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# The Year in Review

2021-2022 was a year of reconnection and rejuvenation for Urbano, as well as for the local arts and cultural sector. We returned to hybrid and in-person programming with our Youth Artists, operating at satellite sites and building relationships with program partners at Egleston Square Public Library, ICA Teens, and Goethe-Institut Boston. Since our founding in 2009, Urbano has worked hard to remain close to and foster reciprocity within our community. We strive to give to our community as much as they give to us, and to create a safe space for free expression and connection across cultural, educational, and economic divides.

In this spirit, this year's curatorial theme of Democracy focused on individual, collective, and intersectional interpretations of democracy. Projects explored representation, inclusion, participation, collaboration, accessibility, human rights advocacy, and other urgent civic dialogues. As we continue to contend with many injustices unveiled by the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to be active participants in exploring how art can help us move towards a more inclusive and equitable society, encourage social action, and nurture a democracy that benefits and empowers us all.

We worked with three Artists-in-Residence (AiR) to achieve this goal, each exemplifying unique practices in community organizing, placemaking, public art, activism, and social practice. Starting with AiR Yuko Okabe and their project "Illustration for Spatial Justice" in the Fall, Youth Artists explored the potential of illustration as a mindful method of imagination to envision healthy, equitable public spaces in our communities. Their final presentation was a collaborative exhibition called "Pinpoint Boston," co-produced by the Youth Artists and the ICA Teens Exhibition Program cohort, and on view to the public in the ICA Boston's Seaport Studio Teen Gallery from the spring to summer. In the Spring, AiR Ponnappa Prakkamakul led the Youth Artist Project "Message From a Sidewalk," which explored social equity, play, and the potential of street art as a tool to raise awareness and create an inclusive space for everyone. For their final project, Youth Artists designed and created a participatory hopscotch game in public space that engaged the Egleston Square community to express their ideas of democracy.

In addition to providing art and educational opportunities to underserved youth in Greater Boston, this year we also sought to address a need for connection and education among artists of all ages. In Spring 2022, we launched Community Arts Projects (CAP): a new intergenerational program for ages 19-65 that provides opportunities for artistic skill-building, community building, and intergenerational exchange around complex social issues. AiR Krystle Brown led our inaugural CAP called "Calling Home," which focused on housing justice, community advocacy, and collective healing. Participants ranged in age from 19 to 45 years old and practiced the art of autobiographical storytelling through a variety of media. In the end for their final project, they collaborated to create a digitally-interactive, public art installation at a defunct phone booth in Egleston Square, featuring the audio-recorded voices and stories of participants and fellow community members.

Complementary to our artist residencies, we hosted a Workshop with Teaching Artist Sergio Beltrán-García called "Who Owns the Past/Present?" in partnership with Goethe-Institut Boston. As a leading organization in public art and participatory art projects, we felt it was important to introduce Youth Artists to the current, international conversation surrounding monuments and memorials. Students learned about inclusive and participatory approaches to monuments and memorialization, and had the opportunity to think creatively about questions of history, representation, and accessibility. For their final project, they created their own collaborative memorial in public space. Each student contributed an illustrated ribbon that memorialized a personal or collective history that was important to them, installed in the Goethe-Institut's front garden oak tree. Some students chose to celebrate a part of their identity, others to reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic, and others to remember people they have lost and condemn acts of violence.

Here at Urbano, we are grateful to have survived this challenging year with the thoughtful support of our donors, collaborators, and audiences. We look forward to continuing our civically-engaged art practice and envisioning a new year with you, in community and in celebration.



Stella Aguirre McGregor  
Founder + Executive Artistic Director

# Guiding Principles

## Mission

Urbano is a nonprofit that brings together practicing artists, local youth, and community members to learn and experiment through place-based projects. **We foster public and participatory art as a vehicle for personal transformation, community cohesion, and social change.**

Our projects consist of Artists in Residence, Youth Projects, Workshops, and Community Art Projects, all of which intersect around an annual curatorial theme.

# Guiding Principles

## Target Population

### Participating Youth & Adults

High School Students (majority are BPS, all students attend public schools) and adults (former Urbano youth artists, college students, artists, and cultural workers)

Live in the Greater Boston area, with over 81% residing in Boston (primarily from Dorchester, Roslindale, Roxbury, Hyde Park, West Roxbury, West End, South End, Brighton, and Allston.)

Youth ages 14 - 19; Adults ages 19-38  
 —Often from low-middle income families  
 —Interested in creating art  
 —Interested in social change  
 —Interested pursuing the arts as a career

### Community Members

Audience and participants

From Greater Boston, and digitally national and international

From diverse backgrounds interested in civic engagement, social and environmental issues, place-based education and the arts

### Socially Engaged Artists

Often BIPOC

Interested in social justice issues and participatory art practices

Interested in art education

## Program Goals

### High-Quality Contemporary Arts Experiences

Offer high-quality arts experiences, including opportunities to develop an awareness and appreciation of contemporary arts and the role the arts play in society and to effect social change

### Artists as Engaged Citizens

Challenge artists to express a strengthened identity as active, powerful, and engaged citizens of the city of Boston

Engage youth with difficult subjects in hopeful ways

### Creative Youth Development

Support youth to explore and pursue their passions and develop as young people with the greatest chance for social and personal success

Develop a corps of positively engaged youth who serve as leaders in their communities

### Community Cohesion

Promote civic engagement through participatory and publicly sited works of art that address the major issues of our time, and develop synergy among diverse groups

## Strategies

### Artists' Projects, Exhibitions, & Workshops

Year-long Project Theme provides conceptual connections among concurrent projects and programs

### 1. Youth Projects & Workshops

Youth learn to create collaboratively through studio exploration and experimentation guided by professional artist(s)

Youth and lead artists work in partnership, contributing to the conception and production of a final project

Due to COVID-19, virtual programs met synchronously for 90 min per week, and allotted a minimum of 30 min of individual work per week.

