2006 – 07
annual report

The RISD Office of Multicultural Affairs Annual Report '06-'07:

Original concept and design: Ronit Cyjon ('08)
Content: Tony Johnson & Deborah Kenston
Content layout & re-design 2006-2007: Diego Gutierrez ('09)
Edited by: Deborah Kenston, Andrea Rivera Hurtado ('09)

All photos in this publication are provided courtesy of
The Office of Multicultural Affairs

For more information, please contact:
Rhode Island School of Design
Office of Multicultural Affairs
Two College Street
Providence, RI 02910

Phone: 401-277-4157
Fax: 401-277-4137
Email: diverse@risd.edu
From The Director

These quotes elegantly capture the goals and the outcomes of OMA's '06-'07 academic year. The year was marked with opportunity and paved through persistence. The opportunity and persistence, however, was guided by our core effort to build bridges of community and communication within and across lines of socioeconomic class, gender, race, ethnicity, lifestyle, ability, and geography. These skills remain critical to responsible citizenship.

In 2006-7 we are delighted to have realized a greater impact on the college-at-large. Our intentions to develop stronger and more targeted programming, engage more students in cross-discipline skill building, and cultivate new collaborations among students, staff, faculty, and alumni were implemented and well-received. Our hope is that the framework that we are implementing will be one that will continue to reward the RISD community with immediate and long-term dividends for years to come.

Of particular note this year has been the realization of the Ewing Multicultural Center and its art gallery. In its first year of operation, the campus has embraced this institutional resource and educational facility as well as its dedication to community building and understanding. Users of the Center include organizations and clubs such as the Korean Student Association, RISD Christian Body, Respond Design, the Straight and Gay Alliance, and a variety of RISD committees; academic areas such as Ceramics, Foundation Studies, and Pre-College Studies; and visiting artists/local organizations/artists such as The Silk Road Project and First Works Prov. In addition, the Center's art gallery has brought rich investigations, ideas, and topics to campus that may not have been realized otherwise.

As OMA enters its 39th year, its dedication to supporting the College's educational charge remains fixed. We remain energized by the talented host of students, faculty, staff, and alumni who join us in this work. We continue to look to all of our colleagues for creative and sustainable partnerships that will enable us to be a most vibrant, inclusive, and equitable community—one which our graduating artists would be proud to model in their personal lives and professional journeys.

Respectfully,
Tony Johnson
Mission

RISD mission statement

People from all backgrounds bring value to the art and human conversations held at RISD. The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) assists the RISD community-at-large in shaping a culturally inclusive and supportive environment that enables all its members to fully contribute to and benefit from the total RISD experience.

OMA coordinates enriching opportunities for cultural awareness, dialogue and interaction. The office services the needs of the total RISD community while providing specific support to RISD's artists of color, those from international backgrounds, and those dedicated to an inclusive community.

"RISD is committed to a multiculturally and philosophically diverse environment that is respectful of all the members of its community: students, faculty, curators, and staff."

History

"The Third World Program is a concept that was initiated during the tumultuous 1960's as with most ethnic oriented programs across the country. The few third world students at RISD during that time saw the need to develop a viable program that would not only help finance the education of future third world students: of African, Asian, and South American ancestry, but provide the necessary counseling service, both academic and personal, that was also lacking. RISD has understood the need for such a program and has aided its development along with federal assistance."

John Torres, Director of the Third World Program 1968-75

Narrative Summary:

While currently named The Office of Multicultural Affairs, RISD's first department dedicated to ensuring access, support, and otherwise assistance to minority students was established in 1968 as the Third World Program. While the office has adjusted its name over the years, its mission and contribution have remained firm.

Helping RISD achieve its goal of attracting and developing the most promising artists and designers has been the core of this office's work. Its specific historical charge of assisting students of color and international students has served to provide a more inclusive environment for these educational and social experiences of the RISD commonwealth. Since the 1960's, five administrators have led the office with titles ranging from Dean to Coordinator to Director.

OMA is indebted to the dedication, commitment, and contributions of these administrators as they have championed, advocated for, and supported the needs of our various student populations. Their service helped guide the college toward realizing an inclusive and supportive environment where all can contribute to and benefit from the uniqueness of RISD.

