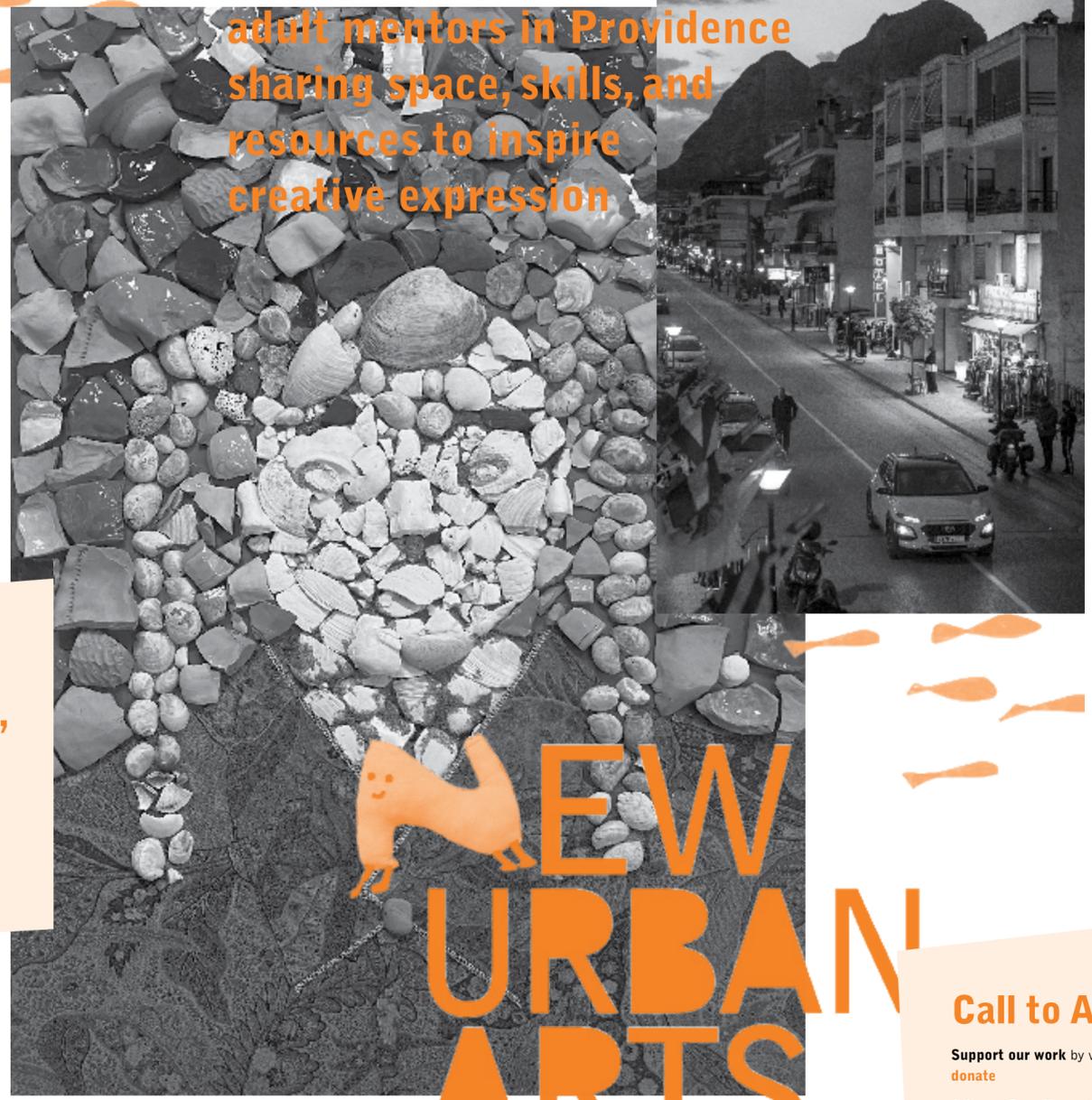


2025 Annual Campaign

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Kara Theriault
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Volta Tran
Connie Worthington and Terry Tullis in honor of Myrth York
Rachel Turner ♥</p> |
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Join our mailing list by emailing info@newurbanarts.org
Sign up for e-news at <http://bit.ly/NUAe-news>

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



Thanks to everyone who gave their time, money, and energy to New Urban Arts this year!

- | | |
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| <p>Torin Richards
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Bryan Rinebolt
Joe Roch
Clay Rockefeller and Manya Rubinstein
Andrea Rojas
Michael Rose
Susan and Howard Rotblat-Walker
Kathleen Roth and Julia Gualtieri ♥
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Melissa Wunsch
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Hannah Zoll
Jack Zornado ✂</p> |
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What's Next

Valentine's DIY Feb 7th Remember those grade school days making Valentine's cards, cutting out hearts, and writing sweet notes? This February, we're opening up the studio and inviting people of all ages to come make their own valentines. It's free and drop-in style, with all the supplies provided.

Mid-Year Makings Feb 27th Join us for the first student show of the academic year! This show invites our students to exhibit any projects they've finished during the fall, as well as any works in progress. Witness brainstorming, beginnings, and the bloomings of Mid-Year Makings. What are you in the middle of?

Not College Fair March 27th Hosted across the street at Central High School's gymnasium, the Not College Fair typically features over 30 exhibitors offering insight and opportunities surrounding career paths that do NOT require a college degree. Students will find internships, apprenticeships, summer opportunities, trainings, and more! Any high school

student (and their parents) are encouraged to come, you do not need to be enrolled in NUA programs. Stay tuned for more information about this year's offerings.

