

New Urban Arts



July 2023 – June 2024 Year-End Program Report

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OVERVIEW

The 2023-24 program year marked a period of prodigious growth for New Urban Arts. Efforts toward resuming our pre-pandemic attendance levels bore only incremental progress until this year, when we enrolled 519 students in Youth Mentorship in the Arts, 229 more than the year before. Restructuring our staff to accommodate more volunteers and thoroughly integrate new staff members into the studio culture proved central to both providing quality programs for a larger audience and fielding new programs, like the MET Art Academy.

As we approach our previous numbers, strategic questions from before the pandemic are beginning to resurface as well. By the end of the school year in 2020, after in-person programs shut down for quarantine, we had enrolled a record 847 students in Youth Mentorship in the Arts. The program team's weekly meetings often centered around planning how to provide quality small-group mentoring with upwards of 100 students in the 705 Westminster Street studio during peak hours. One-on-one relationships are a core part of our philosophy, and the capacity to build those relationships was being strained by high participant density. Though our daily attendance has not yet returned to that level, for the first time since 2019, the NUA studio has had rushes reminiscent of those times. We consider this an exciting and healthy sign, and continue to strive to provide high quality programs for as many Providence high school students as possible. A large part of staff restructuring has been done with that purpose in mind, and for the first time, we extended our programs to the end of May to allow students more studio time. This coming year, we are looking to start programs earlier as well.

Partnerships

In spring of 2023, we piloted the MET Art Academy, a structured foundational arts program designed to meet the MET High School's internship requirements. 2023-24 was the first full year of the program, accomplishing our goals of reaching more Providence students (MET students make up only 10-15% of our regular studio programs year to year) and making more use of our studio, which was previously in use only after the public school day. The program served two cohorts of 14 students, one each semester, led by Resident Artist Mentor and alum, Sherly Torres (who co-wrote the program the year before), and Alexis Gordon, MET Art Academy Instructor. Each cohort was taken through the fundamental elements of core art mediums, including drawing, painting, and printmaking (with help from screenprinting RAM Ian Cozzens), and exhibited their own art show in the NUA gallery space at the conclusion of each semester.

Another way we made better use of our studio space this year was in strengthening our partnership with Classical High School. Emily Burke, a Classical High art teacher, was able to incorporate photography into the curriculum by walking her students over to NUA to make use of our dark room during the day. Few public schools have access to a dark room, but the hands-on, tech-

nical process of developing photographs from film sparks an interest in many of the young people that have the opportunity to learn how it works. This is also the first year since 2019 that we've had a Volunteer Artist Mentor dedicated to photography in the studio, and we hope to grow that aspect of our programs in the coming year.

Last summer we began talks with The Avenue Concept toward partnering on several projects. The first is a developing collaboration with Providence Public School Department's Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts, Nicole Simpson, offering a program to paint 15 utility boxes across the city, each by students from a different school. Instructors from The Avenue Concept can supply materials, stencils, and training for NUA mentors and students who will then work together to make a plan for painting each utility box. We're also working on a program called Pathways through Public Art, which will focus on putting out a call for proposals for students to design and re-paint the "Cultural Corridor," a series of murals adorning the pathways between Classical and Central high schools. While this program is still being refined, our goal is to begin execution of the mural during summer 2025.

Staffing Transitions and Restructuring

The end of the 2022-23 program year saw many difficult departures, including both the Studio Director and Youth Programs Assistant, the lead organizers of the Youth Mentorship in the Arts programs, as well as the A Life After School Coordinator, Resident Artist Mentor in Music, and Fashion and Sewing Resident Artist Mentor (who became our Operations Coordinator), each a significant piece of programs, and just as importantly, a significant bearer of New Urban Arts' studio culture. With so much change, there was a clear necessity to put adequate systems in place to properly acclimate new hires to NUA's methodology and provide them with the support and resources to do what they do best: mentor youth. To this end, Jeannie Castillo-Lapierre and Dana Heng (a NUA alum), two longstanding members of the NUA community, assumed leadership of YMA programs. Furthermore, the Youth Programs Assistant position, which was divided between administrative and mentorship roles, was restructured and renamed the Manager of Artist Mentors, focusing more on organizing volunteers and providing support, resources, and training for all mentors. Some of the role's former administrative duties were assigned to Sissy Rossó, also a NUA alum, who took on a new position: Student Support Specialist. This position, present in the studio during programs 5 days a week, replaced the Studio Advocate (a 15-hour per week MSW candidate at Rhode Island College placed at NUA for an internship), allowing us to address an increased need among our youth for mental health support. The NUA Knights Program Coordinator position was also expanded from part-time to full-time to address higher demands at our Central High School site, which offered 6 new programs this year.

The Manager of Artist Mentors role proved crucial in a year of vastly increased attendance. With help from other veteran staff members, Dana was able to hold an intensive mentor orientation for mentors across all sites and organize a full cohort of 14 volunteers for the first time since the volunteer program was suspended for the pandemic. A full cast of volunteers made serving 519 students in YMA possible this year, resuscitated darkroom photography in the studio, and enabled the return of another core event: The Staff Art Show, an annual beginning-of-the-year tradition that has also been on hold since the pandemic. The Staff Art Show's purpose is three-fold: it provides a platform for our volunteers and staff to exhibit their artwork directly to their community; it models for our students how rewarding it is to "put yourself out there," getting them excited for their own mid-year show, only months away; and finally, it shows the students what their mentors are capable of. NUA prioritizes youth-driven projects, and mentors work with students to bring their visions to life—students are often shocked at the mentor show to see what the adults in their space can do, often with the very same materials they find in the studio.