### 2. Artists-in-Residence

Selected through an open call, AIRs provide diverse perspectives on Urbano's annual theme through exhibitions, workshops, and public participatory projects

### Virtual Events and Artistic Interventions

Socially-engaged practices to create dialogue with diverse audiences around important issues affecting the community

## Participants' Outcomes

### Youth will:

Develop skills and understanding related to Contemporary Arts Practice and issues of social change

Hone professional attitude towards work with an emphasis on quality

Participate in process to develop the narrative of an idea

Engage and gain proficiency in creating and thinking critically about contemporary art

Gain public speaking and presentation skills; empowerment to speak, create, be heard

Engage in personal reflection on work and participation in critique

Show openness to interact and collaborate with those who are different from themselves

Develop constructive risk-taking skills

### Artists will:

Engage in the studio and community as empowered agents of social change

Communicate ideas of change through commissioned works in collaboration with youth artists

Explore the visual, social, and political language of contemporary art

Identify as artists who are a part of the larger global contemporary art community

Develop understanding of issues across racial, social, and cultural barriers

Enhance relationship building skills

### Community will:

Participate in events and gatherings, and make connections between contemporary art and social change

Come together to appreciate diverse perspectives and cultural expressions

## Organization's Impact

Urbano Project inspires a new generation of leaders in urban communities who are compassionate, explorative, civically engaged, creative thinkers actively committed to breaking down social barriers (of language, race, gender, religion, etc.) through art

Urbano Project creates high quality arts learning experiences that are cross-disciplinary and collaborative, resulting in publicly sited and participatory art works. These works challenge assumptions about contemporary art, education, and art's role in creating social change

Urbano Project contributes to Boston's civic and cultural life by building bridges between urban communities and the contemporary arts

# Guiding Principles

## Theme

### Democracy

As we continue to contend with ongoing social, political, and economic injustices unveiled throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, **how can art help us move towards a more inclusive and equitable society? How can art encourage social action to develop and nurture a democracy that benefits and empowers us all?**

Through the lens of DEMOCRACY, this year's Artists-in-Residence (AiR) exemplify practices in community organizing, placemaking, public art, activism, social practice, institutional critique, and participatory artmaking.



# Programs

Artists-in-Residence (AiR)

Youth Artist Projects

Community Art Projects

Workshops



## Programs

# Artists-in-Residence

Each year Urbano welcomes 3-4 Artists-in-Residence: **emerging, mid-career practicing artists recognized for their innovative, critical, socially engaged practice.** Resident artists develop a 10-week long **Youth Artist Project** related to their individual work which serves as a tool for teaching and community dialogue. Due to COVID-19, resident artists presented their final projects via Zoom, in conjunction with the youth artists' final projects.



# Programs

## Artist-in-Residence



### Krystle Brown

Krystle Brown (she/they) is a multimedia artist based in Boston, MA, who explores the connections between family history, placemaking, class, and power structures. They hold a BFA from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Painting and Art History and an MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University. While studying at SMFA at Tufts, Brown was awarded the Montague Travel grant to research in Northern Ireland and was awarded the Katherine Romero Graduating Student Award. In addition, Brown has received other grants and awards such as The Boston Opportunity Fund in 2021 and Best in Show-Silver Key at the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition in 2020.

Brown is one of four artists selected for the **2022 Public Art Accelerator** program by **Now + There**, for which she is creating a public artwork partly inspired by her Spring 2022 Community Arts Project "Calling Home" with Urbano. Brown has curated several exhibitions, including co-curating the Webster Court Project in Newton, MA. She has been an artist-in-residence at Lazuli Residency in Corinth, VT, 77 Art in Rutland, VT, and Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT. In 2019 they started the Emerging Artist Fellowship at Kingston Gallery in Boston and exhibited their first solo exhibition, "15,000 Days" in March of 2021 as a part of their tenure.

[Website](#)  
[Instagram](#)

# Programs

## Artist-in-Residence



### Yuko Okabe

Yuko Okabe (she/they) is an illustrator, cultural worker and storyteller with a passion for publishing, social justice, community engaged art, and youth empowerment.

She received a BFA in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design. Previous fellowships include RISD's Maharam STEAM Fellowship with the Boston Children's Hospital, RISD's Leadership and Community Engagement Fellowship with DownCity Design, Enterprise Community Partners Rose Fellowship with North Shore Community Development Coalition, and the Walter Feldman Fellowship for Emerging Artists with Arts and Business Council of Boston.

Previous collaborators include Big Cartel, Hester Street, Design Studio for Social Intervention, The New York Times, City of Boston, The Experience Alchemists, and Light Grey Art Lab. She has received recognition from the Society of Illustrators NYC, Society of Illustrators LA, Creative Quarterly, 3x3 The Magazine of Contemporary Illustration, MIT Architecture, Boston College, Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast, and Tucson Weekly. She has been awarded residencies from the Vermont Studio Center, Walkaway House, and Pao Arts Center.