Timeline: '68-'06

'68-'67

RISD initiates the Third World Program with three positions: Dean (John Torres), Assistant Dean (Ann Souza) and Secretary. The program's mission focused on disadvantaged students. Program responsibilities included recruitment, admissions evaluations and admission in conjunction with the Admissions Office, financial aid distribution, advising (academic, personal, social, financial matters) and fundraising.

'76-'77

The Third World Program folds due to resignation of the program Dean.

'77-'79

The Minority Affairs Office is created as a one person office reporting to the Dean of Students. Dorothy Ford assumes this position as Secretary/Assistant to the Associate Dean of Students.

'79-'91

The Minority Affairs Office expands responsibilities and reports to VP for Student Affairs.

The Minority Affairs Office becomes OMA and assumes responsibility for supporting and advising minority and international student populations including Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) processing. Position title changes to Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs and reports to Director of Student Development and Counseling Services. Office housed in College Building.

Resulting from the 1984 RISD Diversity Committee Report, OMA is upgraded to a department housed in Carr House with position upgrade to Director. Mr. Ueba Patnakis becomes OMA's first Director.

OMA moves from Carr House to Ewing House, Catalyst Arts (an arts civic engagement program) formally joins RISD and operates out of OMA.

Tony Johnson becomes OMA's second Director.

RISD Multicultural Center established in Ewing House. OMA and the Office of International Programs assume oversight and management for Ewing Multicultural Center.
Staff

Executive Staff

Tony Johnson

Tony Johnson is the Director of Multicultural Affairs at Rhode Island School of Design. In this role, he participates in constructing and implementing the college's efforts toward a multicultural and philosophically diverse environment that is respectful of all its members; Tony works to ensure a college campus that is enriched through experiencing and understanding society through strategic use of the range of cultures the college represents and building strong bridges to Rhode Island's greater community.

Tony is a 1993 RISD sculpture alumnus. Prior to his current role, he held a variety of positions including co-founding an arts consultant business, conducting art design and professional development training for MetLife Insurance, and serving as RISD's first admissions officer dedicated to diversity enrollment.

In addition to his work with art institutions, he is a board member of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, a juror on The Rhode Island Foundations' First Generation Scholarship Committee, a member of the Multicultural Affairs Think Tank through the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (UMass/Boston), and serves as V.P. of Public Relations for the Society Organized Against Racism in Higher Education, Inc. (SOAR, Inc.).

Deborah Kansonto

Deborah Kanston is the Administrative Assistant of Multicultural Affairs at Rhode Island School of Design. She is responsible for various office administration functions, supervision of student workers and the development and structure of the office for continued and greater impact. She assists the Director in the assessment and design of office programs, events, and activities and works to maintain and increase the office’s presence on campus and throughout the Rhode Island community.

Deborah holds a degree in accounting/financial services management and graduated from Johnson & Wales University in 1998. She worked in NJ, where she is originally from, as a corporate accountant for a utility company and as a staff accountant at the corporate headquarters of Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Outside of her work here at RISD, she serves as the Providence Campus representative for the Johnson & Wales Alumni Council, is a member and Past President of the graduate chapter of her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, is a member and Past Secretary of the Rhode Island Young Professionals (auxiliary of the Urban League of RI), and is a mentor for The Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center (The MET) Learning Through Internship program.

Student Staff

Ana Nicole Amequale
(’19 FAV)

Ana Chavez
(’18 FAV)

Ashley Diodoros
(’17 Arch)

Maria Alejandro Garcia
(’19 ID)

Paola Gonzalez
(’08 Graph)

Diogo Júnior Guimarães
(’19 Graph)

Jennifer King
(’18 Illus)

Sanj Nerenberg
(’17 ID)

Office Assistant

Cultural Programmer: Diversity

Alumni Panel Discussion

Office Assistant

Cultural Programmer: Hispanic Heritage

Office Assistant and Cultural Programmer: Hispanic Heritage

Cultural Programmer: Hispanic Heritage

Cultural Programmer: Hispanic Heritage

Cultural Programmer: Hispanic Heritage

Cultural Programmer: Spatio

Cultural Programmer: Civil/Human Rights

Gallery Coordinator

Office Assistant

Cultural Programmer: LGTQ Heritage

Cultural Programmer: Asian Heritage

MET High School, Providence, RI

Intern Staff

Hyung Jun Park
(’18 FAV)

