

Office
of Multi-
cultural
Affairs
Annual Report
'05 - '06





**The RISD Office of Multicultural
Affairs 2005-06:**

Design: Ronit Cyjon

Co- Design: Jon O'Keefe

Content: Tony Johnson, Deborah
Kanston & Seth Goldenberg

Edited: Deborah Kanston

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

2 College St. Providence, RI 02903

Phone: 401-277-4957

Fax: 401-277-4937

Email: diverse@risd.edu



From The Director

From its beginning as the Third World Program to its current structure, the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) is proudly celebrating its 38th anniversary. Since 1968, our school has witnessed significant social, political and economic changes domestically and abroad that continue to shape and redefine who we are as individuals, who we are as a community, and who we are as a college.

In similar fashion, OMA has made significant adjustments in its operation to ensure that our students learn and enhance the skills needed to effectively build bridges of community and communication within and across lines of socioeconomic class, gender, race, ethnicity, lifestyle, ability, and geography. We believe the development of these skills brings a direct market value as our graduates engage in their professional art practice. Their understanding of how to build bridges and ability to navigate the complexities of our global society have become quite fundamental to career opportunities and professional longevity in education and in life.

2005-6 was an important year for OMA marked by significant growth. We thank the many individuals, departments, and community organizations that have joined our work to support RISD's educational mission. With your collaboration, we have provided critical experiential and reflective opportunities for our students to better understand themselves, better understand others and link their artwork to the framework of societal contexts and complexities.

A collaboration of particular note is between OMA and The Office of International Programs as we have joined forces to oversee RISD's new multicultural center. The Ewing Multicultural Center joins the RISD community as an institutional resource and educational facility dedicated to supporting the college's diversity mission. It sends a message that we appreciate diversity as a priority worth pursuing, informs future members of the value we place on multicultural and cross-cultural conversations, and provides a framework for the RISD commonwealth to experience cultural interactions, dialogues, and art exchanges with greater intensity and planned consistency. I am delighted that this center will

6 • The Director

The Director • 7

increase opportunities for our community to engage in different experiences, philosophies, and ways of life while simultaneously providing support to campus populations lacking the critical mass that we're working hard to realize.

As it enters its 38th year, OMA's dedication to supporting RISD's educational charge is stronger than ever. We remain committed to finding creative ways to partner throughout the institution to ensure that all of our students receive the critical skills and knowledge needed to successfully navigate our ever-changing country and the shrinking global arena.

Respectfully,

Tony Johnson



Ewing Multicultural Center •

Table of Contents

Mission
History / Time Line
Staff
Service & Outreach
Programing
Partners & Partnerships
Conferences, Workshops & Training
Campus Climate Survey
From the Assistant Director of Catalyst Arts
Catalyst Arts Mission
Catalyst Arts History / Catalyst Arts Partners & Partnership

- 7
- 8 - 10
- 11 - 13
- 14
- 15 - 16
- 17 - 18
- 21 - 23
- 24 - 28
- 29
- 30
- 31

8 • Table Of Contents

Mission

"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"

• 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 the opportunity 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.

As a resource for RISD's minority populations, OMA advises students on social, cultural, and personal matters, financial aid issues, and academic procedures. OMA works closely with faculty members, staff, and administrators to ensure every opportunity for minority populations to realize their academic goals and personal growth. OMA assists in student development and leadership through supporting and advising campus cultural groups on planning events, activities, and lectures, and similar community building programs.



Welcome gathering OMA •



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 1968-73**

• Narrative Summary:

While currently named The Office of Multicultural Affairs, RISD's first department dedicated to assuring 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 and consistent.

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 students and has equally enhanced the 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.

10 • OMA's History

History (Time Line) • 11

Timeline: '68 - '06

'68 - '76

• 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 admittance in conjunction with the Admissions Office, financial aid distribution, advising (on 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.



'92 • 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.

'99 • The Office of International Programs is created. OMA resumes responsibility for supporting and advising minority students.

'00 • OMA Coordinator, Dorothy Ford retires after 27 years of service to RISD and campus diversity.

'01 • Resulting from the 1999 RISD Diversity Committee Report, OMA is upgraded to a department housed in Carr House with position upgrade to Director. Mr. Deba Patniak becomes OMA's first Director.

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

'04 • Tony Johnson becomes OMA's second director.

