including students, staff, STAB, the Board of Director, alumni, former staff, the general public, and key partners. After a year-long process, STAB, staff, and board members met in September of 2022 at NUA's annual meeting and voted to officially approve the new purpose, mission, and values. The new language is presented on the following page.

# NEW URBAN ARTS

## Mission

New Urban Arts (NUA) is a welcoming community of high school students and adult mentors in Providence sharing space, skills, and resources to inspire creative expression.

## Purpose

NUA's student-led approach to learning enables young people to discover their power and develop agency. NUA is a haven from the many pressures and systemic inequities young people navigate daily. Founded by artists in 1997, we are located in Providence on occupied Pokanoket, Wampanoag, and Narragansett land.

## Vision

We believe that when we engage in relationships and environments that make us feel safe to be and become ourselves, our creativity and well-being flourish. By relaxing, making, teaching, and learning in community with each other, we expand our sense of what's possible.

## Our Values

**Belonging:** NUA's weird and welcoming culture is created with and for young people in Providence. We embrace the power in our diverse identities, learning styles, and interests. We take care of ourselves, we take care of each other, and we take care of the spaces we share.

**Agency:** Our organization and programs are shaped in collaboration with young people. Day-to-day, NUA students decide what they want to do and are free to come and go as they choose. Mentor-educators are available to assist students in articulating and achieving their own goals—in their own way, at their own pace.

**Access:** NUA's drop-in spaces, resources, and mentor support are free, flexible, and reliable.

**Creativity:** At NUA, we love that there is no one way to be or to do. We practice creativity by getting curious, making art, having fun, sharing, performing, exhibiting our work, planning for our futures, and celebrating each other.

**Connection:** NUA encourages openness and connection to new ideas, people, experiences, and possibilities. At NUA, young people form supportive friendships with peers and with adult role models—who help students discover and become the adult they want to be.



## THE PROGRAMS AT NEW URBAN ARTS' STOREFRONT STUDIOs

### **Summer Art Internships**

This summer we welcomed staff and students back to the studio for in-person programs, after over a year of remote programming. Over five weeks, in three programs, 20 students learned about the college application process, a variety of 2-D visual arts media, and youth leadership. Creative energy filled the space and brought the studio back to life, with paint on the floors and art on the walls. Notably, six out of the seven summer program staff members were NUA alumni.

### *College Explorations*

A Life After School (ALAS) is NUA's postsecondary advising program, and College Explorations is the ALAS summer program. ALAS Coordinator Addy Schuetz and Summer Program Assistant Pamela Fernandez led eight students through our College Explorations program. They explored all aspects of the college process, getting a jumpstart on their college lists, applications, and essays. Students spoke to admission counselors and got to visit URI, RISD and Brown University. They also attended a panel where NUA alumni that are currently in college spoke about their experiences, with particular attention to the particularly challenges of being first generation college students of color entering predominantly white institutions.

### *STAB Leadership Program*

The Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB) is the youth leadership body for NUA's studio programs, and this summer, Studio Director Ashley Paniagua worked with STAB co-chairs Jayda Rodriguez and Josa Sabater to run a leadership program. Together with four students they reflected on and discovered their own leadership styles, learned about NUA's and STAB's history, and made artwork inspired by their identities. Students participated in public speaking and networking workshops with board member Rodney Lopez and Development Director Washawn Jones. They also held discussions around youth voice, power, and the responsibilities of the board of directors with board members Lois Harada, Marcela Betancur, and Aarav Sundaresh. eight Board members held a mock board meeting at the studio so that students could get a first-hand look at the board's work. Throughout the summer, STAB joined forces with the board of directors to plan a year-long project around increasing STAB and board collaboration and visibility in the studio.

### *Summer Studio*

Youth Programs Assistant Jobanny Cabrera and Studio Assistant Sherly Torres led nine students in our Summer Studio Program. Returning to the studio for the first time since the pandemic, students explored themes of comfort, safety, and studio culture through discussion, written reflection, program evaluations, and art making. They played games, sketched and painted plants and portraits, and created recruitment materials to welcome students back into the studio. Their work this summer was crucial in informing plans for the reopening of school year programs in the fall of 2021.

### **Youth Mentorship in the Arts**

Youth Mentorship in the Arts is NUA's core afterschool program, taking place from October through May. The long-term goal of the program is for students to make a permanent place for creativity and imagination in their lives. Our interim goals are that students:

- Develop close, positive relationships with non-parental adult mentors and peers.
- Acquire skills and knowledge in the arts.
- Begin to develop their unique artistic voice.
- Graduate high school on a path towards postsecondary success.