Birthday Bash May 1st This year, we're celebrating NUA's 29th birthday! Join us on May 1 for our annual Birthday Bash, a big party and fundraiser that brings together our community for a night full of art, music, food, and fun. There's also a silent auction and a chance to support the creative youth at the heart of our work.

Art Party May 29th Our final student art exhibition of the year, the Art Party (to be named by students when the time comes) also functions as our end of the year celebration. There will be snacks, live performances, and all the art students have been working on at NUA throughout the year. The Art Party is also the release party for FLIP, our annual student zine. Last year's FLIP was the biggest and most colorful ever, so be sure to come by to see how FLIP volume 20 turns out!

Call to Action

Support our work by visiting: newurbanarts.org/donate

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New Urban Arts 2025 Annual Campaign began on July 1, 2024 and concluded on June 30, 2025. If you find any errors or omissions, we apologize and ask that you please notify yajaira@newurbanarts.org.

PUBLICATION LAYOUT by Jane Androski ♥ + Dean Sudarsky ★



Additional thanks to: Carter Charitable Trust Funds, Juanita Sanchez Community Fund, The June Rockwell Levy Collection, Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, The Minerva Foundation, Providence Shelter for Colored Children.

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ABOVE: Stone collage portrait by Bel H., photo by Briar G., plush N (named Nuey!) by Stella, and background fishes by Jis W.



Dear Friends,

This time last year, I was asked to write the ED letter for the Annual Newsletter. Days into my new role, with no experience of the studio beyond my initial impressions, I shared what I know to be true about the value of empowering young people and fostering spaces filled with curiosity, creativity, and community. Over the past year, I have had the honor of witnessing those truths in action. I've watched new students walk in shy and uncertain and expand in confidence with the power of their creativity. I saw guarded kids become comfortable, wonderfully sarcastic teens become softened (for a moment or two), and outgoing students draw quieter friends into projects and conversation. I listened to insightful questions from our Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB) as they interviewed candidates for the Administrative Coordinator position. I felt the relief of students popping into the NUA Knights' office at Central for a quick breath and a short vent before being encouraged back to class. I saw RAMs deepen into their roles and support VAMs as they found their groove with the students. I watched program staff grow their capacity to support students through outsized challenges. In a studio filled with tears, I felt the profound gratitude of NUA's seniors, who had achieved opportunities beyond their expectations with the support provided through our A Life After School Program. I walked through student exhibitions, unable to find a face that wasn't overflowing with pride.

I have experienced a year of witnessing an overwhelming amount of love in action. On occasion, it has been a little disorienting to be immersed daily in a community filled with purpose and driven by crystal-clear values, while those in power do their best to pull the loose threads of our democracy to see how much they can unravel. NUA has faced terminated grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and has had congressionally directed community project funding eliminated. We have spent valuable staff time creating new safety plans, building contingency budgets, and rushing to obtain grant reimbursements ahead of the next round of Executive Orders and lawsuits.

As I write this, the Rhode Island out-of-school time community is being rocked by the uncertainty around Title 1 Funds, including the 21st Century Community Learning Center grants, which NUA has received since 2007. These funds help us meet the needs of students and families with the skill, care, and attention they expect from us. At this moment, we are uncertain whether the funds will be released in time for programs this fall or if new federal requirements would demand that we violate our values. Whether the funds come through or not, the goal of these manufactured crises is accomplished through the infuriating waste of time spent figuring out what to do when

To everyone who gave their time, money, and energy to New Urban Arts this year thank you.

This was a year of momentum. We welcomed new leadership, expanded programming, built new partnerships, and kept our doors open longer than ever before. Students organized a Know Your Rights Conference, produced zines, painted murals across the city, explored college and career paths, and turned the studio into a space for reflection, growth, and joy.

As one student shared, New Urban Arts is "a place that allowed me to step out of my comfort zone, and pursue my hobbies and interests in ways I would have never thought about if not for NUA." Your support makes these kinds of experiences possible.

You helped us grow intentionally and stay rooted in our values. It allowed us to respond to students' ideas in real time, invest in new staff and alumni leaders, and keep our programming free and deeply collaborative.

We know that real impact happens when communities work together and this work is no exception. Thank you for being in this with us.

With deep gratitude,



Yajaira Reyes, Director of Development

a grant is pulled or the rules change without warning. Each of these actions requires consulting with lawyers, looking at grant language, or rebuilding a budget. Ultimately, this results in a loss for our students as valuable time and resources are wasted on delays, halted progress, and navigating the impact of fear and uncertainty.

New Urban Arts is far from alone in this, and I can't help but look beyond our own programs and consider how abrupt losses at this scale will impact our city's youth and families. Providence isn't short on organizations full of people devoted to our youth, and I spent this past year connecting with our community of folks at art, music, and youth development spaces across the city. NUA partnered with The Avenue Concept on the Ripples Project. This citywide public art initiative introduced 15 of our students to public art, including seven from the NUA Mural Team and eight from the NUA

Knights program. We shared this opportunity with four other youth-serving organizations in Providence, expanding access and participation to an additional 45 young people. With support from Providence Public Schools, we hosted field trips to the studio, introducing eighth graders to NUA and allowing them to meet the staff, create art, and learn how to find us in the fall. We took part in Providence's inaugural GRID Summit at Brown University,

a one-day creativity conference centered on art, community, and student voice, which connected students with creative professionals through workshops, talks, and interactive activities. The Providence Student Union organized a "Know Your Rights" Conference, and NUA supported it with a printmaking workshop. Studio staff supported student participation in RISD's Unbound Art Book Fair this spring, and NUA students performed and exhibited at Burnside Park as part of PVDfest last fall. I'm always looking to develop healthy, capacity-building collaborations, and I'm grateful for the opportunities these partnerships provided for our students.

