Typically, this publication covers the period from July through June, equivalent to one session of summer programs plus the ensuing school year (which also constitutes New Urban Arts’ fiscal year). However, because we celebrated New Urban Arts’ 25th anniversary for all of 2022, we extended the publication period by this newsletter accordingly. Thus, this publication covers July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Enjoy!

Welcome Back Tina! Director of Development, Tina Meedran is also a NUA student alumnus.

Dear Friends,

Since the summer of 2021, New Urban Arts took on a number of projects and challenges:

- We did a major construction project, which was originally slated for the summer of 2020 but was delayed and shaved down due to the impact of the pandemic.
- We worked with a consultant to review and revise our mission statement and other core documents.
- We restructured in-person programs at the studio—establishing—then continually reimagining—now doing an unprecedented strictures on student enrollment and attendance to limit the spread of COVID.
- We undertook major transitions in financial management, moving to a new auditor and a new external accountability consultant.
- Six members of our team, including two of our longest-serving staff, left to pursue new opportunities.
- We launched Our 2022-23 afterschool programs for two weeks during the surge in COVID cases due to the Omicron variant.
- We hosted “Hot Sauce Salute” our first gallery exhibition since before the pandemic began. In contrast to our typical one-night gallery events, this took place as a week-long open house, providing a space available to students.

At the same time, Phase 1 of our latest major construction project continued, meaning that our screenprinting studio and photography darkroom were unavailable to students. Of our construction project continued, meaning that our screenprinting studio and photography darkroom were unavailable to students.

In the course of the year, we also celebrated several milestones:

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JUNE 2022 Executive Director Daniel Schrader embarked on a four-month parental leave. Deputy Director Emily Ustach stepped into the role of interim executive director, with extra support from board member Redney Eric Lopez. At the same time, Phase 1 of our latest capital project was underway—transforming a vacant building into a dedicated office space. (See page 10 for more info on this project.) Additionally, Resident Artist Mentor Yoni Van Buntum, who had run our music programs since 2016, left New Urban Arts to explore new opportunities.

JULY 2022 New Urban Arts reopened in-person programs at our storefront studio. Select-in-person programs had already reopened at NUA Knights, our satellite site at Central High School. Later that month, Phase 1 of our construction project was complete, and our administrative staff was able to move into our new office space.

SEPTEMBER 2022 We welcomed new core afterschool program, Youth Menthip in the Arts, as an in-person program. When we first reopened, we had various strictures in place to prevent crowding, such as daily attendance limits. Over the course of the year, we slowly relaxed those restrictions. Moreover, we chose now to relaunch the volunteer artist mentor program in order to maintain the space available to young people.

DECEMBER 2022 After almost nine years on staff at New Urban Arts (and many years as a student and volunteer), Studio Director Ashley Panajak left for new adventures.

JANUARY 2023 New Urban Arts officially began celebrating its 25th Anniversary year! We also welcomed new NUA Knights Director Kelly Hartery, who joined us at NUA Knights in the first year of the program, holds a BA in Youth Development from RTC and is currently pursuing her MA. Lastly, we returned to remote programs for the first time during the year of the program, holds a BA in Youth Development from RTC and is currently pursuing her MA. Lastly, we returned to remote programs for the first time during the year.

Rebecca Rocks! Development Associate, Rebecca Korn has been a driving force pulling our 2022 Gala! New Urban Arts also announced our newly-announced Executive Director Tina Meedran and the RI Historical Society, where she hosted an Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) Fellowship. Shortly thereafter, a new program platform at Thunderbird to serve our staff in various capacities.

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Crafting the Future, we were able to send students and alumni to residencies at the Appalachian Center for Craft and Haystack Mountain School of Craft.

