TYLER DENMEAD

New Urban Arts

1998 Global Fellow

BIG BOLD IDEA

Build a vital community that empowers young people to develop a creative practice they can sustain throughout their lives.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Recently recognized by First Lady Michelle Obama as one of the premiere arts and youth development programs in the country, New Urban Arts provides a vital out-of-school creative learning community housed in an interdisciplinary storefront studio for artist mentors and high school students. New Urban Arts is unlike traditional arts programs and does not offer art classes. In the studio, students identify issues in their schools and neighborhoods that they care about, and create arts programs to address them. To be a young artist invested in community change requires tremendous risk. Therefore, New Urban Arts uncovers a rewarding desire to grow and contribute by sustaining mentoring relationships with caring adults. New Urban Arts provides workshops with artists, galleries, and museums; direct action through long-term community-based arts projects; exhibitions in professional galleries and online; assistance with portfolios, college applications, and employment; professional development for college-age emerging artists; and residency programs for established artists. New Urban Arts also houses one of the only gallery-exhibition-performance spaces for youth in the state of Rhode Island.

PERSONAL BIO

Tyler Denmead is the founder and served as Executive Director (1997-2007) of New Urban Arts in Providence, Rhode Island. Presently, he is working toward a Ph.D. in Education and Social Research at the University of Cambridge, exploring artist pedagogy. For more information, visit www.tylerdenmead.org.