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

Executive Staff

Tony Johnson •



Tony 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 multiculturally 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. Since 2004, he has been the Director of Catalyst Arts, RISD's civic engagement program dedicated to design and fine art partnerships between local communities and RISD students.

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 Met Life Insurance, and serving as RISD's first admissions officer dedicated to diversity enrollment.

In addition to his work with art institutions, he serves as a member of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society's Board of Directors, on The Rhode Island Foundations' First Generation Scholarship Committee, and as a member of the Multicultural Affairs Think Tank with the New England Resource Center for Higher Education (UMass / Boston).

Deborah Kanston •



Deborah 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 / finance and investments 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 and Wales Alumni Council, she is a member and past president of the graduate chapter of her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, she 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.

Seth Goldenberg •



Seth serves as the Assistant Director of Catalyst Arts. As the Assistant Director, he mentors and advises students on a variety of civic engagement opportunities; likewise he oversees the daily

operations of connecting RISD students and faculty with Pawtucket, RI youth and formal community partnerships. Seth, a social entrepreneur, founded the Catalyst Arts program as his degree project in the Painting Department at RISD.

Seth has worked with a diverse set of public institutions from public housing authorities, hospitals, non-profits, and public relations firms on experimental public arts projects that are participatory and social in nature. Goldenberg received his MFA from the Maine College of Art where he studied with Suzanne Lacey, Peter Hocking, and Jessie Shefrin. His thesis was written on community-based arts practices through the comparative cultural theories of Paulo Freire, bell hooks, Gilles Deleuze, Michel Foucault, and Hannah Arendt. He has presented nationally on his "Pedagogy of Inquiry" model of teaching and learning.

14 • Staff (Executive Staff)

Staff (Student Staff) • 15

Intern Staff

- Maridee Santos MET High School. Providence, RI
- Raquel Perdomo MET High School. Providence, RI

Student Staff

- Kevin Chang ('06 Illus) Office Assistant; Graphic Designer; Cultural Programmer: Asian Festival
- Ana Chavez ('08 Furn) Cultural Programmer: "In Their Voices"- First Nation People's Week; Rap Sessions: Community Dialogue on Race; Hip Hop showdown
- Pali Dacanay ('08 ID) Office Assistant
- Jazzmen Johnson ('06 FAV) Cultural Programmer: "Black Fusion: Movements 'N' Soul" - ; Black Heritage Week; Rap Sessions: Community Dialogue on Race and Hip Hop
- Jennifer King ('08 Illus) Cultural Programmer: "Breaking Bread - Breaking Boundaries" Spiritual Heritage Event; Civil & Human Rights Week; "Black Fusion: Movements 'N' Soul" - Black Heritage Week
- Sami Nerenberg ('07 ID) Cultural Programmer: Civil & Human Rights Week; "Static Silence" - Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Questioning Week
- Juliet Serem ('07 Int Arch) Student representative for African Alliance of RI and OMA partnership
- Brandon Wallace ('06 J&M) OMA Cultural Providence Tour Series
- Liz Zunon ('06 Illus) Office Assistant

Service & Outreach

• Tony Johnson:

Art & Architectural History Search Committee
 • Black Fusion: Movements 'N' Soul Week Planning Committee, Chair • Civil & Human Rights Week Planning Committee, Chair • Commencement Volunteer • Disciplinary Committee • Financial Aid Appeals Committee • First Nation Peoples Heritage Week Planning Committee, Chair • High School Student Initiative (Surdna Grant) Committee • Orientation Committee • Society Organized Against Racism, Inc. (SOAR)*, Membership committee • Spirituality Program Planning Committee • Static Silence: LGBTQ Heritage Week Planning Committee, Co-chair • Steve Mendelson Award Selection Committee • Watson Fellowship Selection Committee

• Deborah Kanston:

Black Fusion: Movements 'N' Soul Week Planning Committee • Books for Africa Book Drive Committee
 • Civil & Human Rights Week Planning Committee • Commencement Volunteer • Orientation Committee
 • Spirituality Program Planning Committee



Staff OMA •

• Seth Goldenberg:

• RISD / Surdna Grant Committee, Chair • RISD Board of Trustee Ad-Hoc Task Force on Community Engagement • Steve Mendelson Award Selection Committee • RISD Pre-College Student Scholarship Committee • Blackstone Academy Charter School Council Community Representative* • Art Interactive Gallery – Boston, Massachusetts-Think Tank Member*

* Denotes organization outside of RISD community

Programming

During the 2005-2006 academic year, 1,062 individuals attended / participated in OMA educational and social programming. Below is a comprehensive listing of OMA programming.