SEPTEMBER 2022 New Urban Arts said goodbye to NUA Knights Program Coordinator Eli Shulam and welcomed Joselin Fay as our new Studio Director. Joselin is an artist and activist originally from Worcester, Massachusetts. She has worked extensively with youth and community development organizations in New York, Massachusetts, and the Dominican Republic. She is a graduate of Bard College with a BA in Urban Studies and Latin and Latin American Studies.

A unique 25th anniversary edition of New Urban Arts’ annual newsletter!

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Due to relocation, our annual newsletter!
Programs

The Studio at 705 Westminster

Youth Mentors in the Arts is New Urban Arts’ core after-school 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 inspiration in their lives. The primary educators in the program are typically a mix of resident artist mentors, TNMA, and volunteer artist mentors. Mentors foster self-discovery, community building, and creative art projects designed collaboratively with youth. Programs take place in our 4,000 square foot studio, which includes resources for photography, drawing, painting, sculpture, fashion design, printing, screen printing, clay support, pottery, spoken word, video, digital media, and music.

The Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB) is a group of students who cultivate New Urban Arts 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 with hiring decisions for staff positions, providing key input and feedback on the core documents and helping to welcome students back to the studio after a year of virtual programs. One STAB member also helped to create a safe-sleeping space for students in the basement bathroom at New Urban Arts.

A Life After School (ALAS) is our postsecondary advising program where students receive extensive one-on-one college and career readiness support from the program’s coordinator. In 2021-22, 57 students and 26 alumni participated. 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, students took trips to visit colleges around Rhode Island. ALAS also partners with Crafting the Future (CTF), an organization that works to make craft schools and arts residencies more accessible to artists of color. CTF helps us provide students and alumni scholarships to attend renowned craft schools and arts residencies programs around the country.

Summer Art Internships welcome staff and students back to the studio for in-person programs, after over a year of remote programming! This year our summer art internships were: College Explorations, a college program where students dove into the ins and outs of figuring out who’s, what’s, and where’s of prospective colleges to apply to; STAB Leadership Program, a youth leadership development program for 4 students to reflect and discover their own leadership styles, learn about New Urban Arts and STAB’s history, and make new artworks inspired by their research and interests; and Summer Studio, an integrative and creative program for students to rediscover the space after the pandemic. If fact, it’s out of the 3 programs staff members from the summer were from alumni.

Gender

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NAU Knights

NUA Knights is a comprehensive after school and summer program located in Central High School. The program strives to create a greater sense of community and personalization for Central students by offering programs in a variety of areas, including academics, arts, intramural sports, leadership, and social-emotional learning. NUA Knights is a joint collaboration between New Urban Arts and Central High School; programs are taught by a mix of community partners, Central staff, and New Urban Arts staff. Last year, NUA Knights offered 10 different clubs and activities including Guitar Club, Weight Room and Training, Cross Country, Open Music Jam, Chess Club, Book Club, Newspaper and Yearbook, and Drawing and Art Club.

250 Students were enrolled in our NUA Knights program at Central High School in 2021-22.

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

98% of students would recommend NUA to a friend

90% of students say they have developed a way of creating that expresses who they are

Shery steps up!

An alum of our youth programs, Shery joined us this year as Painting & Drawing Assistant but has since continued to serve on our staff in various capacities.

Andres sheds!

Resident Artist Mentor in Music Andres’s passion for music began by playing Colombian folk music with his family and rock with his friends back home in Colombia.

Juniors

Male

White

Freshmen

29%

White

22%

10%

26%

12%

6%
Turning 25 in Style!

A Gala Affair at the Art Club

On October 14, New Urban Arts celebrated 25 years with a gala at the Providence Art Club. Generations of New Urban Arts alumni, staff, students, and supporters showed up to enjoy an evening of food and fun, to reminisce about New Urban Arts’ past and to imagine its future. Music was provided by DJs Da Huey X, Abel Hernandez, and Erin Taber; food by Kay-Tees Goodies; and floral arrangements by Costas. Aubrey’s Catering provided desserts.