Andrea Rivera Hurtado
(’19 ID)

Stephanie Rudig
(’19 FAV)

Lien Tong
(’19 FAV)

Jennifer Tran
(’19 FAV)

Raquel Perdomo

1-8 Liana Tong
9-11 Anna Olivos
4-5 Paola Gonzales
4-5 Ashely
Diodoros
6-7 Hyung Jun Park
7-8 Tony Johnson
9-10 Jennifer King
11-12 Stephanie Rudig
13-14 Sanj Nerenberg
15-16 Deborah Kanston
Service & Outreach

Tony Johnston

"Unbought & Unbossed: 360 Degree Black Expression" Week
Planning Committee
Civil & Human Rights Week
Disciplinary
Committee Member
Diversity Awards ’08
Planning Committee, Chair
Financial Aid Appeals
Committee Member
First Nation Peoples’ Heritage Week
Planning Committee
High School Student Initiative (Sundna)
Committee Member
Jack Kent Scholarship Selection
Selection Committee
Liberal Arts
Search Committee
Office of International Programs
Search Committee
Orientation
Committee Member
Artist Ball
Volunteer
Spring Ball
Volunteer
All Campus Events
Committee Member
Society Organized Against Racism, Inc. (SOAR)*
Membership Committee
"Mind, Body and Soul" Spirituality Week
Planning Committee
"Come as you are, were, want to be" LGBTQ Heritage Week
Planning Committee
Steve Mendelson Award
Selection Committee
Watson Fellowship
Selection Committee

Deborah Kantor

"Mind, Body and Soul" Spirituality Week
Planning Committee
"Unbought & Unbossed: 360 Degree Black Expression" Week
Planning Committee
Books for Africa Book Drive
Committee Member
Civil & Human Rights Week
Planning Committee
Diversity Awards ’08
Planning Committee
Commencement
Volunteer
Artist Ball
Volunteer
Spring Ball
Volunteer
Orientation
Committee Member
Director of Public Safety
Search Committee
Steve Mendelson Award
Selection Committee

*Denotes collaborative-produced programming

Programming

During the 2006-2007 academic year, 1,495 individuals attended / participated in OMA educational and social programming. Below is a comprehensive listing of OMA programming.

- Orientation — Sept. 9–12
  - Sept. 9: Move in Day: Check-in
  - Sept. 9: OMA Freshman/Transfer Student Welcome
  - Sept. 11: OMA Grad Student Welcome
  - Sept. 12: OMA Welcome BBQ — “Bienvenidos”
  - Sept. 12: Black Patty Sign-Up

- Hispanic Heritage Week — Nov. 1–4
  - Nov. 1: “Watch, Eat, and Sit” — Movie and Refreshments
  - Nov. 2: Documentary and Discussion: “Granito de Arena”
  - Nov. 4: Student Art Opening

- First Nation Peoples Week — Nov. 4–9
  - Nov. 4: Indoor Row Wax
  - Nov. 5: Storytelling with Words in the Wind
  - Nov. 6: Indigenous Student Exhibition Opening
  - Nov. 8: Healing Medicines of the Stone People Lecture
  - Nov. 9: Movie & Discussion: “Smoke Signals”

- Civil Rights Week — Jan. 12–20
  - Jan. 12: Party 4 Peace
  - Jan. 14: “These Grounds We Walk” Lecture
  - Jan. 15: “Granito de Arena” Movie Screening
  - Jan. 16: “The Way Home” Movie Screening
  - Jan. 17: Dr. Shakti Butler — Movie and Discussion
  - Jan. 18: Three Blind Mice
  - Jan. 19: “Blood Diamond” Movie Screening
  - Jan. 20: Represent / Spoken Word Event

- First Annual Alumni of Color Panel
  - Feb. 5: Alumni/Student Panel — “The Real World”

- Asian Focus Week — Mar. 7–10
  - Mar. 7: Japanese Tea Ceremony
  - Mar. 9: KFCEtary
  - Mar. 10: Asian Cultural Festival