Sept 10	Move in Day Social
Sept 13	OMA Annual Welcome Gathering
Sept 21	'What is OMA?' orientation meeting
July - Sept	Bodies of Evidence Exhibit*
Oct 1	Cultural Tour: African American Providence
Oct 4	Jamaica Wintersession Info Session
Oct 11	Emmanuel Eni: Artist Residency Lecture
Oct 12	Emmanuel Eni: Winnie Lambrecht's class lecture*
Oct 13	Emmanuel Eni & Julius Sokenu Poetry Event*
Oct 15	Cultural Tour: Hispanic Providence
Oct 26	OMA hosted Joyce Scott Luncheon
Oct 27	Threads of Memory: Textiles Arts and Ancestral Masquerades Among the Yoruba*
Nov 2	Rap Sessions: Community Dialogue on Race & Hip Hop*

• "In Their Voices"- First Nation Peoples Week (Nov 5-13)

Nov 5	Cultural Tour: Native America - 15th Annual Indoor Pow Wow
Nov 10	"In Their Voices" Film Night: "Black Indians"
Nov 11	"In Their Voices" Film Night: "Last of the Mohegans"
Nov 12	All My Relations United
Nov 13	"In Their Voices" Movie Reflections
Dec 4	Breaking Bread: Breaking Boundaries
Dec 5	Visiting Artist Alfredo Jaar*

• Civil & Human Rights Week (Jan 12-19)

Jan. 12	Political Workout Film: Beat Back Bush
Jan. 15	Civil Rights Week film & discussion: "Crash"
Jan. 16	Brunch Fit For A King*
Jan. 18	MLK, Jr. Day Keynote Lecture: Dr. Bernard Lafayette*
Jan. 19	'Race' for Pizza film & discussion
Mar. 11	Asian Cultural Association : Annual Festival*



- “Black Fusion: Movements N Soul”

Black Heritage Week (Mar 11-17)

- Mar 12 “Yellowman” Stage Production (Black Repertory Co.)*
- Mar 13 “From A to ‘Zee’” Viewing of RISD Archives*
- Mar 15-16 Discussion & Film showing: The “N” Word
- Mar 17 Soul Train Party*

- “Static Silence”- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning Week

(April 23- 27)

- April 23 Film & Panel: “Dangerous Living: Coming Out in Developing Countries”
- April 24 Gallery Opening: “Reflections in a Sexual Society”*
- April 25 Panel Discussion: “Closet Commotion: Coming Out Stories”*
- April 26 “Day of Silence”
- April 27 “Day of Silence” reflections discussion
- April 28 Safer sex table*;
- April 28 Poetry week event: Poetry of Resistance -The Welfare Poets



First Nation Peoples Week •

* Denotes collaboratively produced programming.

Partners & Partnerships

The following individuals • organizations • departments either co-sponsored OMA programming or OMA partnered with them to co-sponsor their programming.

- 2005 - 6
- RISD Academic Affairs Office • RISD Admissions Office
 - RISD Alumni & Career Services Office • RISD Copy Center • RISD Dining & Catering Services • RISD Fine Arts Office • RISD Health Services Office • RISD Liberal Arts Division • RISD Museum • RISD Museum, Dept of Prints, Photographs & Drawing • RISD Museum, Education Department • RISD Office of International Programs • RISD Office of Residence Life • RISD Office of Student Life • RISD Sculpture Dept • RISD Student Development Office • African Alliance of Rhode Island
 - Asian Cultural Association (RISD student organization)
 - Haffenreffer Museum, Brown University • Rhode Island Indian Council • Sex Club (RISD student organization)
 - Straight And Gay Alliance (SAGA) (RISD student organization) • Ms. Donna Mitchell, Brown University
 - Kara Young (Brown University '06)

The following individuals were directly involved in OMA programming, demonstrated vital support in the success of OMA programming, or were vital in OMA's ability to support students.