The primary educators in the program are typically a mix of resident artist mentors (RAMs) and volunteer artist mentors. However, as mentioned, we did not run our volunteer artist mentor program in 2021-22. We employ five RAMs, part-time, permanent artist mentors in the most high-demand areas of our studio: painting/drawing, screenprinting, music, fashion/sewing, and literary arts. As professional artists in their respective media, RAMs offer high-quality instruction, serve as a consistent presence from year to year, help maintain the studio and facilities, and—through our investment in their professional development—continuously improve the quality of our programs.

### **A Life After School (ALAS): College and Career Readiness**

For many students, NUA is the central experience of their high school years. As a result, students have consistently sought the support of our staff and volunteers in planning their futures. At the behest of students, in 2014, we launched our ALAS program to formalize our post-secondary advising and support. The ALAS coordinator helps high school students develop their postsecondary plans. The program also partners with The College Planning Center of Rhode Island to provide certain services, including group workshops for students and their families on the college process, essay writing, and FAFSA.

In 2021-22, ALAS coordinator Addy Schuetz had the opportunity to work with 59 students and 26 alumni. This year's cohort of seniors was small; the program worked with eight seniors, who were accepted, collectively, to over 20 colleges, including URI, RIC, Johnson and Wales, Roger Williams, Bryant, RISD, Fashion Institute of Technology, UMass Dartmouth, Amherst, Pomona, Bowdoin, Carleton, Connecticut College, Wheaton, Dickinson, Grinnell, Hamilton, Middlebury, Vassar, and Lasell. Students also received several awards and scholarships, including acceptance to URI's Talent Development Program, the RIC Merit Scholarship, the Scholastic Arts Awards, and a Point Foundation LGBT Scholarship.

Throughout the year, students participated in a variety of workshops on the college process, including an introductory overview, and subjects such as FAFSA, the application process, essay-writing, scholarships, and evaluation of financial aid offers. At every step of the way, students also received extensive one-on-one support from the program coordinator. One of ALAS's best-attended events this year was our series of financial literacy workshops. We also hosted visits from admissions officers from four colleges, and in the spring, during April break, students took trips to visit colleges around Rhode Island.

### **The Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB)**

STAB is a group of students who cultivate NUA as a youth driven studio by advising staff, representing the organization publicly, assisting in student recruitment and orientation, and

organizing events. STAB participates in all hiring decisions, including the selection of artist mentors. STAB played a critical role this year in helping us with hiring processes for multiple staff positions, providing key input and feedback on the core documents review, and helping to welcome students back to the studio after a year of virtual programs. One STAB member also helped to create a safer-sex pantry for students in the basement bathroom at NUA.

### **Gallery Exhibitions and Other Events**

This year NUA prioritized student access to the studio over public programming, including gallery events. Thus we held only one gallery show, with a very different format from previous years. Rather than host a one-night-only even for students and the general public, we held a celebration just for students and their families the Friday before April break; then, during the break week, the public could view the work during open gallery hours. Over the course of the week, we had 100 visitors.

Additionally, we held a virtual fundraising kick-off event in the fall, and a small ribbon cutting when we opened the annex in the summer of 2021. In June 2022, we welcomed back former board members to see the studio, hear about developments, and celebrate the work of NUA over the past 25 years.

### **Student Enrollment and Attendance**

As mentioned, during the school year we modified our drop-in program model, putting various strictures in place to protect students and staff, establish more predictable attendance patterns, and create consistent groups of students who were using the studio together for the sake of contact tracing. This meant working with smaller numbers of students throughout the year in comparison to our pre-pandemic programs.

<b>Enrollment and Attendance</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2020-21**</b>	<b>2019-20*</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
Total registered students	235	72	847	783	736
Students attending once or more per week on average	74	8	162	116	98
Students attending 30 or more sessions over the year	51	9	95	128	138
Students attending 60 or more sessions over the year	11	2	25	68	58
Average daily attendance	23	4	72	73	67
Average monthly attendance	67	13	246	290	247
Annual total visits	4442	802	9,181	14,286	12,630

*\*2019-20 numbers as of March when the COVID-19 Pandemic interrupted normal programs.*

*\*\*2020-21 numbers represent a completely virtual program year due to COVID-19.*