[Website](#)  
[Instagram](#)

# Programs

## Artist-in-Residence



### **Ponnapa Prakkamakul**

Ponnapa Prakkamakul is a visual artist and a landscape architect based in Massachusetts. As a third generation Chinese born in Thailand, relocating to Hong Kong then the United States, her work explores the relationship between human and their environment focusing on cultural displacement and isolation issues among immigrants. Her public artwork aims to support the community in expressing their voices and to create artwork that truly represents their identity, cultivating a stronger sense of place.

Ponnapa holds a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design where she received Lowthorpe Fellowship Award upon graduation. Her work has also been exhibited, published, and collected throughout the US and in Asia. Ponnapa currently is a member at Kingston Gallery and a registered landscape architect at Sasaki.

[Website](#)  
[Instagram](#)



# Programs

## Youth Artist Projects

**Youth Artists Projects are ten-week-long explorations of social issues through art led by an Artist-in-Residence. Throughout each project, students receive high-quality, in-depth contemporary arts and virtual studio classes modeled on college-level seminars. These projects range across a broad spectrum of visual and performing arts practices.**

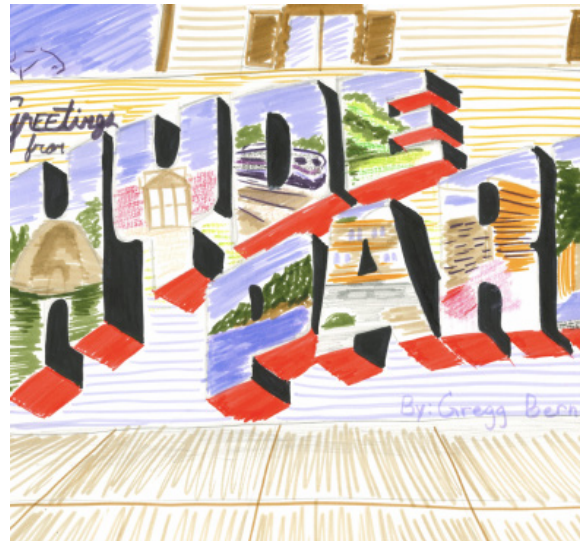
**Curricula are developed in response to national and state art education standards and emphasize conceptual exploration, experimentation, revision, collaboration, and technical skill. Students participate in selecting concepts, and designs for their art, and take responsibility for the process.**

**At the end of each program, students present their projects through Zoom and virtual exhibits, involving mixed-media, spoken word, creative writing, and visual arts installations.**

# Programs

## Youth Artist Project

### Remember, Reflect, Reimagine: Illustration for Spatial Justice



### Artist-in-Residence: **Yuko Okabe** Fall 2021 / Spring 2022

In this project, Youth Artists explored how we can use illustration as a mindful method of observation and imagination to **envision healthy, equitable public spaces in our communities**. Youth Artists created individual, complex illustrations of places in their neighborhood that were important to them. They incorporated these places into a group illustrated map of Boston.



In Spring 2022, Urbano Youth Artists collaborated with **ICA Teens Exhibitions** Program cohort to present their work in the **"Pinpoint Boston"** exhibition, on view from March–June 2022 at the ICA Teen Gallery in ICA Boston's Seaport Studio.



# Programs

## Youth Artists Project

### Message From a Sidewalk



### Artist-in-Residence: **Ponnappa Prakkamakul** Spring 2022

Youth Artists explored many aspects of social equity and democracy, as well as public art and street art. Hosted at Egleston Square Public Library, this project asked students to consider how street artists use art as a tool to raise awareness, create an inclusive space for everyone, and provide a safe platform for free expression. Together they designed and created a **participatory hopscotch game in public space that expressed their ideas of democracy**. As their final presentation, Youth Artists engaged the Egleston Square community in participatory games at the hopscotch installation.



## Programs

# Community Arts Projects

Launched this year, **Community Art Projects (CAP)** are intergenerational courses in contemporary art, in which **participants ages 19-65+** work with an Urbano Artist-in-Residence to develop and create a participatory art project in and with a specific community. CAPs provide creative individuals, families, and groups the opportunity to connect and **build community, learn new art skills, and investigate urgent social issues through art and place-based education.**

Urbano fosters the model of **the artist as citizen**, actively engaged in conversations with our surrounding community through the lens of contemporary art.

Through artistic collaboration, participants and professional artists are challenged to create projects within the boundaries of exhibition spaces, virtually, and in their community. These projects span diverse artistic themes and disciplines, but they are all rooted in the fundamental principles of collaboration, risk-taking, and creative and critical expression.



# Programs

## Community Arts Project

### Calling Home



#### Artist-in-Residence: **Krystle Brown** Winter-Spring 2022

As Urbano's inaugural CAP, this project considered the roles of community, empathy, and reflection in addressing **housing insecurity, gentrification, and displacement in Boston**, and aimed to build collective healing and empowerment through storytelling. Community Participants between the ages of 19-45 explored the art of autobiographical storytelling through a variety of media. For their final project, Participants created a digitally-interactive public art installation at a defunct phone booth in Egleston Square sharing their personal experiences with the housing crisis.