The Student Team Advisory Board (STAB), NUA's student leadership body, was integral in helping with new staffing adjustments. In addition to interviewing all candidates for hire, STAB members also interview and make recommendations for volunteer positions. They were especially important in our search for a new Executive Director. On the administrative side, much of the second half of the year was focused on the upcoming ED search and transition, and our annual Birthday Bash served a dual function in saying goodbye to Daniel Schleifer, Executive Director for 9 years and part of the NUA community for 17. Dan made plans to step down years ago, but when the pandemic hit, agreed that it would have put the organization in a difficult place to undergo a major transition at the same time. Thanks in large part to his careful stewardship, STAB, and our staff and board, we can feel confident looking ahead to an exciting new year of bigger and better programs with our new Executive Director, Jannelle Codianni.

THE PROGRAMS AT NEW URBAN ARTS' STOREFRONT STUDIO

Summer Art Internships

Over the 2023 summer, students collaborated with Artist Mentors and visiting artists on a range of projects, from one-time group activities to long-term, highly conceptual independent works. The programs' themes were explored through dialogue, art-making, research, writing, reflective activities, and field trips outside the studio.

All programs were held in person, and upon successful completion, students received a stipend for their participation. A total of 27 students attended the three distinct program offerings: Art Inquiry: Waterways, Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB), and College Explorations.

The summer concluded with the Soggy Cereal Art Party, an end-of-summer celebration organized by students. At this event, students, staff, and family members celebrated the summer's accomplishments, discussed each program's work, sang karaoke, and participated in a raffle.

Art Inquiry: Waterways

Led by Artist Mentors Dana Heng and Jobanny Cabrera, along with Art Scholar Eli Nixon, this program involved 12 students exploring local bodies of water. They investigated how water intersects with our lives, communities, and histories. Students created artwork reflecting the waterways theme and showcased their independent projects at the program's end.

College Explorations

Facilitated by Teresa Conchas, ALAS Coordinator, and Jada Rodriguez, Alum Intern, this program helped 8 rising juniors and seniors begin the college application process and explore their future dreams and goals. Students received a comprehensive introduction to college and all parts of the application process while also creating art and developing personal stories and interests. They spoke with current college students and went on field trips to college campuses and art museums in Rhode Island and Boston.

Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB): Leadership Program

NUA's youth leadership board, the Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB), spent the summer learning about NUA's history and the role of youth leaders and artists in our community. This summer, 7 STAB students explored themes such as relationships, identity, stereotypes, gender, and body image through creative art and mural-making. They also learned to use the power of art and murals to raise awareness and explore inequities around language, privilege, and power.

ALAS – Crafting the Future

NUA was thrilled to continue its partnership with Crafting the Future (CTF) for the third year. CTF works to diversify the fields of art, craft, and design by connecting BIPOC artists with opportunities to thrive. Through CTF, NUA provided three programs for students and alumni: Teen Takeover, Penland Residency, and the new SteelYard x NUA Metalsmith Residency.

Teen Takeover

The Teen Takeover, a collaborative event between CTF and the Appalachian Center for Craft at Tennessee Tech University, took place from June 25 to July 1. Four NUA students and one staff member attended this week-long arts camp in Tennessee, joining approximately six other high school art education organizations from around the country. Students had the opportunity to study jewelry, textiles, woodworking, and glassblowing, creating artwork in a community of BIPOC students and teaching artists.

Penland Residency

This summer, CTF and NUA provided two full scholarships for BIPOC alumni to attend a two-week residential workshop at Penland School of Craft, an internationally renowned craft school in North Carolina, from July 2-14. Scholarships covered all

expenses, including tuition, travel, housing, food, and materials. Participants selected a workshop of their choice and engaged in intensive study Monday through Friday, with breaks for meals and personal work/leisure time. They lived on campus, met other artists and students, spent time in nature, and explored their creative practice in a supportive environment.

One participant described the experience as follows: “Feels like a dream come true...I miss having a studio space to walk to, meeting new people, pushing myself out of my comfort zone, getting out of the work/family/Providence routine...There was a clarity to being at Penland.”

SteelYard x NUA Metalsmith Residency

This year, ALAS introduced a new initiative with Crafting the Future and The Steel Yard. Eight BIPOC NUA alums participated in a four-day intensive Jewelry/Metals course over two weekends in August (August 5, 6, 12, and 13) at The Steel Yard in Providence, RI. This program, entirely for BIPOC participants, included instructors, teaching assistants, and NUA alumni. Participants completed personal projects in jewelry/small metals and built community through meals and social events. Saturday evenings featured additional community-building events, such as a Zine Making Workshop and dinner hangout at Binch Press, as well as an Alumni Reunion Event at NUA. All expenses, including instruction, materials, breakfasts, lunches, and Saturday dinners, were covered.

Youth Mentorship in the Arts

Youth Mentorship in the Arts is New Urban Arts’ 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. We employ five RAMs, part-time, permanent artist mentors in the most high-demand areas of our studio: painting/drawing, screen-printing, 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.

This year, NUA welcomed 12 Volunteer Artist Mentors and two Brown University Bonner Fellows into the studio to collaborate with our students. All YMA staff participated in a comprehensive Mentor Orientation at the start of the year, followed by ongoing Mentor Training sessions throughout the school year, which focused on NUA Core Practices and effective mentoring procedures for working with young people. In September, under the leadership of our new Studio Director Jeannie Castillo-Lapierre, alongside Dana Heng (Manager of Artist Mentors) and Sissy Rossó (Student Support Specialist), we kicked off the school year with both new and returning Resident Artist Mentors.

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

For many students, New Urban Arts (NUA) is the defining experience of their high school years, offering invaluable support from our dedicated staff and volunteers. In response to students’ needs, we launched the ALAS program in 2014 to formalize our post-secondary advising and support. The ALAS Coordinator helps high school students develop their post-secondary plans and partners with The College Planning Center of Rhode Island to offer services such as group presentations and workshops on financial aid and scholarships.