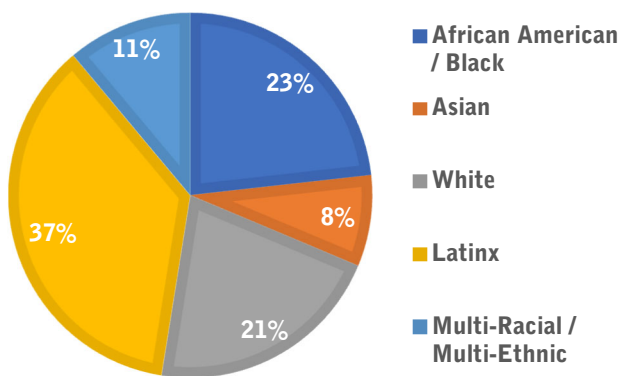


## Student Demographics

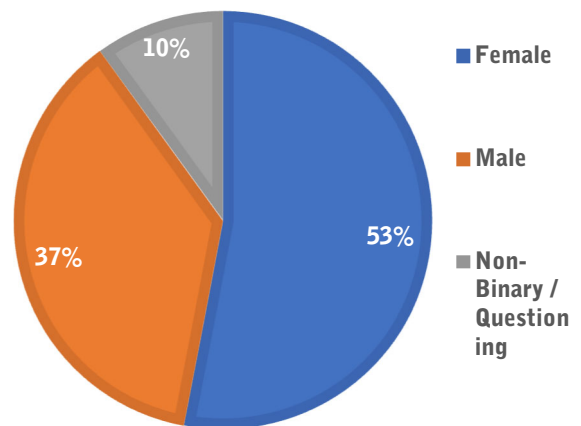
We enrolled 235 students in NUA's studio programs this year, with the following demographics:

- 84% qualified for free or reduced-price lunch. Of students who attended, on average, once or more per week, 75% qualified for free or reduced-price lunch. (For a family of four, an annual household income under \$48,470 per year qualifies the children for subsidized lunch.)
- 75% lived in census tracts in 02909, 02908, 02907, and 02905, where the poverty rate for families with children is 34.9%, almost twice the US average.
- 28% of students spoke a language other than English at home.
- 46% of our students identified as LGBTQ. Of students who participated once or more per week 47% identified as LGBTQ (LGBTQ students typically comprise only 4-10% of a high school's population.)
- For 87% of students, this was their first year at NUA.

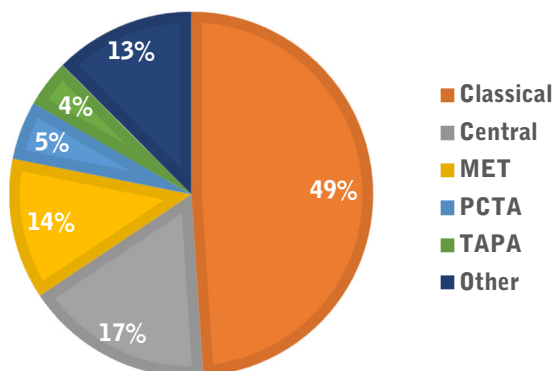
### RACE / ETHNICITY



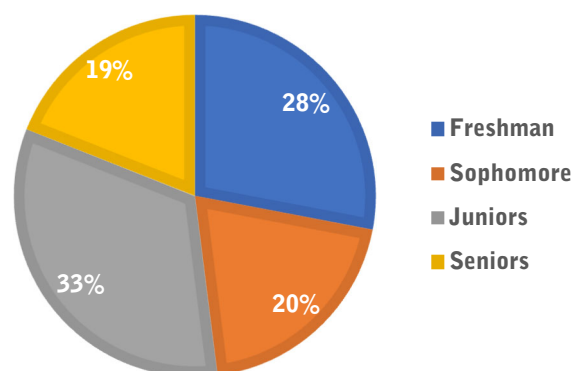
### GENDER



### SCHOOL



### GRADE LEVEL



## End of Year Student Survey Results

Our year-end survey is administered through Survey Monkey. The survey was emailed to students in the last month of programming, and a computer with the survey was setup in the studio. The response rate was low in 2021 due to the pandemic and in 2019, during our Program Director's maternity leave.

Student Survey Responses	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Number of students completing the survey (percentage of enrolled students)	50 (21%)	17 (24%)	22 (2%)	19 (2%)	74 (10%)
<i>Percentage of students agreeing or strongly agreeing with the following statements:</i>					
I am more open to trying new things.	92%	88%	100%	100%	97%
I have developed more confidence.	90%	88%	95%	100%	90%
I have developed a way of creating that expresses who I am.	90%	94%	95%	100%	93%
I have built strong, trusting relationships with my peers and adults.	90%	94%	95%	95%	94%
I have improved as an artist.	86%	76%	91%	89%	89%
I have developed a better idea of what I want to do in the future.	72%	76%	90%	74%	81%
At New Urban Arts, I feel safe and supported.	96%	100%	98%	100%	95%
Overall I rate New Urban Arts' Programs outstanding.	84%	76%	86%	84%	74%
I would recommend New Urban Arts to a friend.**	98%	94%	100%	-	-

*\*\*This question was introduced in 2020*

The following are open-ended responses to the question, "Do you like working with an artist mentor? Why?"