As those in power seem determined to make us so focused on saving ourselves that we forget we're here to save each other, collective action for a clear vision is non-negotiable. The months and years to come will require courage, resilient solidarity, supportive spaces to rest and recharge, curiosity, new ideas, and an overwhelming amount of love in action. And that, my friends, is what makes me confident that NUA will meet this moment. We have our work cut out for us to be sure, but this is what NUA's values and a steady creative practice prepare us for.



I am looking forward to protecting spaces where our youth can grab the unraveled threads of systems that no longer serve us and weave something better than we've thought to imagine.

With Love and Solidarity,



Jannelle Codianni, Executive Director



97% of students say they have felt supported at NUA

2024-25 Highlights

JULY 2024 We started off our fiscal year with big new transitions! Jannelle Codianni took the helm as Executive Director, while Yajaira, formerly our Finance and Operations Director took on the role of Development Director. Working with Yajaira as the Development Associate was alum and former Student Support Specialist, Sissy. This month involved a lot of getting to know community members, learning from staff, and delving into NUA's inner workings

On the programs side, we launched our three studio summer programs (College Explorations, Art Inquiry: Art in Nature, and the STAB Leadership Program), four NUA Knights summer programs (The Floating Wetlands Project, Fiber Arts, Music production, and Photography), and two programs in collaboration with Crafting the Future (a 2-week art residency for two alumni at Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists' Residency, located in Saugatuck, Michigan, and the Teen Takeover at the Appalachian Center for Craft for four NUA students and one staff member).

August 2024 As we wrapped up summer in the studio, NUA did a lot of showing off: Senator Jack Reed came in for a visit to learn more about what makes NUA different from other afterschool centers; Jannelle and Yajaira hosted an event with key stakeholders and community partners (with snacks) to get to meet them and learn more about what makes them invested in NUA; we also officially said our last goodbyes to former ED, Dan Schleifer, with a farewell party at the studio followed by an afterparty down the street at Kimi's. (Don't worry, we still see Dan here and there as he pops in to help us with our books while he makes his way through accounting school. Thanks Dan!)

September 2024 Staff members got ready early this year—for the first time ever we began studio programs at the end of September. Last year we also expanded the end of programs to go through May, meaning we were open for more days than ever before.

Before starting for the year, NUA had two events.

Open Studio Community Kickoff: before the students roll in, we invited community members of all ages to come in, hang out, make stuff, tour the space, meet new staff, and make friends. Come join us again next year!

Summer Art Show: students from our studio summer programs showed off what they had been thinking about and making, including identity maps, utopian colleges, and cement sculptures to support plant life in the pollinator garden across the street at All Saints' Memorial Church. Our first student art show of the year!

October 2024 Preparation for college admissions started for our students and ALAS Manager, Teresa. They invited admissions counselors from nearby colleges and universities (including art schools!) to present info sessions at NUA, as well as hosted workshops on admissions and financial aid, beginning in October and going through the rest of the admissions season.

During school time, the MET Art Academy program began its fourth semester under instruction from RAM Sherly Torres with help in the screen-printing unit from RAM Ian Cozzens. Art students from Emily Burke's class across the street at Classical High School started coming over to make use of our dark room for their photography unit in a collaboration that began last year. Both of these initiatives grew out of efforts to get more use out of our space and materials during the morning when our regular programs aren't running.



November 2024 In the studio, we hosted our annual Artsgiving Event. A combination Secret Santa, Supermarket Sweep, and timed art challenge, students and mentors are assigned another artist at random to make a gift for using only items found in the studio in under two hours. This tradition has been going back years and is a great way for students to get to know each other, put their skills to the test, and walk away with a one-of-a-kind Thanksgiving gift.

"Tell Me More" Mentor and Staff Art Show: in a follow up to last year's show, "Sharing is Embarrassing," we kicked off the month encouraging our staff and mentors to tell us more, an echo of a frequent refrain we hear from mentors in the studio. With one of our biggest years ever for volunteer mentor signups, this was an amazing showcase of our creative community. After the show, students formed a crit group with mentors EXYL, Cristiane, and Studio Advocate, Nell, walking around the exhibition and learning how to critique works of art.

December 2024 Our Development Associate, former mentor, and alum of the program, Sissy Rossó parted ways with NUA for a second time since being a student. Rather than go off to college, this time Sissy left for New York to participate in Google's D&AD Shift, a program for young professionals in design and marketing, at the recommendation of another alum and former staff member, Jobanny Cabrera. In no time at all, she was involved in all kinds of cool projects, like collaborating to design shirts for the Boston Celtics. We miss you Sissy!

The Ripples Project

In January our partnership with The Avenue Concept began. The Ripples Project is a collaboration between TAC, the mayor's office, the City of Providence, and the Art Culture + Tourism board to have students from different schools and organizations around town paint 50 utility boxes across Providence to leave their mark on our city. NUA students started planning to decorate 10 of them in different programs before going to The Avenue Concept in March to learn mural painting techniques, and ultimately executing their designs in April and painting a total of 15 boxes. Other boxes were painted by students from Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, Youth Pride Inc., Providence Student Union, and Down City Design. This opportunity gives students the chance to work with established muralists to become the next generation of public artists in Providence and wherever else they may spread their wings. Take a look at our boxes at the corners of Atwells & Valley and Friendship & Franklin, and see if you can find seven others around the city.

January 2025 After coming back from winter break, staff again took time to meet, prepare the space, reflect on the first half of the year, and set intentions for the next. RAMs Filipa and Ian, along with Manager of Artist Mentors, Dana, took a workshop in basic garment pattern drafting from former volunteer mentor and local artist, Carmel Dundon.