## Programs

# Workshops

Urbano's **Teaching Artists** lead Workshops that introduce cohorts of 10-15 youth or a small community to artmaking related to the annual theme.

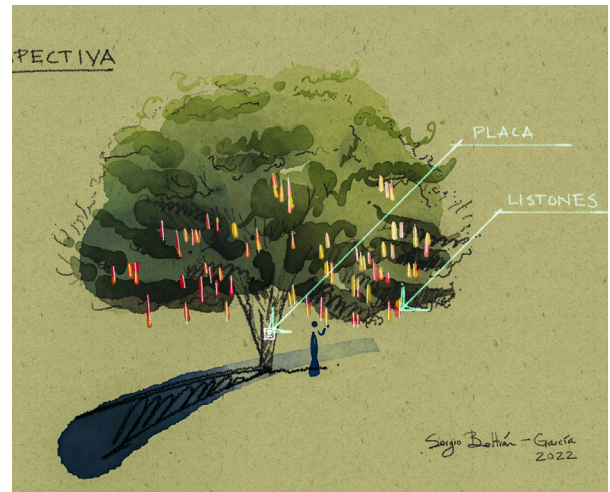
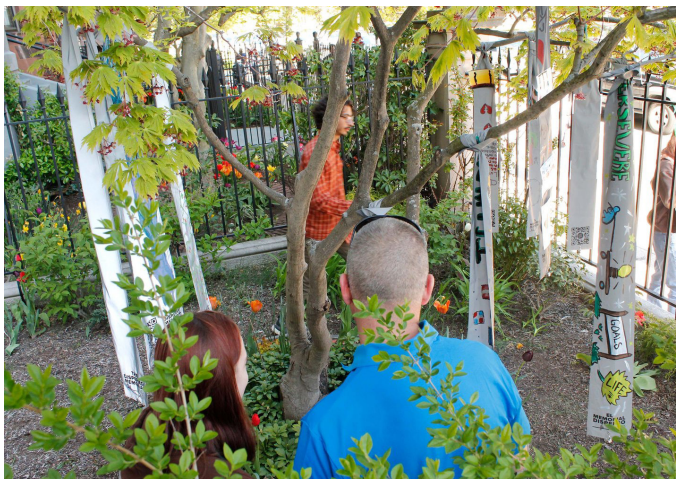
Workshops include introductions to new artist techniques, research into social issues related to the teaching artists' work, and art-making. Final projects from these workshops are presented virtually via a public Zoom event, or in-person in a socially-distanced manner.



## Workshop

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### Who Owns the Past/Present?



### Teaching Artist: **Sergio Beltrán-García** Spring 2022

Urbano partnered with Goethe-Institut Boston to offer this Workshop on **monuments, memorials, memory, representation, and justice** with artist and activist **Sergio Beltrán-García**. Inspired by his *The Dispersed Memorial* project as well as the *Shaping the Past* exhibition at the Goethe Institut, Beltrán-García led a series of collaborative art workshops, site visits, readings, and conversations with Youth Artists to explore how a memorial can become a tool for positive change and how to critique existing monuments. For their final project, Youth Artists each contributed a ribbon to the Goethe-Institut's front garden oak tree, building a collaborative memorial in public



space to memorialize the personal and collective histories that were most important to them. Some chose to celebrate a part of their identity, others to reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic, and others to condemn acts of violence.

An architect, activist, and researcher, **Sergio Beltrán-García** engages with aesthetic and political practices of transitional justice by using memory as an entry point. He has contributed to the development of eleven memorials (and counting) for distinct events of violence through *The Dispersed Memorial* project. [Website](#) [Instagram](#)

# Evaluation & Data

Urbano's creative placemaking approach through critical pedagogy and studio training works as a catalyst for developing artistic skills central to stimulating students' curiosity for exploring the issues in their communities through art.

Urbano's offerings are unique, and for the majority of students, our programs represent the only arts or after-school opportunity available to them. Our students go beyond learning studio skills, to build a collaborative project with practicing artists and civic leaders to have a positive impact on their communities.