- "Yes! I get to receive critiques and advice, while simultaneously getting to just talk about my experiences through the day."
- "Everyone was really helpful and I especially liked working with Dana because she always was able to help me with what I needed and give me ideas to expand my thinking."
- "Yes, because they are always nice and I feel not afraid to ask questions."
- "Yes, because they can teach me new skills, and if I have questions on how to do a certain thing, they help. Plus, they offer ideas for projects."





## THE PROGRAMS AT NUA KNIGHTS



In 2017, New Urban Arts and Central High School teamed up to expand after school options for Central students. NUA Knights is a comprehensive after school program that strives to create a greater sense of community and personalization for students, focusing on academics, art, intramural sports, leadership, and social/emotional learning. NUA Knights expansion program is funded by a five year 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE).

During the 2021-22 year, all NUA Knights programs returned to in-person. As mentioned, NUA Knights also experienced a significant staffing change with the departure of the founding site director Tracy Jacques in October 2021. Kelly Harlow took over in January 2022 as the new site director. NUA Knights continued to offer programming during this time of transition because of the support of Program Coordinator Eli Shalan. Eli started working with NUA Knights as an AmeriCorps VISTA in the fall of 2019 and became the program coordinator in early 2021.

### **NUA Knights Summer Programs**

Over the summer of 2021, 21 students participated in four in-person programs, three of which were internships where students earned stipends for their participation. They included Central's 100th Anniversary Mural Program, Guitar Performance Internship, Music and Film Internship, and Tennis Camp. These programs ran for varying lengths of time in July and August. The Mural Program culminated with the unveiling of a six-foot by eight-foot collaged mural that represents Central High School over the past 100 years. Each letter of "Central" tells a different story about a theme in Central's history: School Spirit, Sports, Architecture and the Environment, Fashion, Diversity, Art and Design, and People (Students and Faculty). The mural appears on the following page, and a short video on the process is available at: <https://newurbanarts.org/centralmural>.



### Academic Year Programs

At the beginning of the school year, Central’s administration was not ready to bring outside program providers back into the school, so NUA Knights focused on reopening activities and clubs led by Central staff and teachers, with 10 different offerings, including Guitar Club, Weight Room and Training, Cross Country, Open Music Jam, Chess Club, Book Club, Newspaper and Yearbook, Drawing and Art Club, and Hanging with NUA Knights. Over February break, NUA Knights teamed up with NUA’s A Life After School program and the Central High School Guidance Department to provide a week-long College Explorations program. For April break, NUA Knights continued to build on the partnership that began last year with the Providence Stormwater Innovation Center and Audubon Society of Rhode Island to learn about storm water run-off’s impact on local water bodies and created three additional storm drain murals around Central High School.