- Black Heritage Week — Mar. 11–22
  - Mar. 11: Black Movie night at the Black Repertory Theatre
  - Mar. 12: Black Student Gallery Exhibition
  - Mar. 14: Black Awareness in America Workshop
  - Mar. 15: A Night on the Town: Tia’s Caribbean Restaurant
  - Mar. 17: The Souls of Black Girls (exclusive screening)
  - Mar. 18: Black Movie Marathon
  - Mar. 22: Nikki Giovanni Lecture at Roger Williams University
Program Assessment

2007 Programming Survey

Throughout the course of the academic year, OMA assessed the effectiveness and impact of its programming. Below is feedback from participants of three OMA produced events. Participants completed a written survey at the end of the event, which asked them to reflect on the relevance and effectiveness of the workshop/activity/learning.

The three survey results included are from the following events:

Dr. Shakti Butler Workshop
“Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible.”
Civil and Human Rights Week Programming
January 2007

The Real World
Alumni of Color Career Panel.
February 2007

Safe Zone Training & Workshop for the
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,
Questioning Week Programming,
April 2007

Making Whiteness Visible Results

I found the event informative and worthwhile.

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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>agree</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>strongly agree</td>
<td>16</td>
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</tbody>
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Comments:

The film was terrific and the facilitator great. It would've been nice to have one longer workshop rather than 2 sessions.
Great workshop.

Good topic and presentation because it was thought provoking.

Very good. Very essential. Very important to me, and our community. Keep on. More please.

Excellent knowledgeable woman and teacher. Please have / invite her again.

Thank you!

This should be a "required continuing education" seminar for Faculty and Staff (administration).

Its so important to be open to others / empathize.

Dr. Butler was excellent!

Excellent.

Good program. Would like to see it be a part of a larger community (ROSD) experience. Let the whole school stop and do this during the day.

Nice event!

Great!

Excellent, informative and necessary.
Alumni Panel Results

Community:
Great presentation! 67% strongly agree
Very interesting and helpful 33% agree
Shorten it, more people would come 0% disagree
We should have more events like this
Do it again often

I learned something new about:
Job opportunities after RISD
Everything
Experiences after RISD
RISD life
Life career world after RISD
RISD and how to take your experiences at RISD into the working world
I'm not alone in my struggle and confusion

I found the event worthwhile and informative

This event broadened my understanding of the topic:

I am:

Safe Zone Training Results

I learned something new about:
Some terms I was not familiar with 0% strongly disagree
My friend here at RISD, I had a great time 76% strongly agree
Other colleagues and their struggles/issues, new terminology in the LGBT community 22% agree
Terminology and also the public safety commitment to the issue 0% disagree
How the LGBT community views itself community-wide and individually
Vocabulary and identifiers that change even within the LGBT community itself
Better understanding of the definitions associated with the community
The needs of the LGBT students
Feelings staff members have about the climate at the school regarding queer issues

I found the event worthwhile and informative

This event broadened my understanding of the topic

I would attend GMRA events in the future and invite others

I am:

0% strongly disagree
89% strongly agree
11% agree
0% disagree

100% staff
0% student
0% faculty
0% guest
Partners & Partnerships

The following individuals / organizations / departments either co-sponsored OMA programming or OMA partnered with them to co-sponsor their programming during 2006-7:

RISD Academic Affairs Office
RISD Admissions Office
RISD Ceramics Dept
RISD Dining and Catering Services
RISD Foundation Studies Department
RISD Graduate Studies Office
RISD Health Services Office
RISD Human Resources
RISD Jazz Ensemble
RISD Liberal Arts Division
RISD Museum
RISD Museum, Education Department
RISD Office of Residence Life
RISD Office of Student Life
RISD Provost's Office
RISD Student Development Office
Asian Cultural Association (RISD student organization)
Butoh Club (RISD Health Services)
Gala Club (RISD student organization)
Straight Asian Gay Alliance (SAGA) - RISD student organization
University of Rhode Island - Multicultural Center
Mr. James Farkas, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Mr. Dennis Langley, Urban League of RI
Ms. Donna Mitchell, Brown University
Bro. Everett Mohammed, Rhode Island Coalition for Police Accountability
Ms. Stephanie Ogilvie Price, Hartford Coalition of 100 Black Women
Mr. Raymond Watson, Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Conferences, Workshops & Training

Surdna Scholars Pre-College Forum
July 19, 2006

Tony was invited to speak at SURDNA's Pre-College Scholars about art school experiences and how to assess and determine the art school / program that best suits one's goals.