This year, ALAS has returned to serving pre-pandemic numbers, reaching 102 students, our largest number since the program’s inception, including 35 seniors. Additionally, ALAS engaged 15 alumni through various forms of communication, including email,

individual meetings, alumni scholarships, and panels.

Our new ALAS Coordinator, Teresa Conchas, has been instrumental in preparing seniors for their next steps. Over the fall, they coordinated four college visits from Bryn Mawr College, Duke University, University of Rochester, and Oberlin College (virtual). She also organized several College Kickoff workshops covering topics such as researching colleges, navigating the common application, time management, organizational strategies, and the common application essay.

Seniors collectively achieved acceptances to over 30 colleges and universities, including URI, RIC, CCRI, PC, RWU, JWU, Bryant, Brown, RISD, MassArt, Otis, Oberlin, Pratt, SAIC, Mount Holyoke, Smith, Bryn Mawr, Holy Cross, Northeastern, Wheaton, Stonehill, Emerson, UConn, Connecticut College, UHartford, UNew Haven, NYU, UMass Amherst, UMass Dartmouth, NC State, Boston U, Lesley, and Hofstra. Two students were accepted into the RISD Pre-College Program on full scholarships. With ALAS support, students also gained entry to various summer programs such as Brown Pre-College, Generation Teach, PrepareRI Internships, Steel Yard art camps, RISD Project Open Door, and Providence youth summer jobs.

The Not College Fair, hosted at Central High School for the second year, saw strong participation. This free, public event brought together 30 organizations and 250 students, families, and counselors to explore career pathways and job training programs that don't require a college degree. Students from over 25 different high schools across Rhode Island attended, with 80% being new to NUA programs.

Our partnership with Crafting the Future continues to flourish, offering two distinct programs for BIPOC students and alumni:

1. Full scholarships for two NUA BIPOC alumni to attend a two-week art residency at Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists' Residency in Saugatuck, Michigan.
2. The third annual Teen Takeover program at the Appalachian Center for Craft in Tennessee, where four NUA students and one NUA staff member spent a week studying glass, wood, jewelry, and textiles in a community of BIPOC students and teaching artists.

The Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB)

STAB is a group of students who cultivate NUA as a youth driven studio. STAB participants advise NUA's staff and board, represent the organization publicly, assist in student recruitment and orientation, as well as organize studio-wide events. STAB participates in all hiring decisions, including the selection of artist mentors.

Throughout the year, STAB members engaged in regular bi-weekly meetings where they onboarded new staff, organized community events, and advocated for student needs and interests. This year, STAB welcomed 7 new members, expanding to a total of 9 youth participants. Their efforts led to the successful coordination and execution of several community-building events, such as the Halloween Costume Contest, Artsgiving—the annual art-making and gift-giving staff holiday celebration, a Q&A session with community entrepreneur Yojaida Hereida (owner of Miss Naomi's Ice Cream), and the highly anticipated Measles Workshop—a musical chairs easel drawing contest. STAB members also orchestrated heartfelt farewell messages for outgoing Volunteer Artist Mentors and long-serving Executive Director, Dan Schleifer.

The MET Art Academy

This year, the NUA Studio continued its impactful collaboration with The MET School through the Studio Art Academy, providing MET interns with an enriching exploration of drawing, painting, and printmaking. Led by NUA Painting & Drawing Resident Artist Mentor (RAM) Sherly Torres and co-teacher Alexis Gordon, the program engaged 28 MET student interns in immersive classes held on Tuesdays and Thursdays across two cohorts (Fall and Spring), totaling 30 weeks of artistic development. Ian Cozzens, NUA RAM, facilitated engaging screen printing workshops at the NUA Studio, enhancing the students' learning experience.

Each cohort concluded with two vibrant exhibitions showcasing the students' progress and creativity. The fall cohort exhibited their work on January 25th, followed by the Spring cohort's exhibition on May 30th. These exhibitions not only celebrated the students' achievements but also highlighted their growth in artistic skills and understanding of art history.

Throughout the program, students explored various techniques, including charcoal drawing, acrylic painting, rubylith and block printing, and styrofoam printmaking. They also participated in plein air painting sessions at Prospect Terrace Park, the Lindemann Performing Arts Center at Brown University, and field trips to the RISD Art Museum, expanding their artistic horizons.

Gallery Exhibitions and Other Events

Our First Mentor Show Since 2019: "Sharing is Embarrassing"

New Urban Arts studio proudly hosted "Sharing is Embarrassing," our first staff and mentor art show since 2019. This year marked a significant milestone as we successfully fielded a full roster of volunteer artist mentors, culminating in a stunning exhibition. The studio was brimming with a diverse array of art forms, including paintings, drawings, ceramics, photographs, sculptures, and more. Attendees were also treated to performances by three exceptionally talented music mentors.

NUA Students Visit the Carrie Mae Weems Exhibit at Brown University

Our youth participated in an enriching field trip to Brown University to experience the Carrie Mae Weems: Varying Shades of Brown exhibit. This campus-wide project showcased remarkable installations and programs by the renowned artist Carrie Mae Weems. To prepare for the visit, NUA students engaged in a creative workshop facilitated by members of an Arts Education course at the Brown Arts Institute. Through playful and sensory movement exercises, they explored themes related to Weems' work, enhancing their overall experience. For many students, it was their first visit to Brown's campus, making it an exciting and memorable occasion.

Mid-Year Makings Exhibit

On February 16th, the studio proudly presented the Mid-Year Makings exhibit. Studio students showcased over fifty pieces of artwork to family, friends, and community members. Excluding students, staff, and volunteer artist mentors, a total of 70 participants attended this vibrant event.