### Student Enrollment and Attendance:

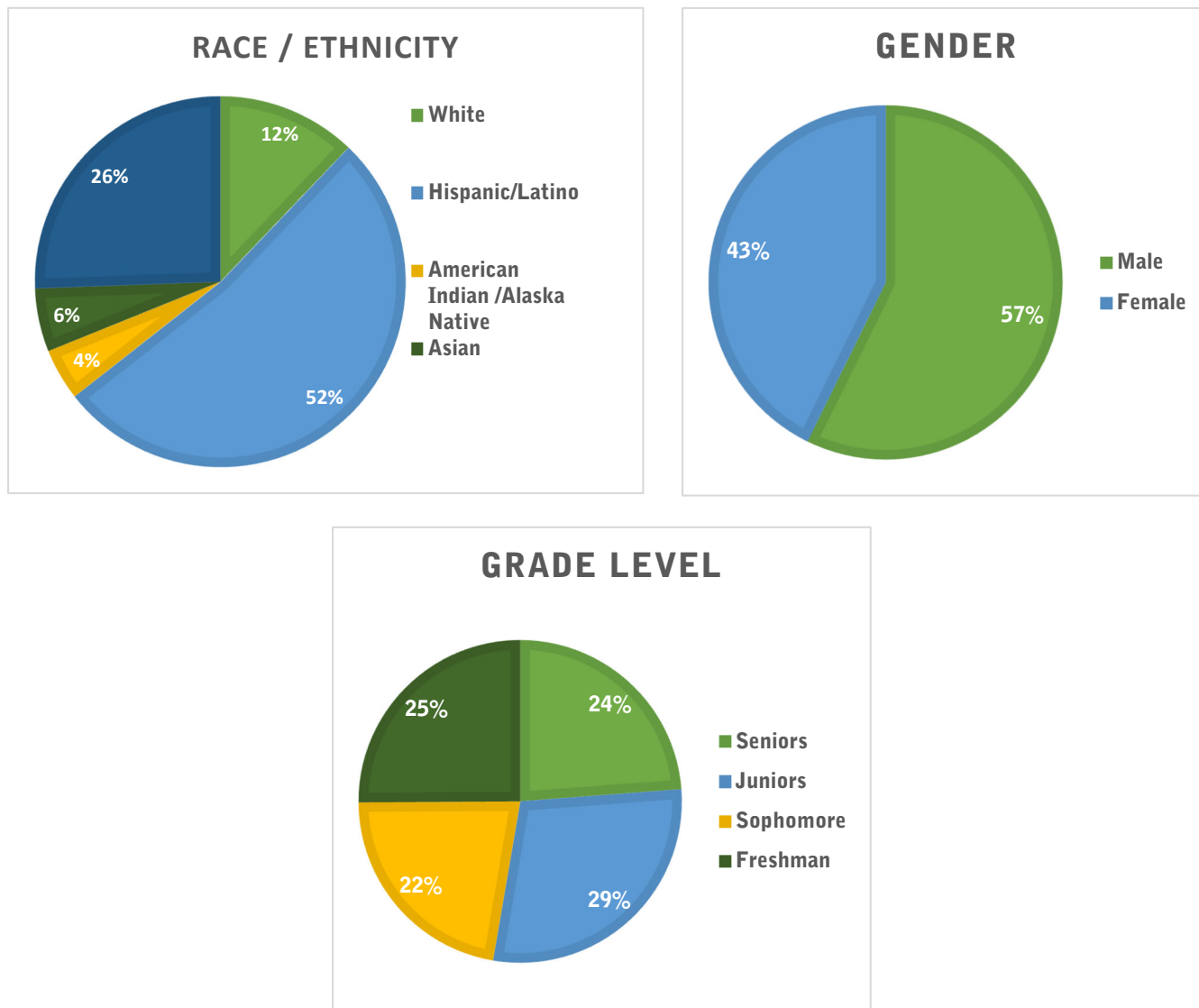
NUA Knights served more students this year than in the previous year, but numbers were still lower than before the pandemic. Programming experienced a few interruptions in early January when schools closed during a COVID-19 spike. NUA Knights offered fewer programs due to limiting outside providers which also limited options for students after school.

	2021-22	2020-21*	2019-20*	2018-19	2017-18
Total Enrollment	250	237	466	608	687
Students attended 30 or more days	29	23	92	150	108
Attended 60 or more days	6	2	38	26	39
Attended 90 or more days	1	0	12	20	8