February 2025 February was a busy month in the studio for closing out projects, starting new ones, and celebrating the process. The MET Art Academy program concluded with an exhibition featuring 14 student interns who demonstrated what they had learned in each of several foundational art mediums, led by Sherly. Over February break, 12 students participated in the one-week intensive program "Chasing the Bag," where mentors Teresa and Filipa visited the RISD Museum to check out textiles and then got to work creating and embellishing their own bags, with support from Filipa and Teresa.



2/1 DIY Valentine's Craft at NUA: We invited everyone to shake off the cold and snow from the last stretch of winter, come on into the studio, and get ready for Valentine's Day by making cards with our supplies just like you used to in school. Community members came together to cut hearts, collage, and block print special gifts for their loved ones and hang out. We'll be hosting this event real soon on February 7th! For more information, check out page 1.

With STAB's help, we hired two new staff members: Gabrielle Tavares, who has a long history with NUA as a student, mentor, and served in a temporary staffing capacity, rejoined us as our Administrative Coordinator. She is a diasporic Cape Verdean poet and essayist, whose creative work explores themes of femininity, grief, memory, colonialism, and the complexities of identity and belonging. We also welcomed a new face in the NUA community, Salena Deane, as our Development Associate. She's no stranger to our local arts communities, though: when she's not making thank you calls or running reports, Salena can be found sharing her poems at local open mics, pouring protein shakes behind the bar of local nutrition clubs, or facilitating real human connections as a host of Skip the Small Talk events. Welcome (back) Gabby and Salena!

Midyear Makings: We closed out the month with our annual student showcase, Mid-Year Makings, the first chance of the year (or ever!) for many of our students to participate in a gallery exhibition. For different people, the creative process can either be long and slow-moving or short and ever-changing, sometimes both. Mid-Year Makings gives our students the opportunity to display their works in progress and see them in a new context, or to show off the pieces they've already finished, celebrate them, and move on to the next project. We'll host this year's on February 27th!

March 2025 With the spring weather came the beginning of some cool new ideas in the studio. Jess, our music RAM, started Scream Club every Wednesday for students who want to blow off some steam or practice... *unconventional* vocal techniques. A few students accompanied some mentors on a walking tour of some of downtown's newest exhibitions for Gallery Night (pictured above). For

ABOVE: Stuffed plushies by Pax T. and a painted mask by Luis T.

ABOVE: Axel P. & Bel H. enjoy a bit of cultured leisure during Gallery Night

Know Your Rights Conference

As news traveled about increased deportations in community spaces like schools and churches, students started to worry for their safety. In response, two of our student leaders and STAB members, **Nashla and Emi**, decided to help arm our community with knowledge and solidarity. They partnered with **Providence Student Union** to host the Know Your Rights Conference at NUA. The conference featured roundtable discussions, where student attendees could voice their concerns and make connections, workshops from **ARISE**, the **Center for Justice**, and **OurschoolsPVD**, and offered brunch, early dinner, and \$50 gift certificates for the first 50 attendees to show up. Of course, no event hosted at NUA is complete without a touch of printmaking, and conference attendees learned about the role of screenprinting in the history of organizing and got a hands-on chance to try it themselves. NUA's best plans usually come from our students, and we're grateful to Nashla, Emi, and PSU for bringing us all together to build a stronger community and keep each other safe.

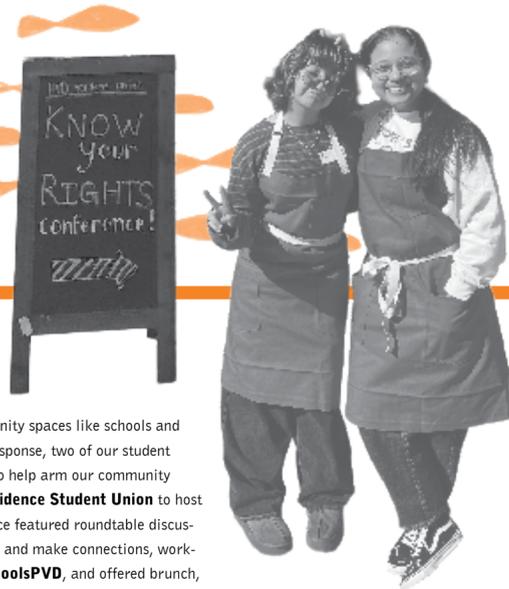
many of these students, it was their first time looking at professional artwork in a curated gallery space. Finally, our Studio Advocate, Nell, started Define Self, a 5-week workshop for students to use their creativity to explore personal themes like identity and personal growth. Nell is an LMHC candidate with a focus in Art Therapy from Lesley University, who mentored at NUA four times a week last year.

The Not College Fair: The Not College Fair is NUA's annual "job" fair where students can explore opportunities that do not require a college degree. In addition to learning about different career paths, they get access to internships, summer jobs, apprenticeships, and other training programs. Before the pandemic, this event was hosted in our studio with a handful of exhibitors and the normal flow of students in our space. For the last three years, we've partnered with Central High School to host the Not College Fair in their gym and expand it to a much wider audience: this year, ALAS Manager Teresa organized over 30 different exhibitors for more than 200 attendees. Students attended from 20 high schools across Rhode Island, and 85% of attendants had not previously been to NUA programs.

April 2025 The organization was involved in a lot of community partnerships and collaborations this month. We kicked off April participating in 401Gives, a state-wide day of giving where we encouraged Rhode Islanders to support free afterschool programs for youth by giving to NUA and our other partners and neighbors. With your help, we raised \$8,500! While we got the aforementioned Ripples Project off the ground and into the painting stage, staff members Dana and Teresa and Xiao hosted the NUA table at RISD Unbound, their yearly art book fair.