Office of Residence Life — Resident Assistant Training
September 5, 2006

Tony Johnson was invited to facilitate a diversity workshop to the 2006-07 Resident Assistant staff. Through group consensus, the session worked to define diversity related terms that often go unacknowledged. The session worked to identify and discuss the meaning and difference, reviewed RISD's institutional diversity statistics, and explored the range of backgrounds represented within incoming student populations.

Office of Student Life — Orientation Leader Training
September 6, 2006

Tony Johnson was invited to facilitate a diversity workshop to the 2006-07 Orientation Leader Staff. Through group consensus, the session worked to define diversity related terms that often go unacknowledged. The workshop worked to identify and discuss the meaning and difference, reviewed RISD's institutional diversity statistics, and explored the range of backgrounds represented within incoming student populations.

Multicultural Affairs Directors’ Think Tank

Tony Johnson is a member of this think tank, ran and organized by The New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE).

The Oct. 19 topic at Framingham State College was “Strategic Alliances Across Campus.”

The Nov. 30 topic at Berkshire CC was “College-wide Diversity Initiatives: The Role of the President.”

The Jan. 25 topic at Boston College was “Influencing Institutional wide Initiatives for Faculty and Professional Development.”

The Mar. 22 topic at RISD was “Institutional Accreditation and Multicultural Center’s Contributions to ‘New Pedagogy’ in Curriculum.”

The May 10 topic at College of Holy Cross was “Building and Sustaining a Vision for Change.”
Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU)
October 20, 2006
Tony attended AACU's biennial Diversity and Learning conference. The theme of this conference was "Diversity in Learning: A Distant Moment," and held in Philadelphia, PA. The conference addressed leadership in educating all students to become interculturally proficient, deeply informed about the human and natural world, and empowered to achieve and act responsibly and with moral courage in a fast-changing, stratified, and globally interdependent environment.

SOAR Annual Student Conference
November 4, 2006
Tony is RISD's representative for Society Organized Against Racism in Higher Education, Inc. (SOAR). Tony attended this event with students. The conference theme was "Crossing Borders and Building Bridges" and was hosted by the University of Massachusetts (Amherst).

Race Relations on New England Campuses - Regional Conference
November 16-17, 2006
Tony attended this conference, co-hosted and hosted by Northeastern University's Office of Affirmative Action and Diversity. The conference theme was "Toward the Future: Strategies, Actions, and Alternatives" and the keynote speaker was Dr. Beverly Tatum.

Rape Aggression Defense Systems (R.A.D.)
February 19-24, March 2007
Deborah Kaneston participated and completed the R.A.D. program offered by RISD Public Safety. The R.A.D. System offers a basic education of techniques and personal defense. This program trains women as warriors, risk reduction and avoidance, to basic defense options and advances self-defense methods.

Digital Tools for Print Design Course
January 25-February 2, 2007
Deborah Kaneston enrolled in the RISD CE course for the spring semester. The course covered an introduction to the Adobe Creative Suite and its operating system along with the Adobe CS3 suite of applications (Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign).

Northeastern Multi-Cultural Affairs Administrators (NMCAA)
March 1, 2007
Tony Johnson is a member of NMCAA. RISD served as host for the March meeting where the topic of discussion was "Integrating Diversity Work with Cultural Community Organizations."

Department of Art and Design Education - High School Student Mentor Program
March 2007
As part of Art and Design Education's high school mentor program, Tony Johnson was invited to speak to the students being mentored in art, design, and college entry practices. Tony addressed campus life and the range of support systems for success available within college settings.

Deacon's Training Institute, Cathedral of Life Christian Assembly (COLA)
March 4 - May 20, 2007
Deborah Kaneston was invited to participate in the Deacon's Training Institute administered by Dr. Jay Allen Williams, Chief Empowerment Officer, COLA. These empowerment training sessions were designed to prepare participants mentally and spiritually for the week, sacrifice and humility required of a servant leader.

NASPA/ACPA Joint Meeting
March 31 – April 4, 2007
Deborah Kaneston attended the conference in Orlando, FL, sponsored by Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) and College Student Educators International (ACPA) entitled "Our Place and Responsibility to Shape Education."

CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer Course
April 10-11, 2007
Deborah Kaneston participated in the course offered by RISD Public Safety. She completed the course and is currently certified as an American Red Cross.

Kaplan GRE Test Prep Course
May-July 2007
Deborah Kaneston enrolled in this test preparation course for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). She plans to take the exam in August, 2007.

2007 Campus Climate Survey

Survey Context
First year students
All first year students were invited to participate in the survey. This group was targeted in hopes that the information provided would give insight into student experiences and that the data might be compared to the results of their graduating class' campus climate survey in 2005. First year students invited and surveyed include freshmen and transfer undergraduate students currently ending their first year of full-time studies at RISD. Those invited to participate include students from domestic and international populations as well as from minority and majority backgrounds. All students regardless of their race / ethnic heritage were invited to participate in the survey. To this end, the survey did not seek the participant's race / ethnic heritage or name.

Graduating Students
All graduating RISD students were invited to participate. This group was chosen in hopes that the information provided would be as candid and honest as possible without student concern for retribution or negative impact. Likewise, this group represents the student population who, in the end, would have had the most social, academic, and experiential opportunities with RISD. Those invited to participate include undergraduate seniors and second year graduate students from domestic and international populations as well as those from minority and majority backgrounds. All students regardless of their race / ethnic heritage were invited to participate in the survey. To this end, the survey did not seek the participant's race / ethnic heritage or name.
Ewing Multicultural Center Gallery

Mission

The Multicultural Center Gallery uses art as a vehicle to explore and investigate the cultural, cross-cultural, and inter-cultural dynamics within society. The gallery seeks to promote dialogue surrounding the variety of perspectives belonging to RISD's community and the greater art community. The gallery's exhibitions create art exchanges that provide sustainable opportunities for deeper learning and exploration of cultures, experiences, and ways of life.

Inventory of Art Exhibitions

* Dedicated to Diversity
  Resident Assistant & Orientation Leader Invitational
  October 2006
  Artists: Seth Clark, Sara Cuno, Colin Hasley, Tanssia Jordan, Sophia Khwaq, Alysha Polito, Henrik Sedstrom, Melissa Tyson

* Expressions of Us
  RISD's First Nation / Native American Student Invitational
  November 2006
  Artists: Hanna Kittell, Courtney Leonard, Chiara Löwe

* Juxtaposition of Time and Space
  Exchange students
  January
  Artists: Jonathan Clark, Lei lei Guo

* Wandering: Sunflower Poplar
  Solo Exhibition
  February
  Artist: Kelly Wilbur

* The Natural
  Painting Department Open Call
  March
  Curator: Meghan Gordon

* Graphic Beauty
  Solo Thesis Exhibition
  May
  Artist: Stacey Cohen

* European Honors Program Annual Exhibition
  May

2004-2007 Overview

After extensive work and planning during the summer of 2004, The Ewing Multicultural Gallery was realized with its first exhibition in the fall. A total of four (6) exhibitions were successfully shown, each of which added another layer of dialogue to the discussions of culture, nationality, ethnicity, semiotics, and difference. Whether an exhibition of students from a similar ethnic group, an exhibition of cross-cultural students from one major, or an exhibition of international exchange students, each show was aimed at increasing understanding while using RISD's common language: ART.

Staff

The Gallery is staffed by Hye Jung Park (Fum '09) and Lian Tong (Fum '08). The Gallery staff is assisted by Tony Thompson, Director of Multicultural Affairs, and supported by the Director of International Programs.

Special Thanks

There are many individuals whose assistance, dedication and commitment made the Multicultural Gallery possible. Special thanks go to the following individuals:

Tino Chow (Fum '09) – Gallery physical development
Ms. Calliope, Brown University, Posse Doctoral Women's Center Director – consultation
Mr. Alan Canters, RISD Environmental Health & Safety, Manager
Mr. Andros Montenegro – Gallery coordinator (Sept – Oct)
Ms. Hye Jung Park (Fum '09) – Gallery Coordinator
Mr. Barry Somersall – consultation
Ms. Lian Tong (Fum '08) – Gallery Coordinator
Mr. Joel Waskeman (Fum '06) – Gallery physical development