New Urban Prints

In April, the printmaking conference SGC International came to Providence, and our Printmaking Resident Artist Mentor, Ian, organized a pop-up gallery show titled "New Urban Prints." This exhibition featured print-based works by NUA students, alumni, and current and former mentors and staff. Since 2004, NUA has maintained a silkscreen studio where adult mentors and teenagers collaborate to bring young people's creative visions to life through screenprinting.

Artay Party: Year-End Celebration

The final event of the year, the Artay Party Art Party in May, was a grand celebration of all the artwork created by students throughout the year. Nearly 150 attendees joined us in honoring the incredible talents of our young artists and their dedicated mentors.

School Vacation Week Programs and Other Special Initiatives

During the school vacation weeks in February and April, we hosted week-long, themed mini-programs, similar in some ways to our summer programs.

February Break Week Program

February Break Week provided a week long program for students to participate in. The theme for the week was "I Love Book;" students participated in art making workshops and field trips based on the art of books and book-making. During the week students visited the RISD Fleet Library, the John Hay Library at Brown University and Binch Press/Queer.Archive.Work where they met various guest

artists and experts. This was a 4 day program that was facilitated by 4 NUA staff members, and attended by 10 student participants

April Break Week Program

The theme of our April Break Week was “Threads for a Clerestory.” Students joined painter Sherly Torres and textile artist Filipa Estrela this April break to explore the world of textile art and how it can connect with nature through design. While providing discussion about public art, students collaborated on designing a nature-inspired installation using embroidery and sewing materials and equipment for the studio’s clerestory windows overlooking Westminster St.

(What’s a clerestory? kleh-REH-stor-EE. It’s a window above eye level meant to let in light and/or circulate air. We have 9 clerestory windows above the Stage and Zen Zone.)

Sidewalk Mural Project

Thanks to a grant from Providence’s Arts, Culture, and Tourism Department, volunteer mentor and alum, Elizabeth Jweinat (AKA Lizzy \$our) was able to spend April break instructing students on how to plan and execute public artworks. Together they devised and blocked out a mural for the sidewalk by the front entrance to NUA’s 705 Westminster St. studio. Student Robbie Sena then spent over 60 hours in the following weeks completing the mural! The mural was revealed at an end of the year celebration.

Student Enrollment and Attendance

This year, our studio programs continued to progress toward pre-pandemic enrollment and participation levels.

Annual	FY23-24	FY22-23	FY21-22 ¹	FY20-21 ²	FY19-20 ³	FY18-19
Total Registered Students	519	290	235	72	847	783
Students Attending Weekly	102	93	75	8	162	116
Students Attending 15+ Hours*	180	122	-	-	-	-
Students Attending 30+ Days / 45+ Hours*	100	68	51	9	95	128
CLC Students Attending 15+ Hours*	138	94	-	-	-	-
CLC Students Attending 30+ Days / 45+ Hours*	74	56	41	3	62	87
Average Daily Attendance (Oct.-May)	35	30	23	4	73	73
Total Visits (Including Summer)	5,209	3,966	4,476	802	9,181	14,286

*Beginning in 2022-23, federal reporting requirements for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant shifted, setting new benchmarks based on hours, rather than days, with a new 45-hour benchmark essentially taking the place of the previous 30-day benchmark.