Speaking of accolades, across the street, Central High School's cheerleading team, supported by NUA Knights, got shouted out in the ProJo for their awesome performance: Eric Rueb writes, "I know West Warwick won the Cheerleading State Championship, but the gold standard for cheer this winter was at Central High School. I saw the Knights' boys basketball team play a few times and the cheerleaders who performed were doing it at a different level than everyone else in the state. The energy was infectious, the volume filled RIC and the Ryan Center and they did it with style. It might not be what wins competitions, but Central cheer is a state champ as far as I'm concerned."

Finally, NUA students participated in Sonic Quilt over April Break. This week-long intensive combined storytelling and sound recording, resulting in original audio



pieces you can listen to. Check them out by scanning the QR code right below!



NUA Birthday Bash + Silent Art Auction:

We hosted our 28th birthday celebration in the studio, themed "Made In Providence," to celebrate the only city we could have come from. In addition to bidding on amazing art donations from local artists and community members, party-goers sampled some of Providence's best food and drinks, hit up the photo booth (coincidentally run by NUA alumni!), and marked up our map of the city with their favorite spots. We also recognized several community members for their hard work and dedication: volunteer mentor Tina Tryforos won the Sandra Olson Award, ALAS Manager Teresa Conchas and former Development Associate and alum, Sissy Rossó were both awarded Carole Harman Awards, and the Founders' Award was given to our neighbor down the street, Providence Student Union. Congratulations to all, and thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate our birthday!

May 2025 Before the end of the year, we hosted the Careers in the Arts panel and an Entrepreneurship talk, with our own Operations Coordinator and independent fashion designer, Kevin. Along with the Not College Fair, these events address a growing demand among our students to learn more about the financial realities of being an artist and selling your own work.

The week before programs concluded we had our annual Senior Sendoff and Mentor Appreciation ceremony. One by one, our graduating seniors are called up to the stage so a mentor can talk a little bit about their journey and send them off with a few gifts from NUA to help them keep creativity in their lives. Afterward, various students call the mentors up to the stage to thank them for work this year. While this event never fails to produce a lot of bittersweet tears, this was an especially memorable year, as our senior class was one of the biggest and most involved in recent memory. We can't wait to see what they'll be making next.

End of the Year Art Party: Glass Half Full, and FL!P Release:

On our last day of programs we hosted our end of the year art party, a gallery exhibition titled Glass Half Full by our students. Community members were invited in to see what our students have been working on all year and watch live performances. This event has two other functions: it is the launch date for our student art zine, FL!P, and the last chance to say goodbye for the summer. Students often use their copy of FL!P as a yearbook to pass around, sign, and keep as a memento from that year at NUA.

June 2025 We wrapped up the end of the (fiscal) year gathering data from the student survey, crunching attendance numbers, and balancing the budget sheet. Since the conclusion of the American Rescue Plan Act, which provided crucial federal funding for resources lost during the pandemic, NUA and many organizations like us have been running an organizational deficit. One of Janelle and Yajaira's missions as incoming Executive Director and Development Director was to address this imbalance, and after some careful calculations, it looks like the planned ~\$80,000 deficit turned out to be more like a mere \$8,000 deficit! We celebrated with our usual end of the year staff barbecue, this year hosted at Gabby's house, and some staff members were invited to attend seniors' graduations. After a brief breath of fresh air, we were back in the studio, interviewing mentors and students for 2025's Summer Art Internships.

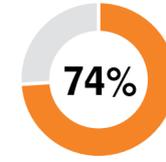


FL!P vol. 19

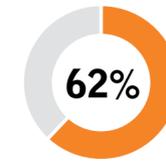
FL!P is NUA's annual student art zine, functioning as a yearbook, a cool artbook, and an archive of all the work and creative energy that doesn't necessarily make sense to hang on the wall for an exhibition, like doodles on the table. When in-person programs resumed after the pandemic, capacity issues relegated FL!P to something of an afterthought, a quick booklet mentors put together at the very end of the year using scans and photographs of work submitted for final gallery exhibition. Each year we dreamed of restoring it to its former glory, and this year we succeeded and then some, thanks (as usual) to the students. In February, several months earlier than we would have normally thought about it, mentors floated the idea of a FL!P committee to students, putting a flier around the studio with a sign-up. There was a hardy response, and the students that ended up forming the FL!P committee were incredibly dedicated. For the first time, they picked a theme for the issue (underwater breakfast), polled the rest of the studio with survey questions to include in the zine, included illustrated recipes from NUA Knights' Cooking Club, and staged a special event called Mentor Madness, in which mentors submitted wrestling-style bios and were pitted against each other in a bracket until a winner was determined by vote (congratulations to Jess, AKA Jessica the Terrible). The final result is a beast of a book, our longest yet, which we printed in-house in color and assembled as a team (also a first!), with special risographed covers printed by mentor MJ at Binch Press. Come by the studio to see a copy, or check out a digital version by scanning the QR code above. Shout out to volunteers Emely and MJ who led the effort during programs!



Identify as LGBTQ+
LGBTQ+ students typically comprise only 4-10% of a high school's population.



Live where the poverty rate is almost twice the national average
In census tracts in 02909, 02908, 02907, and 02905, the poverty rate for families with children is 22.65%.



Attended NUA studio programs for the first time in 2024-25



Qualify for free and reduced price lunch
For a family of four, an annual household income under \$55,500 per year qualifies the children for subsidized lunch.