The evening officially kicked off with a Cake or Pie? introduction by Erin Taber. “Sticks and Stones may break my bones, but cake or pie will never hurt me,” she said. Previous Art Club member Tom Van Buskirk served as the evening’s primary speaker. Nellie Mae Education Foundation resident artist mentor Dana Heng provided floral arrangements, and alum Abby Hernandez served as the evening’s primary speaker.

The gala provided an opportunity to thank our event sponsors: Neighborhood Health Plan, Movement Mortgage, Kite Architects, Tri-Bro Tool Company, Residential Properties, Ltd., Pilgrim Title Insurance Co., Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Providence Title Insurance Co., and Abel Hernandez.

Thanks to all those who attended and to our event sponsors!

A Historic Announcement

As part of our 25th Anniversary celebration, New Urban Arts announced the donation of its papers to the Providence Public Library (PPL)’s Rhode Island Collection.

In the coming months, New Urban Arts will be sending PPL a huge range of materials, including founding documents, vision statements, student art, board minutes, photographs, oral histories, and lots of other things we have in the basement! The materials will be presented digitally as well as physically, and all ensure that NUA stories will be easily available to anyone—historians, community members, or alum.

The history of MLA will become part of PPL’s Community Archives initiative, which collects materials created “by people and communities groups to document their shared experiences, art and activism, cultural history, identity and heritage.” At PPL, the New Urban Arts archive will join the archives of some of our closest friends, including AS220 and the Urban Pond Procession.

In Kate Wells, Curator of Rhode Island Collections at PPL, stated “The materials tell a really compelling story of both the organization itself as well as the Providence ecosystem in which it was established and has thrived.”

Special thanks to Susan Smolyn and the 25th Anniversary Steering Committee for the inspiration and ongoing support for this project!

Since 1997, New Urban Arts has:

Worked with over 7,000 young people • Supported over 250 volunteer artists • Traveled to the White House to receive the nation’s highest honor for afterschool and youth arts and humanities programs • Delivered more than 1,500 art supply kits to students during the COVID pandemic • Purchased its own building and renovated it three times to expand our programs and increase our capacity!

Cake or Pie?

It’s the ultimate ice breaker. As with any proper tradition, the “Cake or Pie?” question has been part of New Urban Arts for so long, that no one’s quite sure when, or how, it began. It’s both charming and provocative. Bistro and foodie purists. You’re likely to be asked by students when interviewing to become an artist mentor, by a member of STAB who’s touring you around the studio for the first time, when getting to know your fellow board members at a retreat, or as the minutes tick by while waiting for a screen to burn. Whenever the question is sprung on you (as it was at NUA’s 25th Gala button-making station!) be prepared to offer specifics, back-story, hot takes and wild theories, or to ponder the fundamental difference between the two.

But don’t you dare be neutral!

This page (top to bottom): Executive Director Daniel Schidler speaks at the gala; alum Abel Hernandez speaks at the gala; alum Maya Lehner stamps out cake and pie buttons at the gala; thanks to all those who contributed student resident artists are expected on this and the previous page for the button: Caitlin Cali, Abel Hernandez, Julia Gualtieri, the Studio Team Advisory Board.

Previous page: Resident Artist Mentor David Liddle lends an ear, including donor Christine Sedevens, enjoy themselves at the gala.
The Story of New Urban Arts' Language

In 2022, we refreshed our purpose, mission, and values statements to better reflect our community as we look toward the next 25 years. Here’s how we did it!

CHAPTER 1: Data Gathering

October 2021–April 2022

Providence artist-educator MJ Robinson facilitated this collective effort to re-examine our organization’s core documents. We structured and engaged ways to collect thoughts, feelings, and ideas about NUA from stakeholders in our community: students, alumni, staff, board members, former staff, former volunteers, and the general public.