*\*Numbers impacted because of COVID-19 Pandemic impact on programming.*

### Student Demographics

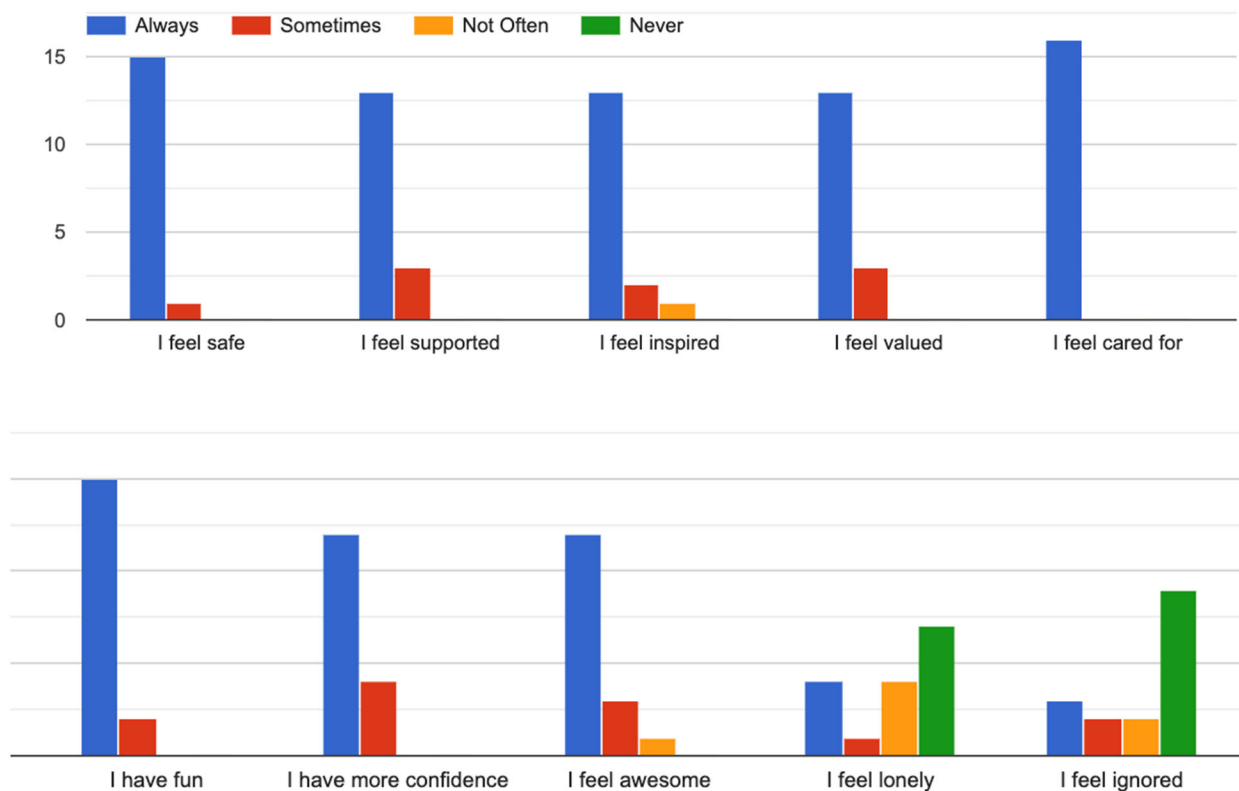
NUA Knights enrolled 250 students with the following demographics:



### End of Year Student Survey Results

NUA Knights administered the same survey to our students as in previous years. The Survey was on a Google Form and distributed via email, linked on social media, and available for students to take in the NUA Knights office. In an effort to try and get more students to fill out the survey, we also printed and distributed them to students who had participated in after school programming throughout the year. The survey results of the 18 students (13 more than last year) who submitted completed surveys are shown in the charts below.

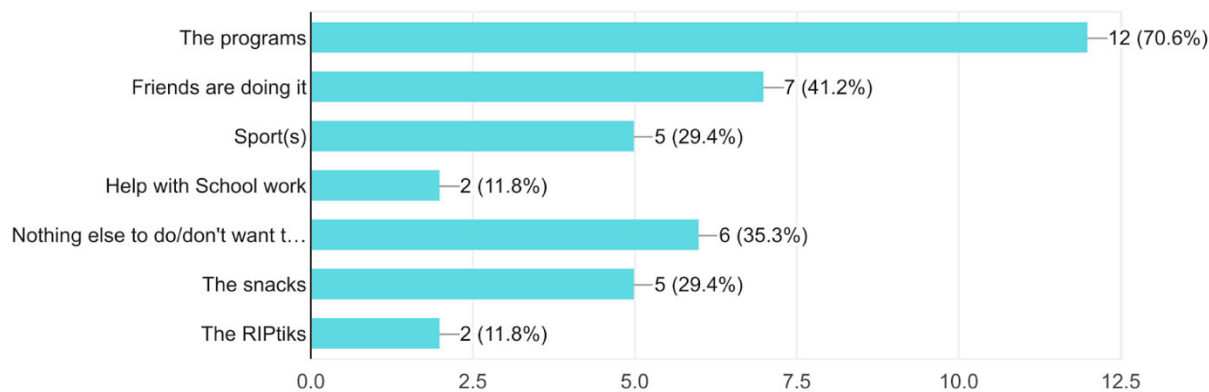
The following chart depict student responses to various prompts, each beginning with, “At NUA Knights, I...”



The following chart depicts student responses to the question: “Why did you stay after-school?” during the 2021-22 school year.

#### Why do you stay after school?

17 responses





In the following graphic, the larger the word, the more frequently students used it in responding to the prompt, "Please write 3-5 words about NUA Knights Programs."