# Evaluation & Data

## Demographics

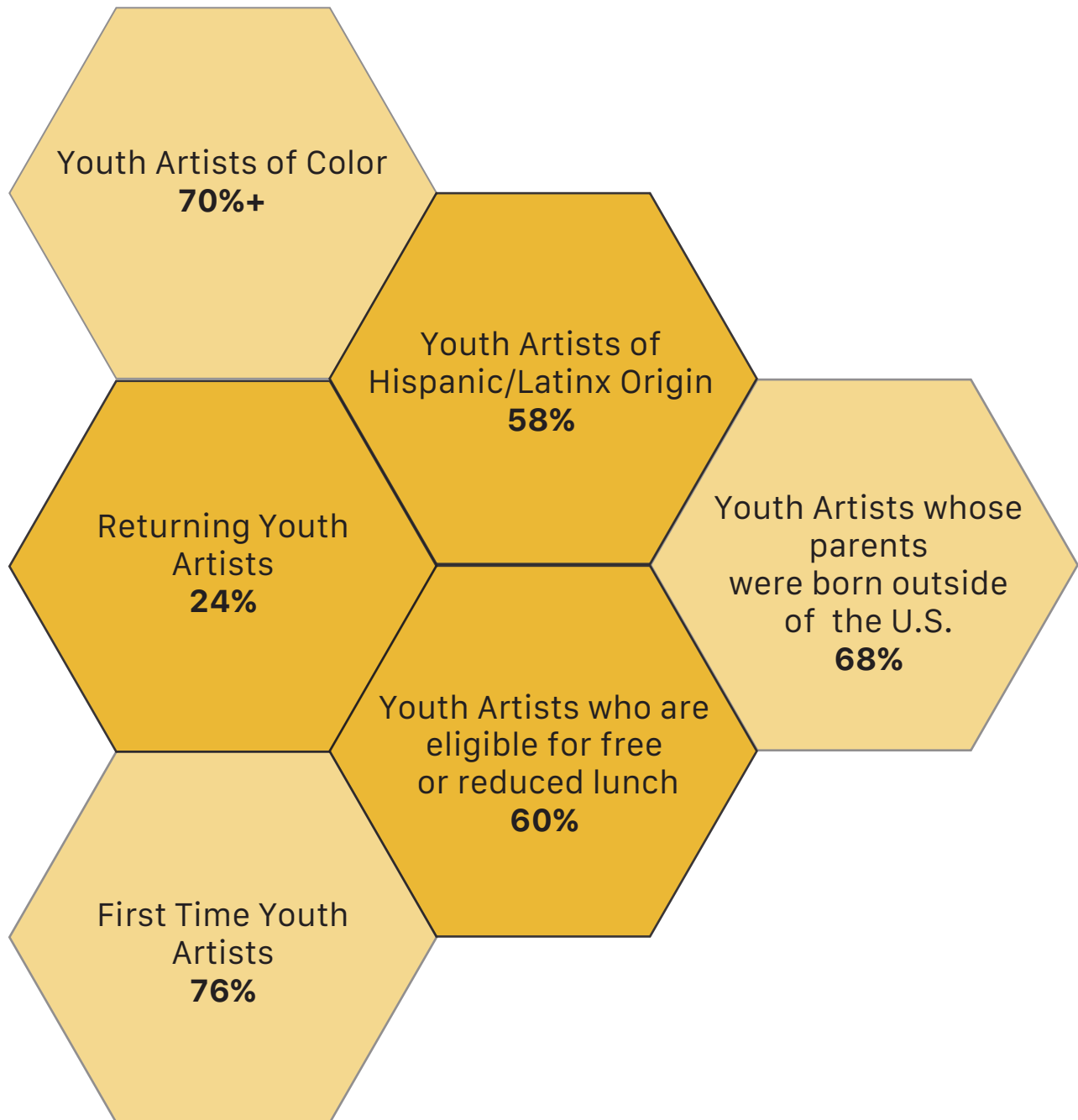
### Urbano students came from

- 25 Boston Public Schools
- 11 Neighborhoods



# Evaluation & Data

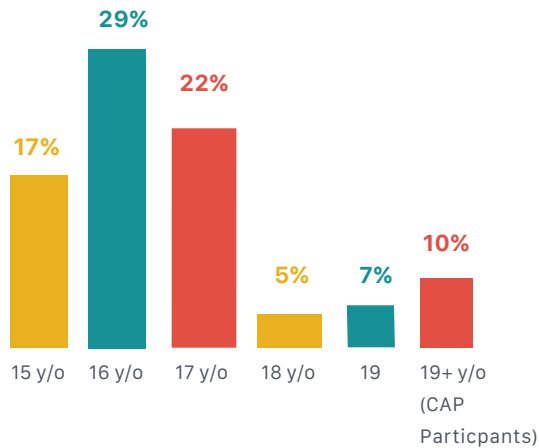
## Demographics



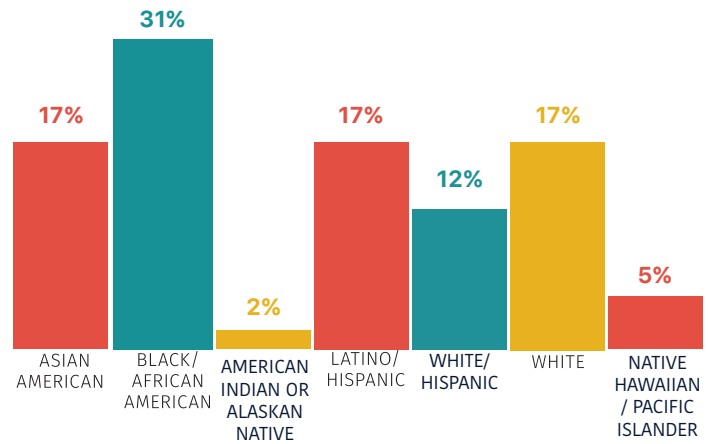
# Evaluation & Data

## Demographics

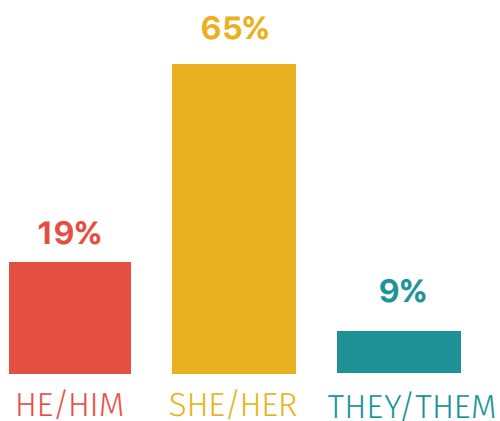
### Age



### Race & Ethnicity



### Gender Pronouns





# Evaluation & Data

## Youth Programs

**"Urbano is one of the only programs that allows me to be myself. I always feel welcomed to class, and it never fails to teach me new things about my community and other communities" —Youth Artist, Fall 2021**