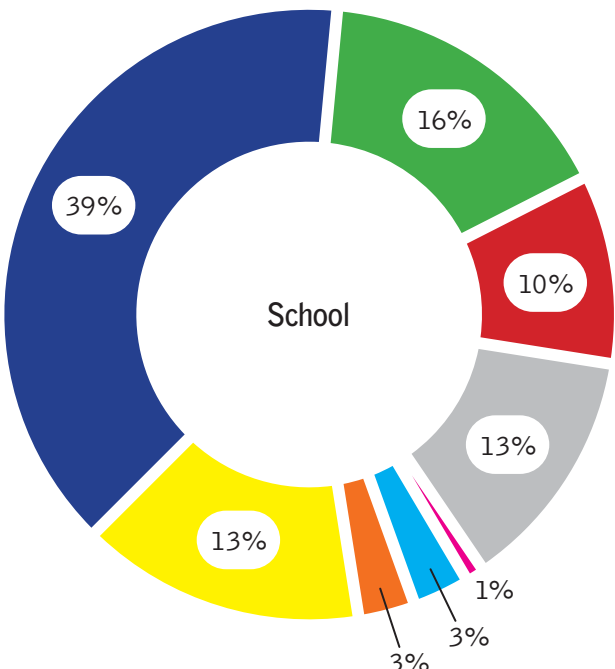
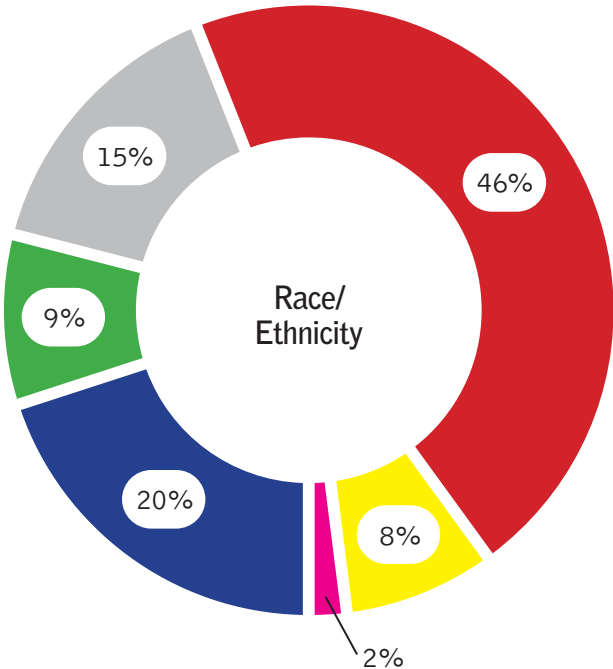
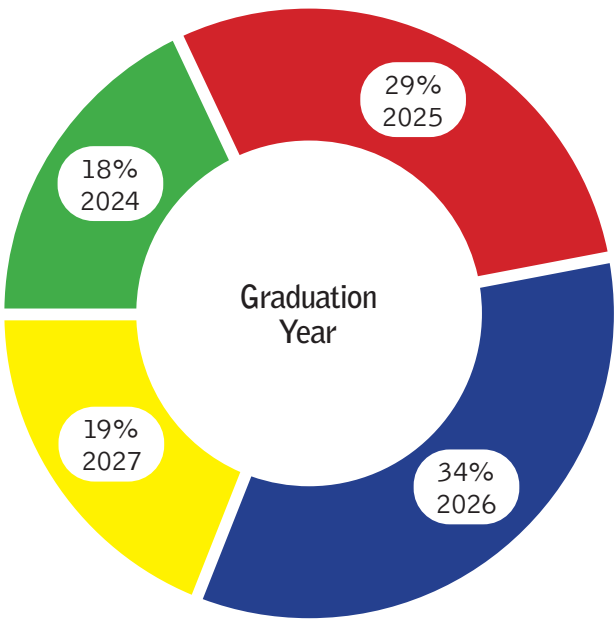
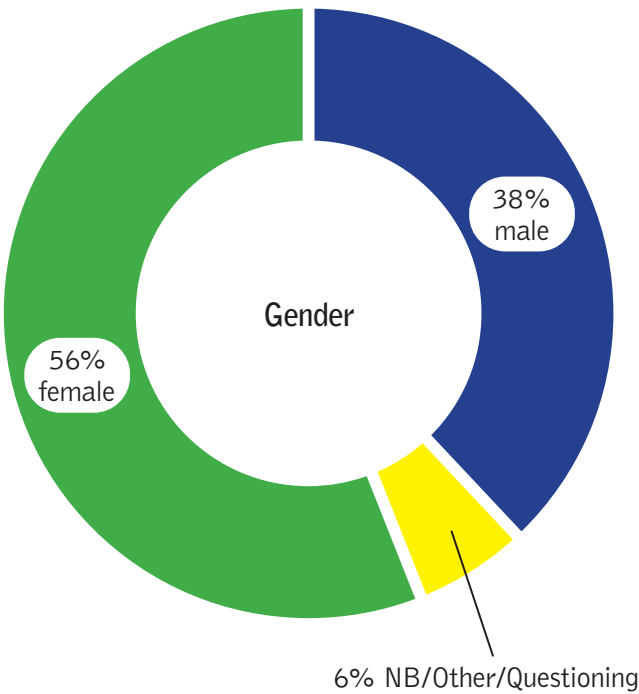
¹The 2021-22 school year began with strictures in place around enrollment and attendance to encourage stable groups among students.

²The 2020-21 school year was completely virtual.

³The 2019-20 school year was cut short due to the onset of the pandemic.

Student Demographics

We enrolled 519 students in New Urban Arts’ studio programs this year, with the following demographics:



- African American
- Asian American
- White
- Latino/Hispanic
- Multi-Racial/Multi-Ethnic
- Other
- Native American

- Classical
- Central
- The MET
- PCTA (Providence Career and Technical Academy)
- TAPA (Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts)
- Hope
- Mount Pleasant
- Other

- 89% qualified for free or reduced-price lunch. Of students who attended, on average, once or more per week, 91% qualified for free or reduced-price lunch. (For a family of four, an annual household income under \$55,500 per year qualifies the children for subsidized lunch.)
- 78% lived in census tracts in 02909, 02908, 02907, and 02905, where the poverty rate for families with children is 22.65%, nearing twice the US average.
- 37% of students spoke a language other than English at home.
- 48% of our students identified as LGBTQ. Of students who participated once or more per week 49% identified as LGBTQ (LGBTQ students typically comprise only 4-10% of a high school's population.)
- For 79% of students, this was their first year at New Urban Arts.

End of Year Student Survey Results

Our year-end survey is administered through Survey Monkey. The survey was emailed to students in the last onth of programming, and a computer with the survey was set up in the studio.

Student Survey Responses	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Number of students completing the survey (percentage of enrolled students)	68 (13%)	50 (17%)	50 (21%)	17 (24%)	22 (2%)	19 (2%)

Percentage of students who reported agreeing or strongly agreeing with the following statements:

I am more open to trying new things.	100%	96%	92%	88%	100%	100%
I have developed more confidence.	94%	94%	90%	88%	95%	100%
I have developed a way of creating that expresses who I am.	96%	94%	90%	94%	95%	100%
I have built strong, trusting relationships with my peers and adults.	97%	94%	90%	94%	95%	95%
I have improved as an artist.	93%	86%	86%	76%	91%	89%
I have developed a better idea of what I want to do in the future.	93%	84%	72%	76%	90%	74%
At New Urban Arts, I feel safe and supported.	97%	100%	96%	100%	98%	100%
Overall, I rate New Urban Arts' programs outstanding.	78%	76%	84%	76%	86%	84%
I would recommend New Urban Arts to a friend.*	97%	94%	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 loved working with an artist mentor this year. My person was Jess, she's a music mentor here at NUA. She embraced her role as a mentor, and I really learned so much from her. She's a great person to be around, and she's always opening up my mind to new things. My experience at NUA wouldn't be the same if not for Jess teaching me things, or helping me with things, or just being around in general."
- "YES VERY HELPFUL AND KIND"
- "Yes, having a second opinion about my art helps correct my mistakes and makes the outcome better."
- "I love working with an artist mentor because I was able to see and learn new things from them."
- "Yes, because it makes trying new things easier when you have someone to guide you."
- "Yes, because it allows me to be educated by someone who I feel comfortable with."
- "Yes - this year, I can think of a few mentors I particularly enjoyed working with. Teresa was so helpful all throughout my college applications, Dean always made the study a fun and safe space,

and Dana has helped so much with making complicated events simpler and bridging gaps in communication."