## **APPENDIX A: KEY PROGRAM STAFF 2021-22**

### **Daniel Schleifer, Executive Director**

*BA, Ethnic Studies, Brown University*

Daniel was named executive director of NUA in April 2015 after five years as director of development. As director of development, he fostered a 39% increase in individual giving to NUA's annual fund, along with significant increases in grant funding. Other significant successes include spearheading NUA's capital campaigns in 2011, 2016, and 2021, seeding an endowment, and paying off the mortgage on New Urban Arts' building. Daniel first joined the NUA community in the fall of 2007 as the first studio study buddy.

### **Emily Ustach, Deputy Director**

*BA, Art History, Salem College*

*MA, Teaching and Learning in Art and Design, RISD*

Emily has extensive professional experience in program design, non-profit administration, and art education, as well as a long history as a volunteer at NUA. Prior to joining NUA as director of programs, Emily developed the Education Fellowship AmeriCorps program at The Learning Community, a nationally recognized public charter school. She also worked as the program coordinator at Rhode Island Campus Compact, where she supported college students' civic and community engagement. Emily served as a volunteer artist mentor at NUA from 2008-10, and in 2011, she chaired our program committee, which developed strategies to maintain the quality of our youth programs during a period of growth in enrollment and the transition to a new physical space. In 2017, she was named a National After School Matters fellow through the Institute on Out of School Time at Wellesley College.

### **Kelly Harlow, NUA Knights Director (Started January 2022)**

*BA, Youth Development and Nonprofit Studies, Rhode Island College*

Kelly started her time with NUA as a NUA Knights intern in 2017 while earning her BA from Rhode Island College, where she is currently attending part time to earn her MA in Youth Development. Before returning to NUA, she worked as the ELO program director at Riverzedge Arts in Woonsocket.

### **Tracy Jacques, NUA Knights Director (Resigned October 2021)**

*BS, BA, Cinema and Photography, Ithaca College*

*MAT, Rhode Island College*

Tracy has over ten years of education experience in public schools in Rhode Island. Before joining NUA's staff, she served for seven years as a Career and Technical Education Coordinator for the Providence Public Schools. In this capacity, she built critical relationships with students, staff, and community partners while implementing career and technical education programming across two public high schools. In addition to her extensive background in education, Tracy is also an accomplished photographer.

### **Eli Shalan, NUA Knights Program Coordinator**

*BA, Studio Art, Hampshire College*

Eli Shalan began working with New Urban Arts in 2019 as the NUA Knights Americorps VISTA. During his service, he developed impactful and strong relationships with the students

of Central High School. He is also a practicing artist who has shown his work in galleries and painted murals all across New England.

**Ashley Cavallaro, Studio Director (Resigned January 2021)**

*BA, Liberal Arts and Studio Art, Wheelock College,  
with certification in Community Based Human Services*

Ashley began in her current position at NUA in 2013. Before joining our staff, Ashley worked at two social service agencies in Hawaii. At the Arc in Hawaii, she provided services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on the island of Oahu. She then took a position as a family services specialist at HUGS (Help, Understanding, & Group Support), a nonprofit organization that supports families that care for children with chronic and life-threatening illness. She is an alumna of NUA's youth programs, and remained involved as a volunteer after high school.

**Dana Heng, Resident Artist Mentor in Painting and Drawing**

*BA, Sociology and Studio Art, University of Vermont*

Dana is a multi-media artist who joined NUA as a painting and drawing RAM in the fall of 2017, after mentoring for a year in photography. Dana has extensive experience using art as a means for community building and play. She has worked in local organizations such as Riverzedge Arts, Amos House, and the Providence PlayCorps. She is also an alumni of NUA's youth programs.

**Ian Cozzens, Resident Artist Mentor in Printmaking**

*BFA and BA, Architecture, Rhode Island School of Design*

Ian is a working screenprint artist who took his current position with NUA in 2015 after serving for multiple years as a volunteer artist mentor. He has also taught screenprinting at the AS220 Community Printshop in Providence and Louisiana Artworks in New Orleans. As one of Rhode Island's most sought after poster designers, Ian was awarded the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Merit Fellowship in Design. He also maintains a busy exhibition schedule. In October 2016, his work was exhibited in the East Coast Screenprint Biennial. Other notable exhibitions include Studio 1504 in Abu Dhabi, the RISD Museum, The Bushwick Print Lab, and Space 1026 in Philadelphia.

**Andres Bonilla**

*BA, Music Composition, Academia Superior de Artes de Bogota, Colombia,  
MA, Applied Music, Conservatory of Bologna, Italy*

Andres is a composer and musician whose passion for music began playing Colombian folk music with his family and rock with his friends. His compositions have been performed in Colombia and Italy at various events, concerts, and performances. He loves multimedia, classical, pop, Latin American music, and the mix between them.