- 2005 - 6
- RISD Foundation Studies Division (student support) • RISD Graduate Studies Office (Jamaica Wintersession course)
 - RISD Registrar's Office (administrative support) • RISD Student Alliance (support of OMA's goals, mission, programming) • RISD Student Gallery Board (space & assistance for LGBTQ week exhibition) • Latin Alliance (Ms. Claudia Del Castillio '06 IL) • Providence Athenaeum* (Book Drive for African Literacy) • Mr. Nathan Andary (OMA heritage week planning committees) • Prof. Donna Bruton (Programming support) • Prof. Bolaji Campbell (Jamaica Wintersession course) • Ms. Courtney Capizzo (RISD by Design weekend) • Prof. John Chamberlin (panelist)
 - Mr. Kevin Chang ('06 IL) (graphic design work) • Ms. Deborah Clemons (“From A to ‘Zee’” special view of museum archives) • Mr. Paul Connelly (collaborative OSL / OMA programming & sponsorship) • Provost Jay Coogan (direct support of OMA mission & goals) • Prof. Scott Cook (discussion facilitator) • Ms. Whitney Davis (Met School internship support) • Mr. Blair De St. Croix (collaborative





OSL / OMA programming & sponsorship) • Prof. Ellen Driscoll (Emmanuel Eni artist residency) • Ms. Virginia Dunleavy (Met School internship support) • Mr. Asher Dunn ('08) (LGBTQ week programming committee & support) • Mr. Ned Dwyer (direct support of OMA mission and goals) • Prof. Lindsay French (Panelist) • Ms. Ellen Hallet (direct support of OMA mission & goals) • Ms. Chris Hartley (RISD by Design weekend) • Prof. Jonathan Highfield (Panelist) • Ms. Jan Howard ("From A to 'Z'" special view of museum archives) • Ms. Kathy Jensen (collaborative OSL / OMA programming & sponsorship) • Ms. Sarah Knotz ('08) (art mentorship for Native American youth) • Ms. Alexia Komider (Panelist) • Ms. Winnie Lambrecht (Emmanuel Eni lecture) • Ms. Eva Laporte (Jamaica Winter-session Course) • Mr. Mishell Lilly* (Cultural Providence Tour Guide) • Mr. Ramon Lo ('06 ID) (Asian Cultural Association support) • Mr. Michael Loeffelman (OMA heritage week planning committees) • President Roger Mandle (direct support of OMA mission and goals) • Prof. Bryan McFarlane* (Jamaica Wintersession course) • Ms. Margaret Middleton ('08) (LGBTQ week programming committee & support) • Ms. Donna Mitchell* (First Nation Peoples Heritage Week Advisor) • Mr. Chris Morris (Orientation Welcome Gathering) • Ms. Ana Neves (Jamaica Wintersession course) • Mr. Phil Olivera (OMA heritage week planning committees) • Ms. Raquel Perdomo * (Met School OMA intern) • Mr. Antonio Peters (panelist) • Ms. Sue Rappaneu (collaborative health programming) • Mr. Peter Riefler (financial aid advisor) • Ms. Cindy Ross-Meeks* (First Nation Peoples Week Panelist) • P.J. Roundtree ('08) (art mentorship for Native American youth) • Ms. Maridee Santos* (Met School / OMA intern) • Ms. Anna Schwartz (OMA heritage week planning committees) • Ms. Katie Sheptyck (special advisor on advertisement) • Ms. Laura Shireff ('08) (art mentoship for Native American youth) • Ms. Ashleigh Smith ('08 Graph) (Graphic Design work) • Ms. Rosanne Somerson (direct support of OMA mission and goals) • Ms. Simone Spruce ("From A to 'Zee'" special view of museum archives) • Ms. Carol Terry (Book Drive for African Literacy) • Mr. Jhomphy Venura* (Cultural Providence Tour Guide) • Ms. Carole Villucci (Museum collaborations) • Ms. Fo Wilson ('05 FURN) ("Bodies of Evidence" exhibition, RISD Museum) • Mr. Arnie Yazinski (direct support of OMA mission and goals) • Mr. Eric Yesline (RISD by Design) • Mr. Brandon Wallace ('06 J&M) (Cultural Tour bus driver)

* Denotes non-RISD individual



Performance Artist Joyce Scott •





Closet Commotion •



Emmanuel Eni Artist Residence •



Native American, RI Tour •

Conferences, Training & Workshops

• Office of Residence Life - Resident Assistant Training (Sept. 7, 2005)

Tony Johnson was invited to facilitate a diversity workshop to the 2005-2006 Resident Assistant staff. The session included new ways to view sameness and difference, interactive models for inclusive practice, and an overview of the range of backgrounds represented within incoming student populations.