- "Yes, because they typically help and make a difference in my work. I also enjoy talking and spending time with them."
- "Yes, it's an opportunity to bond with people who I can learn from."
- "I enjoy working with an artist mentor because I can learn from their years of experience and try new things I have never tried. I also enjoy getting to know them as they are very interesting to talk to."

In the following graphic, the larger the word, the more frequently students used it in responding to the question, "What does New Urban Arts mean to you?"



The following are responses to the question, "What does New Urban Arts mean to you?"

- "New Urban Arts means a lot to me because they helped me become a better artist."
- "New Urban Arts is a place where I took my first step into my future interest with clothing making. This means a lot because I now know all I need is a couple utensils just to express my art in many ways."
- "NUA is a place where everyone can be themselves and have opportunities to do what they love, and have fun with others."
- "NUA is a place where I can create art for free, build relationships with mentors, and connect with peers."
- "It's a place where I can go hang out with my friends and express and be myself."
- "Being able to experiment and engage in creative processes while also getting to know a variety of people."
- "Having NUA means that there is an outlet out there where I can express myself."
- "New Urban Arts is a safe place where I can creatively express myself, my emotions, and my struggles through art and support from others around me."
- "NUA is a place where I can be myself, make new friends, and just feel stress-free and less judged."
- "New Urban Arts to me is an amazing space where creativity flows and I am able to feel excited about creating, inspired, and proud of my work."

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).

NUA Knights Summer Programs

Over the summer of 2023, 34 students participated in four in-person programs. They included Music Performance with Roger Giannini who has been a long time program provider with NUA Knights who also leads our music programs after school, DORCAS International youth group with staff from DORCAS to continue our partnership and support for newly arrived and refugee youth from the school year, eSports with Coach/teacher Daniel Lyttle, and a highly requested Tennis Camp with Melissa Cimini. These programs ran for varying lengths of time in July and August.

Youth in the Music Performance were able to spend time not only learning how to play an instrument but also writing their own songs and were even able to record them over at the NUA studio! Newly arrived and refugee youth enrolled in our DORCAS program spent time building community, making art, being outdoors playing sports/games, practicing their MLL skills and going on field trips within the community which families were invited to attend. eSports after finishing up its first full year at Central our championship team spent the summer practicing, getting new members acclimated and building community as a team. And Tennis Camp, open to any and all Central students regardless of experience, practiced their tennis skills, learned the rules of the game, and practiced competing in matches all while being outdoors and staying active.

Academic Year Programs

During the school year we had 9 programs led by Central staff and teachers, including Music Club, Weight Fitness and Training, Chess Club, Book Club, eSports, Digital Media, Printshop & Tshirt Design and Fashion & Design Club and Student Community Engagement. We also had 6 programs led by community partners including DORCAS International Youth Group, Cooking Club, Sewing, Music Production, Art Club, and Beat Making, as well as Hanging with NUA Knights run by us of course! That totals 15 programs for the school year with 17 program providers!

We launched 6 new programs 2 led by a Central teacher and 4 led by community partners as well as welcoming new staff to support existing programs.

Music Club

In the Spring we welcomed Isaiah Fayerweather, a NUA Alumni, to support the music club! We are excited to have Isaiah's performance and music production expertise on board.

Beat Making

Speaking of music production! We were very fortunate to partner with Music and Youth who gave us funding to purchase three mobile beat making stations. With these stations youth are able to create their own beats, record music from a live instrument or voice for their track and produce songs from start to finish. We brought Benjamin Salinas over from the NUA Studio, where he served as a Volunteer Artist Mentor, to work with youth to make their own beats!

Digital Media

Maria Fontes, one of Central's incredible art teachers, launched a Digital Media Club focusing on all things Adobe! Youth created fliers, logos and edited photos for the school's sports teams and clubs during their time in the program.

Student Community Engagement

Social Studies teacher and RI Civics Teacher of the Year, Shannon Gormley, launched Student Community Engagement this year for youth from all grade levels to make positive changes within the Central Community. This year they planned the first ever district wide Mental Health Fair with over 50 vendors along with spreading positivity throughout Central.

Sewing/Fashion and Design

We were so lucky to meet Alexis Gordon through their work with our MET Program at the studio and bring them over in the afternoons to support our very popular Fashion and Design club as well as add on a specific sewing focused day.

We rolled Winter programs right into Spring with some highlights being our Fashion and Design Club planning a Fashion Show “One Knight in the City” a streetwear collection where students modeled, upcycled thrifted clothing, and even some of their own original designs. Following the show we had an open market where youth from both Central and NUA tabled to sell the clothes they had made, painting, jewelry, and even the best cookies you’ll ever have!

Art Club

Central/NUA Alumni as well as NUA Studio RAM, Sherly Torres launched Art Club this year at Central meeting weekly to create and explore different types of art. Youth this year worked on painting, embroidery, drawing, clay and so much more!

Break Week Programs

Over February break, NUA Knights teamed up with the Central High School Guidance Department to provide a week-long College Explorations program. We toured 3 colleges: University of Rhode Island, Providence College, and Rhode Island College as well as exploring the dynamics of picking the right college.

For April break, NUA Knights continued to build on our partnership 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, conservation and green infrastructure while designing, building and painting birdhouses.

Other Programs and Events

In its second year, our eSports team had another **hugely** successful season bringing home one first place title in Rocket League and the second place title in League of Legends at the 2023/24 RI Interscholastic League Championships. Additionally, three of our eSports youth qualified for the All-State eSports League in RI!