**We use entry and exit surveys for participants to gather demographic information, self-reported development in the arts, social skills, plans for the future, and community involvement.**

**The entry and exit surveys are only given to participants in programs that take place over multiple days. Teaching artists use rubrics and tools to assess each individual youth artist's artistic and personal growth relative to his/her/their starting point.**

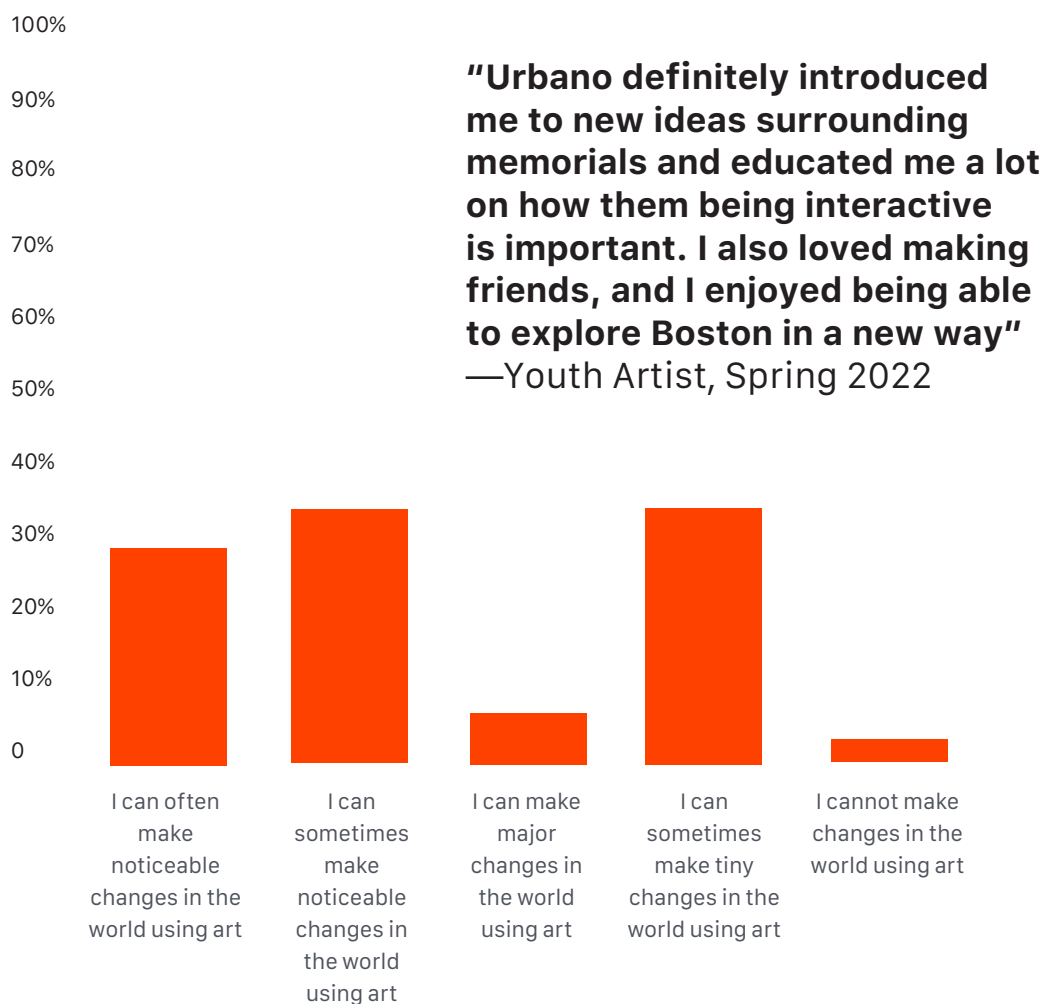
**\* The following stats are based on 34 responses corresponding to Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 YAP and Workshop surveys.**

# Evaluation & Data

## Youth Programs

### Goal

Promote civic engagement through participatory art that address the major issues of our times, and develop a corps of positively engaged citizens who serve as leaders in their communities.