• Imagining America

[Sept. 30, 2005 in New Brunswick, NJ]

RISD is a member of this consortium of colleges and universities operated through the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). Seth Goldenberg presented a session at the annual conference bringing with him high school students from Catalyst Arts partnerships. His session was titled "Public Engagement and Intercultural Practice: New Democratic Spaces for Scholars and Artists."

• Multicultural Affairs Directors' Think Tank

[Oct. 20, Dec. 1, 2005] [Jan. 27, March 23, May 12, 2006]

Tony Johnson is a member of this think tank, run and organized by The New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE) • The Oct. 20 topic at Bryant University was "Student Learning Outcomes and Multicultural Centers" • The Dec. 1 topic at Rhode Island College was "ALANA Millennial Students" • The Jan. 27 topic at Western New England College was "Bringing White Men into the Diversity Conversation" • The March 23 topic at Emerson College was "The Impact of Changes in Federal and State Financial Aid Policy on Access for Students of Color" • The May 12 topic at Brown University was "Class and Race: The Perspective of Multicultural Centers and Campuses."



- **Division of Graduate Studies – Graduate Student Teacher Program** (Oct. 31 2005)

Tony Johnson was invited to present to RISD graduate student teachers on collegiate teaching preparation. Tony's presentation addressed historical and contemporary barriers to inclusive environments, current challenges faced by non-majority learners, and strategies for inclusive learning environments.

- **Northeastern Multi-Cultural Affairs Administrators (NMCAA)** (Nov. 10, 2005)

Tony Johnson is a member of NMCAA. RISD served as host for the November meeting where the topic of discussion was "Professionalizing and Institutionalizing the Work of Multicultural Affairs Offices and Centers."

- **Department of Art and Design Education High School Student Mentor Program** (Jan. 19, 2006)

As a 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.

- **Conference on Teaching for Transformation** (Jan. 20, 2006 in Boston, MA)

Tony was invited to speak as a panelist at this conference, hosted by The Center for Improvement in Teaching, University of Massachusetts (Boston). The panel topic was "New Strategies for Implementing Multicultural Education."

- **Student Affairs.com Online Professional Development Workshop** (Feb. 20 – March 17, 2006)

Deborah enrolled in the "Diversity in Higher Education" course that engaged issues of diversity in higher education in the United States. The course covered the history of inclusion and exclusion in the United States, the policies and laws related to diversity in higher education, campus initiatives, and the benefits of diversity for student outcomes.

- **College Art Association (CAA)**
(February, 2006 in Boston MA)

Seth Goldenberg was invited to join a panel of civic engagement scholars, deans, and practitioners at the CAA conference. The panel's topic was "From Town to Gown: Higher Education Partnerships with Communities."

- **National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education**
(May 30 - June 3, 2006 in Chicago IL)

Tony attended the 18th Annual NCORE conference sponsored by the University of Oklahoma's Office of Continuing Education.



Welcome Gathering •

- **SOAR Annual Spring Workshop** • (June 16 2006)

Tony is RISD's representative for Society Organized Against Racism in Higher Education, Inc. (SOAR). This year's workshop was held at Bryant University and included presentations on "Uprooting Racism" by Brandan Buehring, Wesleyan University, and "The Implications and Impact of Whiteness Studies in the Struggle Against Racism in Higher Education" by Ashley Doan, Association of Humanistic Sociology, Professor of Sociology and Assoc. Dean of Hillyer College - University of Hartford.



Campus Climate Survey 2006

During the 2005-6 academic year, OMA assessed the need for, designed, and executed a survey to better understand what and how students felt about RISD campus climate, college diversity, and inclusive campus practices. The survey results are seen here.