Story-told surveys

We created narratives that students as recipients where students could respond to various prompts. Students from NUA Knights at Central High School told their thoughts about the experience rubber duckies, while students at RIU’s studio shared their stories with the feedback monster.

STAB, staff, and board members met in September and October 2021 to align our existing language with fresh eyes and encourage others to mark up our previous mission.

CHAPTER 2: Data Analysis and Drafting

April 2022–August 2022

Co-writing

A team of staff plus one board member collaborated with MJ to review community feedback and draft language, prioritizing the voices of young people in our community. The language is informed by the stories we heard throughout the process.

Reviewing past language

MJ noted at our writing-language, including products of our most recent strategic planning process (such as our core values), with fresh eyes and encouraged others to mark up our previous mission.

VALUES

Delegating: NUA’s role as an educational leader can be cultivated and developed by young people in Providence. We embrace the power to ignite 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. Daily, NUA students decide what they want to do and are free to come and go as they choose. Mentor-education is 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 inclusive.

Creativity: MJ noted that there is no one way to be or to do. We practice creativity in getting curious, making art, having fun, sharing, performing, exhibiting our work, planning for our futures, and celebrating each other.

Connections: 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 adults they want to be.

CHANGING LEGISLATION

At the bottom of the page is MJ’s “feedback monster” which appeared in several forms throughout the process.

CHAPTER 3: Approving and Celebrating

September-October 2022

STAB, staff, and board members met in September and voted to officially approve the new purpose, mission, and values.

We partied with the new language at the 25th Gala celebration.

As a part of our 25th Anniversary, we took a closer look at our programs, interviewing mentors, students, and alumni to spotlight all of the various ways people engage with New Urban Arts today.

MISSION

New Urban Arts 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 injustices young people navigate daily. Founded by artists in 1997, we are located in Providence on occupied Pokanoket, Wampanoag, and Narragansett land.

Belonging:

NUA’s weird and welcoming culture is created with everyone who help students discover and become the adults they want to be.

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A Bigger Studio
and a New Office

New Urban Arts’ 2019-24 Strategic Plan documented various challenges around concurrency and privacy that undermined the quality and safety of our studio programs. Meanwhile, our staff had grown as well, leading to unfeasible crowding in our office area, which was used as open floorplan with our studio space. Thus, in spring of 2019, our board approved a capital project to purchase a small, adjoining building (which we’ve dubbed “The Annex”), create a dedicated office in said building, and expand the two spaces.

We originally planned to break ground on construction in the summer of 2020, but various pandemic-related challenges forced us to split the project into two phases, starting Phase 1 in the summer of 2021. During Phase 1, we remodeled the Annex into an office space. During Phase 2, which took place from August-December of 2022, we created an internal connection between the buildings, while renovating the studio to expand and improve our program space. Most notably, we renovated the photo studio area, which shared an open floorplan with our studio space. During Phase 1, we renovated the annex into an office space. During Phase 2, which took place from August-December of 2022, we created an internal connection between the buildings, while renovating the studio to expand and improve our program space. Most notably, we renovated the photo studio area, which shared an open floorplan with our studio space. During Phase 1, we renovated the annex into an office space. During Phase 2, which took place from August-December of 2022, we created an internal connection between the buildings, while renovating the studio to expand and improve our program space. Most notably, we renovated the photo studio area, which shared an open floorplan with our studio space. During Phase 1, we renovated the annex into an office space. During Phase 2, which took place from August-December of 2022, we created an internal connection between the buildings, while renovating the studio to expand and improve our program space. Most notably, we renovated the photo studio area, which shared an open floorplan with our studio space.

By completing the Annex, we were able to make the new office space with adults that I can trust and talk to, and who care about me.” — NUA Student

It’s space where my friends and I can come and have fun. It also feels like a space with adults that I can trust and talk to, and who care about me.” — NUA Student

New Urban Arts means lot to me. It’s a space where I can do what makes me happy and feel completely safe.” — NUA Student

On October 15, 2021, New Urban Arts broke ground on the annex, which will help offset our deficit from 2019-20 (the first year of the pandemic).