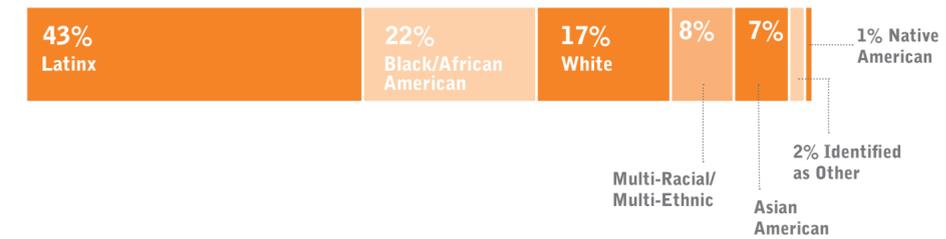
Speak a language other than English at home

98%
of students responded "Always" when asked if they feel safe at NUA

Gender



Race and Ethnicity



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.

This year, in addition to helping hire two new staff positions, two STAB members partnered with Providence Student Union to put on a Know Your Rights Conference at New Urban Arts' studio on a Saturday, distributing materials, hosting community conversations, and sharing information and techniques related to understanding your protected rights in the United States. The conference was free and open to all students, and additionally provided free food and stipends to the first 50 students attending.

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 manager. In addition to continuing our partnership with Central High School to host the Not College Fair, ALAS formalized a new partnership with NUA Knights at Central this year, working closely with guidance counselors to host weekly drop-in sessions during college and financial aid application season. The partnership bolstered communication with school teachers



and administrators, streamlining requests for transcripts and letters of recommendation, among other necessary components. Moreover, it strengthened mental health support for seniors as they navigated the many high and low emotions of the application process.

ALAS also partners with Crafting the Future (CTF), an organization that works to make craft schools and arts residency

Our 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.

Recognition

New Urban Arts has received both local and national recognition for our innovative approach to arts education. **In our 28 years, we've served over 7,000 high school students** and received national recognition from various institutions, including the president's Committee on the Arts and Humanities through a Coming Up Taller Award (the nation's highest honor for out-of-school arts programs).

Programs

The Studio at 705 Westminster

Youth Mentorships in the Arts is New Urban Arts' core afterschool program, taking place from September through May. The long-term goal of the program is for students to make a permanent place for creativity and imagination in their lives. The primary educators in the program are typically a mix of Resident Artist Mentors (RAMs) and Volunteer Artist Mentors (VAMs). Mentors foster self-discovery, community-building, and creative art projects designed collaboratively with youth. Programs take place in our 6,000 square foot studio, which includes resources for photography, drawing, painting, sculpture, fashion-design, printmaking, screen printing, study support, poetry/spoken word, video, digital media, and music. This program also includes our one-week internships that take place during school vacations in February and April. These are themed workshops that include field trips and art-making for which students earn a stipend upon completion.

475 Students
were enrolled in programs at NUA's 705 Westminster studio in 2024-25 with the following demographics

93%
of students say they have developed more confidence

programs more accessible to artists of color. CTF helps us provide students and alumni scholarships to attend renowned craft schools and pre-college programs around the country.

Summer Art Internships Last year our summer art internships were: **College Explorations**, a college program where 8 students dove into the ins and outs of figuring out the who's, what's, and where's of prospective colleges to apply to, **STAB Leadership Program**, a youth leadership development program for 9 students to reflect and discover their own leadership styles, learn about New Urban Arts' and STAB's history, and make some artwork inspired by their moods and identities, and **Art Inquiry: Art in Nature**, a program where 10 students took field trips to studios, museums, gardens, and parks (including in NYC) to ask questions about art's relationship to nature, and made individual and group projects, specifically plant-friendly sculpture installations in the pollinator garden across the street at All Saints' Memorial Church.

LEFT: a clay sculpture by Lee

NUA Knights

NUA Knights offers comprehensive after school programming that strives to create a greater sense of community and personalization for students centering on Academics, Arts, Intramural Sports, Leadership and Social/Emotional Learning. NUA Knights is a direct collaboration of New Urban Arts (NUA) and Central High School (CHS). We achieve our goals by working with a number of community partners, program providers, Central staff, New Urban Arts staff, family members and most importantly, our students. This year NUA Knights offered a record breaking 26 different clubs and activities, 10 more than last year! In addition to our most popular and oldest program, Hanging with NUA Knights, we offered these new programs this year: ALAS at NUA Knights, Book Making, Cheerleading (see "April" on page 4), Comic Book Club, Culture Club, Dungeons & Dragons, Global Health Care Club, Music Production, Photography/Videography, The Ripples Project with TAC (more on page 3), Write On, and summer programs in Fiber Arts, Music Production, Photography and the Floating Wetlands project.

305 Students

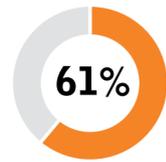
were enrolled in our NUA Knights program at Central High School in 2024-25

100% of students would recommend NUA to a friend



Qualify for free and reduced lunch

For a family of four, an annual household income under \$55,500 per year qualifies the children for subsidized lunch.

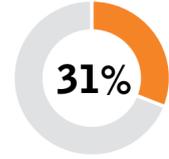


Speak a language other than English at home



Live where the poverty rate is almost twice the national average

In census tracts in 02909, 02908, 02907, and 02905, the poverty rate for families with children is 22.65%.