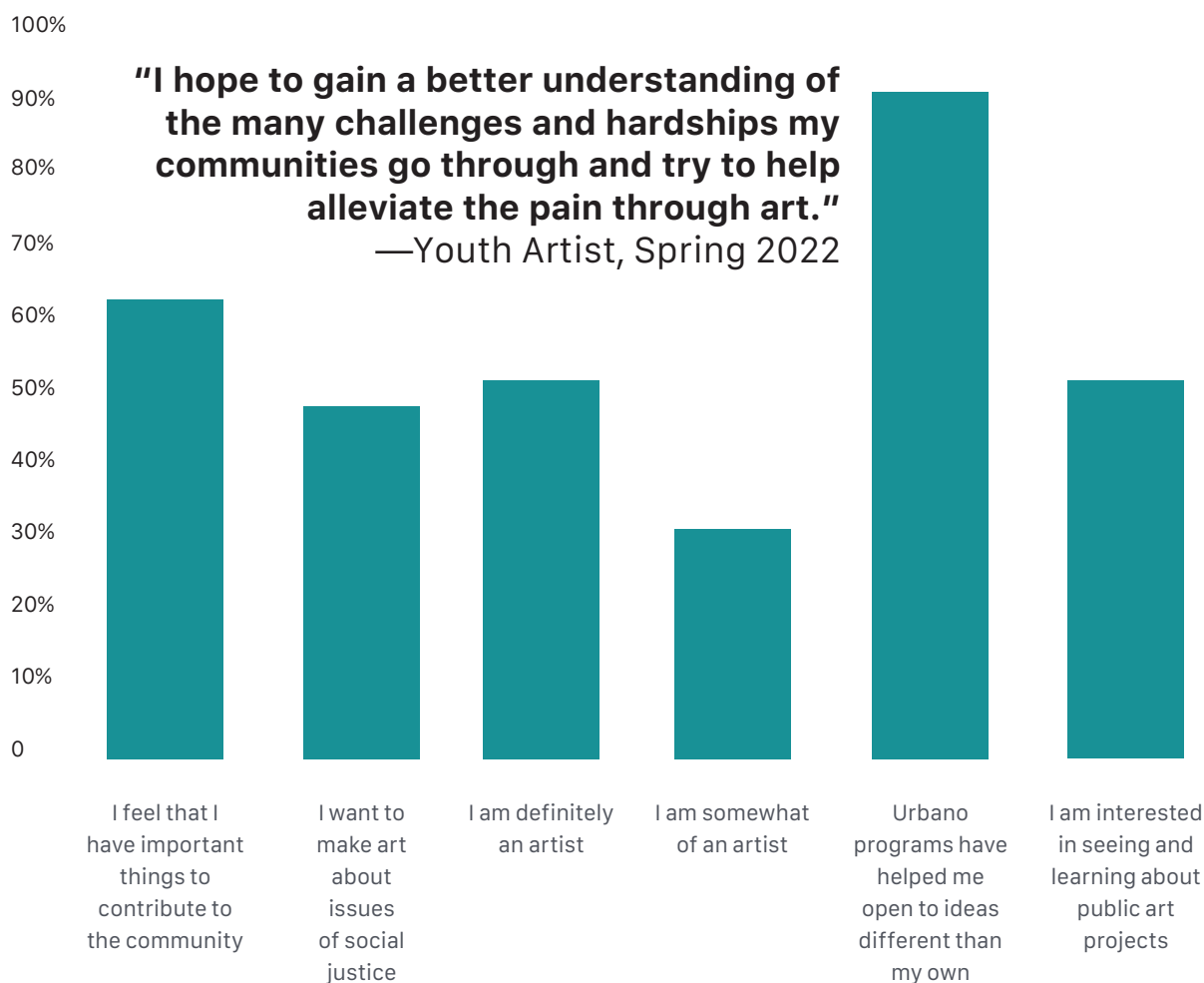
**"Espero aprender mucho sobre temas que me parecen bastante interesantes y me emociona poder contribuir un poco haciendo arte."**  
—Youth Artist, Spring 2022

# Evaluation & Data

## Youth Programs

### Goal

**Offer high-quality arts education experiences, including opportunities to develop an awareness and appreciation of contemporary arts and of the role the arts can play to effect social change.**