**Kevin Harper, Resident Artist Mentor in Sewing and Fashion Design**

*BA, Leadership, DePaul University*

Kevin is a sewing artist, tailor, and designer. Kevin is the creator of ASTR NOIR, a clothing brand that celebrates Black culture and history while envisioning a future world devoid of white supremacist structures and oppression. In addition to his BA, Kevin studied pattern-

making, menswear construction, women's tailoring, draping, and leather design techniques at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT).

**Sherly Torres, Studio Assistant,**  
*BFA, Painting, Rhode Island College*

Sherly Torres is a painter, art history enthusiast, and educator. She has worked at various local institutions including the RISD Museum and the RI Historical Society, where she held an Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) Fellowship. Sherly initially joined us while Resident Artist Mentor Dana Heng was on sabbatical for an artist residency but has since continued to serve on our staff in various capacities.

**Addy Schuetz, A Life After School Coordinator**  
*BA, American Studies, Brown University*

Addy is a writer, bookmaker, and avid reader. They first joined the NUA community in 2017 as a Study Buddy, and transitioned to the role of NUA's inaugural Resident Artist Mentor in the Literary Arts in 2019. They now serve as NUA's ALAS Coordinator, supporting students with their plans after high school. Addy received their B.A. in American Studies from Brown University in 2019. They hail from the snowy region of Rochester, NY and now call Providence their home.

**Jobanny Cabrera, Youth Programs Assistant**

Jobanny is an Afro-Dominican self-taught artist and youth mentor from the Bronx, NY with experience in silk-screen printing and crocheting and a focus on music production. As a self-taught producer, Jobanny is interested in the ways music can foster close connections and passionate friendships. They first joined NUA as a student when they were 15 years old, inspiring them toward a career in community-building and youth mentorship. Jobanny continues to pursue these interests as our Youth Programs Assistant.

**Dean Sudarsky, Literary Arts Resident Artist Mentor**  
*BA, English, Washington University in St. Louis*  
*MFA, Cartooning, The Center for Cartoon Studies*

Sitting at the intersection of text and image as a cartoonist, Dean is interested in all things printed. He has led drawing workshops, taught college courses on publishing design, and tutored students individually in a variety of subjects. His clients have included the New York Review of Books, The Creative Independent, and The George Wiley Center. He first joined NUA as a Study Buddy in 2017, and now serves as the Resident Artist Mentor in Literary Arts.

## APPENDIX B: PARTNERSHIPS

The **Providence Public School District** has 41 schools serving 23,944 students, 66% of whom are Latinx and 16% of whom are African American. 84% of students qualify for subsidized lunch, and the district has universal free lunch for middle and high school students. Due to ongoing failure to meet accountability targets, the school district was taken over by the Rhode Island Department of Education in 2019. The high school dropout rate is 16%, well over the statewide average of 9%.

The **Rhode Island Department of Education** administers Rhode Island's federal 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) grants. Because NUA is a CLC grant recipient, our staff participates in small learning communities with other grantees to support professional development and problem solving in afterschool programs. The Department of Education also provides access to the Rhode Island Program Quality Assessment, an external evaluation tool. Through the CLC grant we have formal partnerships with Classical High School, Central High School, and the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts.

The **United Way of Rhode Island** is a funder that also offers technical support and professional development opportunities. As the formal sponsor of the RI Afterschool Network, they seek to influence public policy to increase support for afterschool programs and promote our services to schools and parents. They have been instrumental in the expansion of the A Life After School program.

The **Providence Youth Arts Collaborative** consists of eight Providence non-profit organizations providing arts programs to low-income youth: **AS220 Youth**, **Community MusicWorks**, **Providence CityArts for Youth**, **Everett Company**, **Stage & School**, the **Manton Avenue Project**, **RIOT** (formerly Girls Rock! Rhode Island), **Downcity Design**, and **New Urban Arts**.

NUA has strong relationships with local universities **The Rhode Island School of Design**, **Rhode Island College**, and **Brown University**, all of which help us recruit artist mentors and interns through their community service programs, work study, and—at **Rhode Island College**—the Youth Development program. Through field trip opportunities, our students also have access to their museums, libraries, labs, and other facilities.

Over the past few years, more youth organizations have moved to Westminster Street. In 2019, NUA started meeting monthly with our neighborhood partners, **Youth Pride, Inc.**, **Providence Student Union**, and **RIOT**. These meetings provide us the opportunity to coordinate calendars and support the professional growth of our organizations together.