Attended NUA Knights programs for the first time in 2024-25

Gender



Race and Ethnicity



People

Staff

- Dana Heng ♦♦ Manager of Artist Mentors
- Dean Sudarsky ♦ Grants & Comms. Associate
- Filipa Estrela Resident Artist Mentor
- Gabrielle Tavares ♦♦ Administrative Coordinator
- Ian Cozzens ♦ Resident Artist Mentor
- Jannelle Codianni Executive Director
- Jeannie Castillo-Lapierre Studio Director
- Jessica Kion Resident Artist Mentor

- Kelly Harlow NUA Knights Director
- Kevin Harper ♦ Operations Coordinator
- Roanny Rodriguez NUA Knights Program Coordinator
- Salena Deane Development Associate
- Sherly Torres ♦ Resident Artist Mentor
- Teresa Conchas A Life After School Manager
- Yajaira Reyes, Development Director

2024-25 Studio Team Advisory Board (STAB)

- Axel Pol-Batz
- Barbee Williams
- Billie Sen
- Emi Rivera-Colop
- Harper Vania
- Jis Wilkins Speaks
- Luis Tornez
- Micah Faudree
- Nashla Alcantara Sanchez
- Zora Newman Greene

Board of Directors

- AJ Febles ♦
- Amy Punchak
- Andy MacMannis
- Becky Fong Hughes
- Brenda de Santiago
- Corey Fontes, Vice Chair/ Treasurer
- Emily Gonzalez, Secretary
- Jordan Seaberry
- Judy Croyle
- Marcela Betancur, Chair
- Rodney Eric López
- Susan Smulyan

Volunteer Artist Mentors

- Benjamin Salinas
- Cristiane Caro
- Elena Bulet
- Emely Barroso Madé ♦
- EXYL
- G Dauda ♦
- Jack Zornado
- Jules Sharpe
- Kery Rodriguez ♦
- Liam Godmintz
- MJ Sanqui
- Nell Benedict (Studio Advocate)

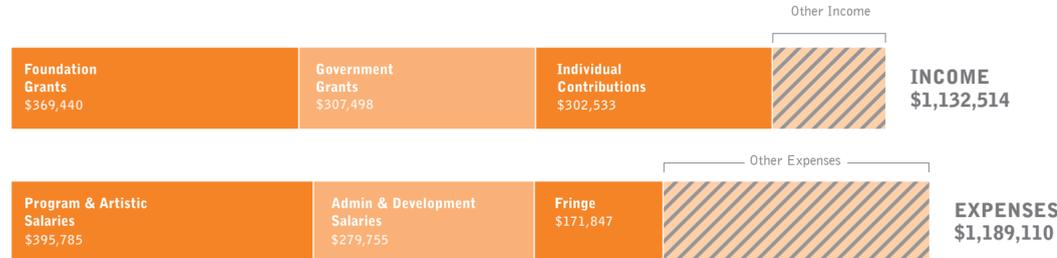
- Robin Lloyd-Miller
- Tina Tryforos
- Xiao Guo
- Yasmine Hassan
- Yenee Tarick Berta

Interns

- Anna Kim
- O'livia Lopes

- ♦ New Urban Arts Alumni
- ♦ New Urban Arts Former Volunteer

2024-25 Financials



NOTE: These financials for the fiscal year 2024-25 (which began on July 1, 2024 and ended on June 30, 2025) are unaudited and will likely be adjusted during the audit process. These results exclude some income and expenses from fiscal sponsorships.

Other Income

- Earned Income \$43,771
- Partnership Income \$43,686
- Endowments/Investments \$22,998
- In-Kind Donations \$20,616
- Interest and Dividends \$17,728
- Miscellaneous Income \$4,375

Other Expenses

- Facilities and Equipment \$95,631
- Contract Services \$81,073
- Program Expenses \$67,746
- Insurance \$30,843
- Professional Development \$15,890
- Development Expenses \$14,736
- Printing and Postage \$8,452
- Miscellaneous Expenses \$27,349

Partnerships

Being and learning in community can be challenging at times, and the success of our work and its deep impact depend on the strength and trust in the relationships we build with students over time. This year, we extended our community-building mindset beyond our program spaces to develop stronger partnerships and deeper collaborations with other creative and youth-centered organizations. We're excited to build on what we learned this year and continue to strengthen our collective impact.

PVDFest NUA was proud to participate in PVDFest for the first time in September 2024 and reflect our deep commitment to amplifying youth voices in public, creative spaces. PVDFest transforms Downtown into a vibrant, multi-arts takeover of public spaces, parks, and outdoor stages. That September, we hosted a student art gallery at Burnside Park, featuring work created through our NUA Knights and Studiofront summer programs. Students and recent alumni also performed live on the Burnside stage, sharing their talents with a large audience.

MET Art Academy MET Art Academy is an internship program for 9th and 11th graders at The MET High School, a career and technical education public school in Providence. Launched in spring 2023, the program is a partnership between NUA and The MET designed to offer a meaningful, arts-based learning experience outside of the traditional classroom. Over 15-week semesters, 14 student interns engage with foundational visual arts mediums while also learning through experimentation, conversation, and care. In its fourth semester, MET Art Academy ran under the instruction of RAM Sherly Torres, with support from RAM Ian Cozzens during a screen-printing unit. The semester culminated in a student exhibition celebrating their creative journeys, highlighting growth across multiple artistic disciplines, honoring the skills they gained, and the personal exploration they undertook throughout the internship.

Classical High School Photography Class In addition to its core programming and afterschool model, NUA continues to build meaningful partnerships with schools that reflect and support the young people we serve. This past school year, a new collaboration took shape with Classical High School's Visual Arts teacher Emily Burke and Assistant Principal Brian Baldizar, offering students enrolled in Classical's photography course access to NUA's black-and-white darkroom. The course introduces students to photography as both an art form and a design medium, focusing primarily on digital photography. Using DSLR cameras, students explore composition, manual camera settings, editing techniques, and the historical and cultural context of the medium. As part of the partnership, students visit New Urban Arts during the school day to gain hands-on experience with analog photography and learn the fundamentals of darkroom printing. This tactile introduction to film photography helps students understand how chemistry and light have historically shaped the art form, while also encouraging creative exploration in a process-based environment.