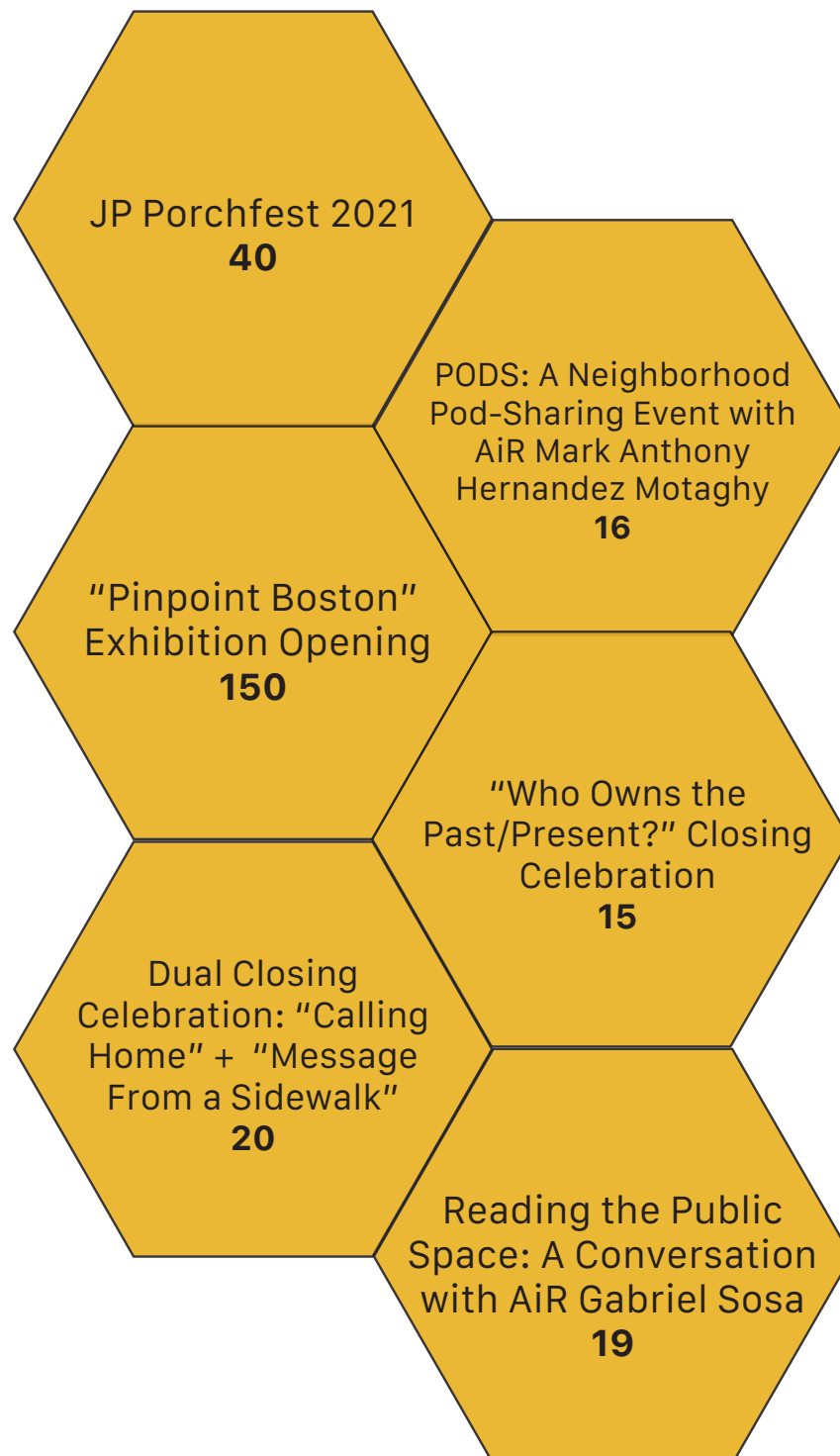


**"I loved that I could work with such an experienced and creative artist."  
—Youth Artist, Spring 2022**

# Evaluation & Data

## Audience

In FY22, Urbano held 6 free virtual and in-person events, serving 135+ audience members.



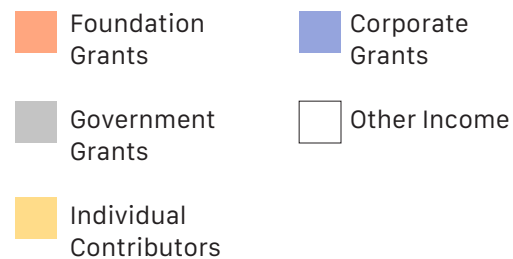
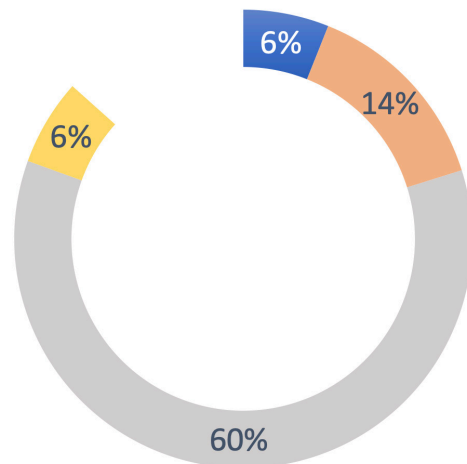
# Financials FY22

## Revenue & Expenses

### Income

Corporate Grants	\$16,500
Foundation Grants	\$164,500
Government Grants	\$38,450
Individual Contributors	\$16,603
Other Income	\$36,492

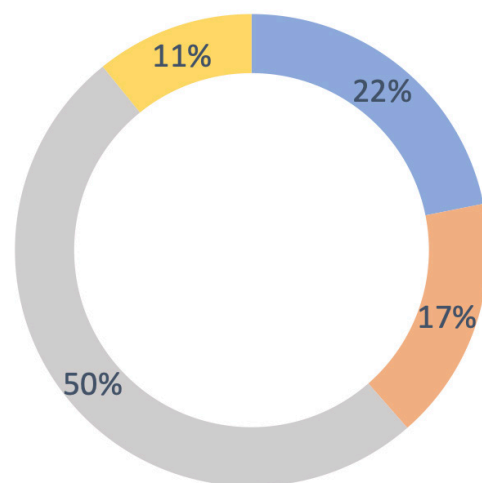
**Total Income: \$272,545**



### Expenses

General Operations & Administrative	\$41,163
Fundraising	\$31,474
Programs	\$95,340
Marketing	\$20,384

**Total Expenses: \$188,361**



# Financials

## Partners & Supporters

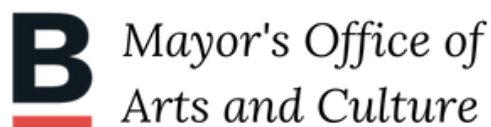
We are grateful to our funders, donors, partners, and dedicated board, without whose support Urbano's FY22 programs and operations would not have been possible!

### Board Members

Todd M. Gershkowitz (Board Chair)  
Etty Padmodipoetro (Treasurer)  
Nina Berger

### Community Collaborators

ICA Teens, Goethe-Institute Boston, Egleston Square Library, Everyday Boston, Design Studio For Social Intervention (DS4SI), JP Porch Fest – Dunamis INC.



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