We had a fantastic time wrapping up the year. We supported Book Club, run by English teacher Ursula Jackson and newly retired Librarian Karen McHenry (don’t worry she’s coming back for another year of Book Club!), in their planning and presentation of a beautiful Arts and Culture Knight. This event celebrated the wide variety of cultures represented by youth and staff with musical, dance, and poetry performances as well as a huge and delicious potluck. This was the first time we had one of our Heroes of the Knights (our leadership group) students do an Instagram takeover and post our story during the event which was super successful and so fun!

This year, we said goodbye to 60 seniors enrolled in NUA Knights programs. We had a wonderful time celebrating them at the end of the year, getting to see them all dressed up at prom and help at graduation, where all NUA Knights seniors get a NUA signature orange colored chord. We can’t wait to see all the amazing things they accomplish next and welcome a new cohort of Freshmen come September!

Student Enrollment and Attendance

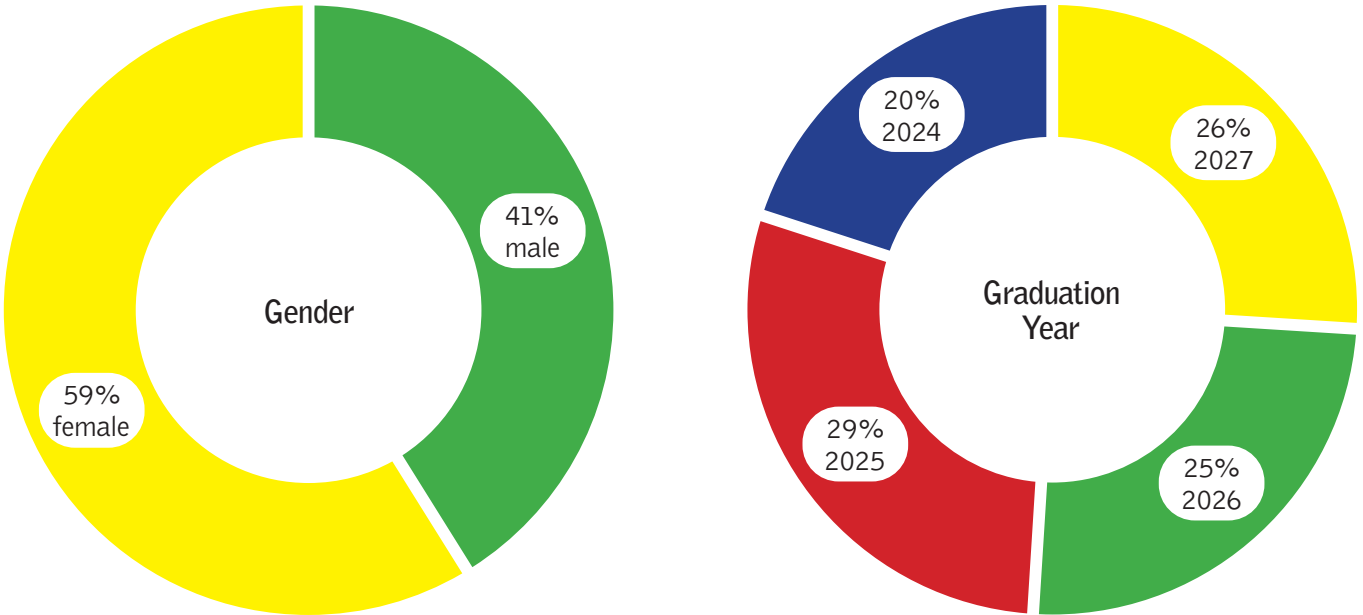
NUA Knights continued to focus on increasing our presence and enrollment in Central since coming back from the pandemic and our recent transition of staff members. We moved to a new data metric, per our 21st CCLC grant, of students attending 15+ and 45+ hours to track consistent engagement (formerly 30+ and 60+ days).

Annual	FY23-24	FY22-23	FY21-22	FY20-21	FY19-20	FY18-19
Total Registered Students	307	300	250	237	466	626
Students Attending Weekly	97	101	56.6	55	92	216.8
Students attending 15+ Hours* (cumulative)	130	97	29	23	92	150
Students attending 45+ Hours* (cumulative)	53	17	6	2	91	150
Average Daily Attendance	26	27	14	15	44	51
Total Students Visited (including summer)	307	299	248	322	489	655
Total Visits	4,048	4,169	3,507	2,933	8,486	13,014