PSU Know Your Rights Conference In the face of escalating ICE activity and enforcement in everyday spaces, including schools and churches, many of our students began to fear for their safety. In response, two of our student leaders and STAB (Studio Team Advisory Board) members, Nashla and Emi, stepped up with clarity and compassion. Partnering with the Providence Student Union (PSU), they helped organize the Know Your Rights Conference this past April, an event rooted in care, education, and action. The conference featured student-led roundtable discussions where attendees could share their experiences, voice concerns, and build solidarity with one another. Workshops led by ARISE, the Center for Justice, and

OurSchoolsPVD offered practical tools for navigating systems of power and protecting one's rights. NUA contributed a hands-on printmaking workshop facilitated by Resident Artist Mentor Ian Cozzens, where students learned about the role of screenprinting in the history of resistance movements and made prints to express themselves. Some of the most powerful moments at NUA come from the ideas and leadership of our students. We're deeply grateful to Nashla, Emi, and PSU for bringing our community together to learn, organize, and protect one another.

RISD Bookfair In April, NUA took part in the 2025 Unbound Art Book Fair, hosted by RISD's Fleet Library. RISD Unbound is a vibrant annual event that celebrates books, zines, and experimental printed matter. The fair featured over 70 exhibitors, including RISD students, local artists, and community organizations from across Providence. Manager of Artist Mentors Dana Heng hosted the NUA table, where students had the chance to practice tabling and sell their art. It was a valuable opportunity for students to share their creative work with a wider audience while engaging with the broader DIY publishing and printmaking community. We're always excited to connect our young artists to spaces where their voices and creative labor are seen, valued, and celebrated.

The Ripples Project NUA partnered with The Avenue Concept (TAC) on the Ripples Project: a citywide public art initiative created by TAC in collaboration with the City of Providence, the Mayor's Office, and the Department of Art, Culture + Tourism. The goal was to bring creative energy to public spaces by transforming everyday infrastructure into vibrant works of art through painting 50 utility boxes and murals throughout Providence. NUA was excited to participate because one of public art's most powerful aspects is its ability to invite dialogue, interaction, and inspiration across generations.

This past spring, 15 NUA students, across both NUA Studiofront's Mural Team and the NUA Knights spring break program, designed and painted utility boxes. In March, students visited TAC's headquarters for a Can Jam event to learn foundational mural techniques from professional artists before executing their designs in April through May.

NUA Mural Team's six boxes centered on themes of celebrating local identity and community spaces, honoring everyday life and the people who live it, and exploring the interconnection between culture, community, and environment. Each box drew inspiration from familiar landmarks, culture, regional symbols, and imagery meaningful to the students as Providence residents. NUA Knights youth painted two utility boxes as self-identified first-time public artists, bringing a sense of exploration and experimentation to the project. Their themes focused on youthful energy, using bright colors and whimsical imagery to create joyful, imaginative spaces.

Additionally, we shared this opportunity with four other youth-serving organizations: Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, Youth Pride Inc., Providence Student Union, and DownCity Design, expanding access and participation to an additional 45 young people. Taking part in this partnership allowed students to explore

what it means to contribute to the visual landscape of their city, claim space through creative expression, and step into the role of public artists. You can spot NUA-painted boxes at the corners of Atwells & Valley and Friendship & Franklin, and others scattered across Providence.

GRID Summit This past June, NUA participated in Providence's inaugural GRID Summit, held at Brown University. Originating in California, GRID is a one-day creativity conference that introduces young people to new ways of thinking about art, problem-solving, and career pathways while centering student voice, community, and creative exploration. The event brought together students and creative professionals through workshops, talks, and interactive activities designed to spark inspiration and connection.

NUA's Resident Artist Mentor Filipa Estrela led a lively, hands-on workshop titled "Let's Make a Silly Lil' Guy! A Crash Course in Original Character Creation." In this playful session, participants explored the process of developing original characters through drawing games, idea prompts, and quick sketching exercises. Students of all art experience levels embraced spontaneity, learned how to break through creative blocks, and practiced bringing imaginative characters to life. We were proud to be part of a day that centered youth creativity and collaboration - an extension of the values we live every day in the studio.

Crafting the Future NUA is proud to continue our partnership with Crafting the Future (CTF), an organization dedicated to increasing access to craft schools and residency programs for artists of color. Through our ALAS program and partnership with CTF, we've been able to connect BIPOC students and alumni with meaningful opportunities for artistic development, mentorship, and creative community. This year, five NUA students traveled to Boston to take part in a week-long pyrography workshop at the Elliott School of Fine and Applied Arts, learning alongside other BIPOC students and teaching artists.

Providence Public School District (PPSD) - This spring, with support from PPSD, we welcomed over 80 eighth graders from Roger Williams and Esek Hopkins Middle Schools for field trips to the studio. These visits introduced students who will be transitioning to high school this fall to NUA, giving them a chance to meet staff, explore the space, and get hands-on with art-making. The City of Providence's Department of Art, Culture + Tourism (ACT) graciously provided transportation from the schools to our studio. Students rotated through stations featuring drawing and button-making, sampling the kinds of creative access points they'll find at NUA. By engaging students early, we aim to build familiarity with our programs and offer a welcoming entry point into our community. This effort is part of our intentional strategy to support student and family engagement, ensuring proactive introductions grow into strong roots in high school, grounded in creativity and connection.