New Urban Arts is a Neighborhood Builder!

In November of 2022, New Urban Arts was named a Neighborhood Builder by BID District of America. New Urban Arts will receive a $500,000 grant over two years along with comprehensive leadership training for Executive Director Daniel Schleifer and Director of Finance and Administration Joseesa Castillo-Lafreniere on topics ranging from increasing financial sustainability, management, and strategic storytelling. We will also join a peer network of organizations across the country.

People

Staff

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<td>KP Peraza</td>
<td>Chief Advocate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Kern</td>
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<td>Sharly Torres</td>
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Board of Directors

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<td>Stuart H. Schleifer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Parcher</td>
<td>Vice Chair/CEO</td>
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<td>Rebecca de Santiago</td>
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<td>Judy Cindy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macarena Brichegan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodney Eric Lopez</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wills Landersmith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Get Involved

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

Follow us on all the latest developments by following us on social media: newurbanarts

Share New Urban Arts with friends who will check with our website.

About: “We Got It” by Saintes Marie Rose Brooks.

Biden: New Urban Arts staff in the Spring of 2021, a Doritos “We Got It” commercial with author Maria Rita Southard, who is featured on the song’s cover art. She’s pretty sure it was drawn by Dean.

2021-22 Financials

Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program &amp; Arts Education</td>
<td>$296,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin &amp; Development</td>
<td>$255,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Services</td>
<td>$105,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>$938,956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Operating Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$1,121,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin &amp; Development</td>
<td>$113,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Services</td>
<td>$27,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends and Interest</td>
<td>$241,247</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$99,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Services</td>
<td>$9,933</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Services</td>
<td>$20,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Services</td>
<td>$15,376</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net Income

| Amount            | $684,753          |

Thanks to our Capital Campaign Donors!

Individuals

Alison Adeney        |
Casie Bianco        |
Christopher Napa    |
Bisa Beauce         |
and Margaret, Kristina, Sarah Bernolli, Michaela Bland, Lorient, and Rhode Island Foundation by Emmy Bright

Maria Cirelli        |
Jay Morelino        |
Mario Cirelli        |
Arturo Cirelli      |
Mr. and Mrs. Coryn Fossick |
Michael Frailer     |
Oswald Kohler       |
The Allgood Family Foundation
Sarah Kern and Amy Black
Anna Kohler          |
Joshua Kohler        |
Chris Grady         |
Winfred Lambrick |
Pamela Lauroer       |
Randy S.          |
Andrei Lopri                         |
Hughdie Gotte              |
Hillary Mooreauett     |
Jim Petricea         |
Dr. Martha and Chuck Schleifer    |
Daniel Schleifer       |
and Johanna Wallock  |
Jonathan Swedlow |
Dr. Rebecca A. Stiller    |
Susan Grupey         |
Aarav Sundaresh       |
and Kate Batchelder  |
Talkeano Yashayenso  |
Industries

Artists Development Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation
Bank of America Neighborhood Builder
The Champlin Foundation
City of Providence, Department of Art, Culture, Tourism, and Art
APFA Cultural Facilities Grant
City of Providence Community Development Block Grant
Programs
The National Corporation Foundation
The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA)

Sponsors

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2022
2022 Annual Campaign

To ensure the continued safety and growth of New Urban Arts, we launched our 2022 Annual Campaign, inviting individuals, organizations, and companies to support our mission to empower young artists and educators through mentorship and creative practice.

Donations to New Urban Arts are tax deductible. Please feel free to reach out to info@newurbanarts.org if you have any questions or need further information.

Join our mailing list by emailing info@newurbanarts.org or sign up for e-news at http://bit.ly/NEWS-news

Students, artists, and educators contribute to the success of our program. To support their journey, please make a donation.

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