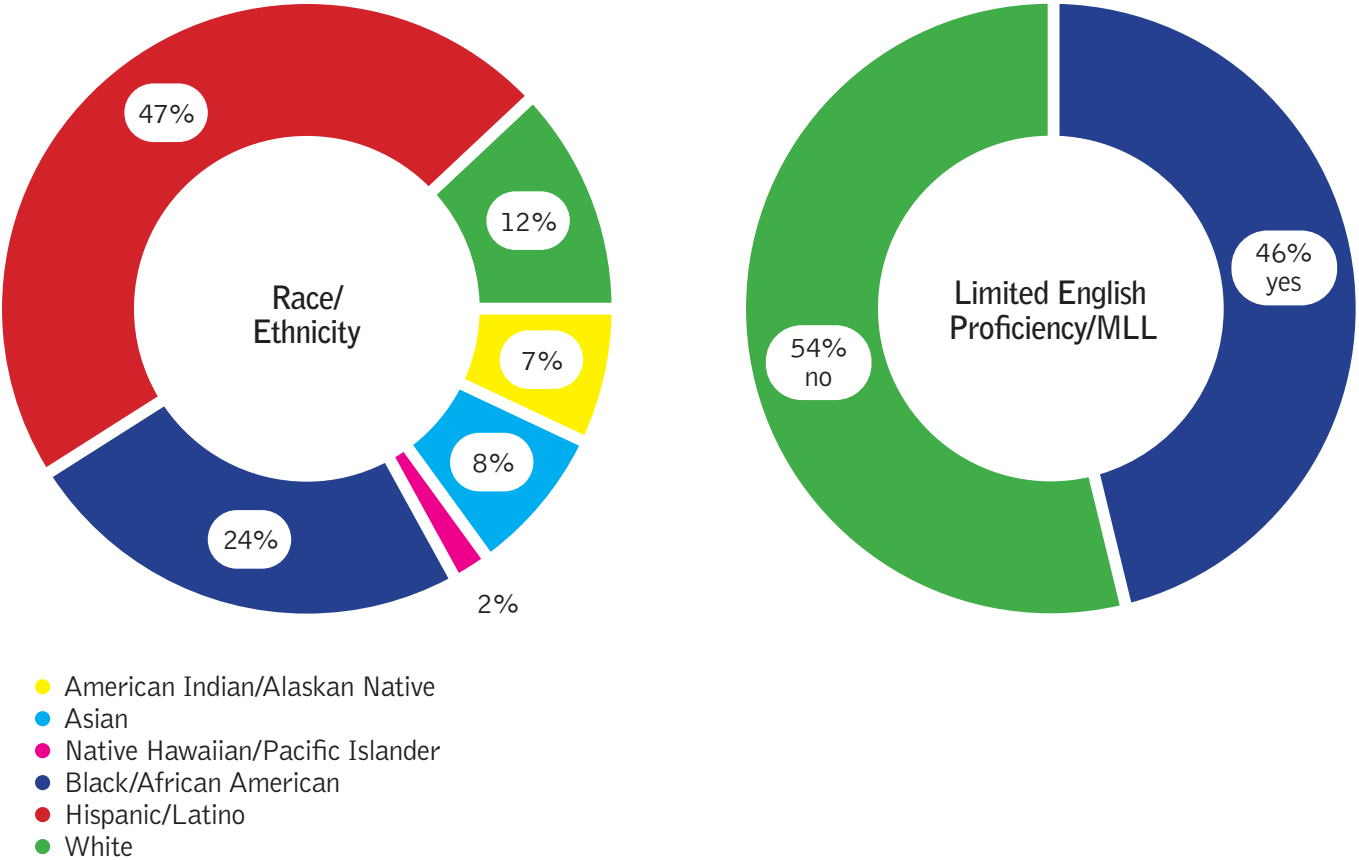
*Before 2022-23, 21st CCLC calculated these benchmarks at 30+ and 60+ days of attendance respectively.

Student Demographics

NUA Knights enrolled 307 students, 99.6% of whom receive free or reduced price lunch, with the following demographics:



Note: NUA Knights staff respects the identities of all Central High School students, but for tracking purposes, must use a Rhode Island Dept. of Education system which includes only two genders.

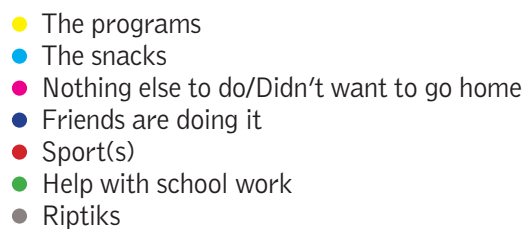


End of Year Student Survey Results

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 English and Spanish.

Student Survey Responses	2024	2023	2022*	2019	2018
Number of students who completed the survey (percentage of enrolled students)	42 (14%)	18 (6%)	18 (7%)	39 (6%)	49 (7%)
Percentage of students who selected "Always" as their responses to the following prompts:					
At NUA Knights, I feel safe.	90%	91%	83%	79%	80%
At NUA Knights, I feel supported.	90%	81%	72%	74%	82%
At NUA Knights, I feel inspired.	88%	86%	72%	64%	71%
At NUA Knights, I feel valued.	88%	91%	72%	72%	71%
At NUA Knights, I feel cared for.	90%	91%	89%	74%	78%
At NUA Knights, I have fun.	88%	91%	72%	74%	82%
At NUA Knights, I have more confidence.	83%	91%	96%	-	-
At NUA Knights, I have built strong, trusting relationships with my peers & adults.	85%	86%	83%	-	-
I would recommend NUA Knights to a friend.	100%	100%	-	-	-

*Due to pandemic-related challenges, the survey was not conducted in 2020 and 2021.



A word cloud shaped like a stylized letter 'K'. The words are arranged to form the shape, with 'roanny' being the largest word in the center. Other prominent words include 'community', 'entertaining', 'fun', 'happy', 'amazing', 'creative', 'friendly', 'engaging', 'helpful', 'love', 'chill', 'cool', 'colorful', 'draw', 'drawn', 'talent', 'inspiration', 'hard-working', 'positive', 'happiness', 'wonderful', 'friendly', 'engagement', 'representation', 'creativity', 'knowledgeable', 'good', 'kind', 'snack', 'confidence', 'snacks', 'useful', 'caring', 'drawing', 'cool', 'chill', 'nice', 'interesting', 'passion', 'safe', 'socialize', 'people', 'cooking', 'trust', 'care', 'welcoming', 'family', 'relationships', 'slay', 'art', 'depressable', 'opportunities', 'artist', 'fashion', 'inspirational', 'depressable', 'opportunities', 'artist', 'fashion'. The words are in various colors including orange, yellow, and red.

A few student quotes from the survey

- "I think that NUA is a good after school program because it has a lot of teachers that care about you and it opens you up into a lot of new opportunities"
- "I stayed at Central because of the relationships I built at NUA Knights"
- "I learned new skills and had fun being with friends and making new ones"
- "NUA Knights let me be myself"
- "I was exposed to a lot of art that I hadn't seen before"
- "I think every school needs a NUA Knights so everyone can have programs like this"
- "NUA Knights helped me learn english through cooking club recipes"