• Survey Context

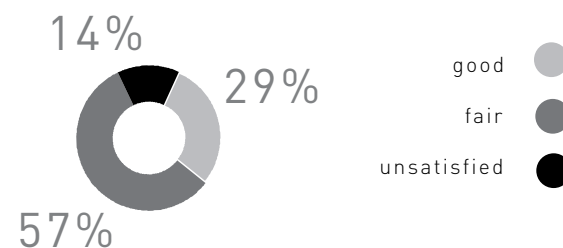
All graduating RISD students were invited to participate. This group was chosen in hopes that the information provided would be as candid and honest as possible without student concern for retribution or negative impact. Likewise, this group represents the student population who, in theory, would have had the most social, academic, and experiential opportunities with RISD. Those invited to participate included undergraduate seniors and second-year graduate students from domestic and international populations as well as those from minority and majority populations. Race / ethnic heritage was not a factor in one's eligibility to participate in the survey. To this end, the participant's race / ethnic heritage was not sought in the list of survey questions.

Students were provided with two ways to respond to the survey. The first option allowed students to fill out the electronic version and email the results to OMA. In the second option, students would fill out the electronic survey, print it, and anonymously return the hardcopy to OMA. 300 students were contacted to participate in the 2006 Campus Climate survey, five percent responded by submitting a fully completed survey.

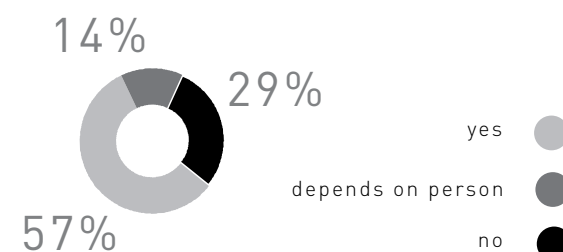


Black Providence Tour •

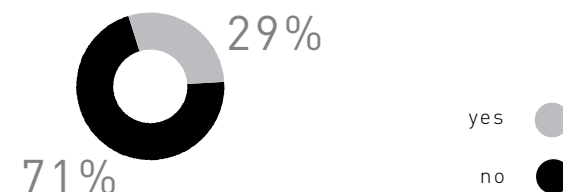
- related to campus diversity, how would you rate your satisfaction with RISD as a whole?



- based on diversity & being an inclusive respectful campus community would you recommend this school to a prospective student?

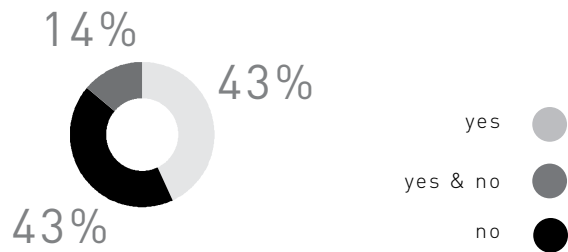


- would you say RISD is culturally inclusive across the lines of socioeconomic class, gender, race, nationality, ethnicity & lifestyle?





• would you say RISD operates in a culturally inclusive manner across lines of student support & programming?

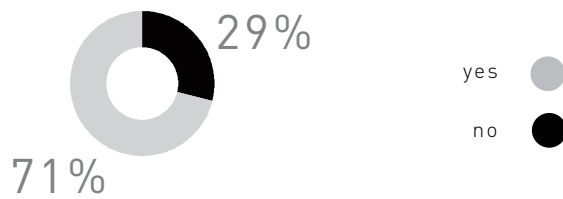


yes
yes & no
no



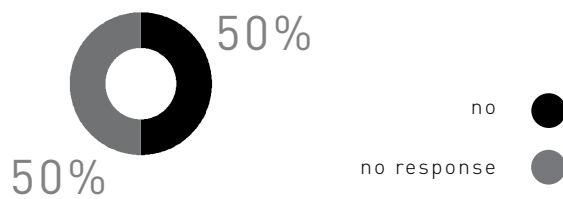
28 • Campus Climate Survey 2006

• as a student, have you ever utilized the services or attended the programming of the office of multicultural affairs?



yes
no

• if you answered no to the previous question, did you not use the office because you were not aware of the office?



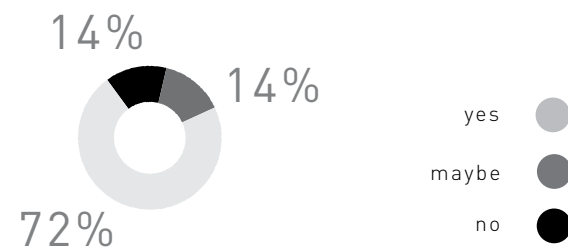
no
no response



Campus Climate Survey 2006 • 29



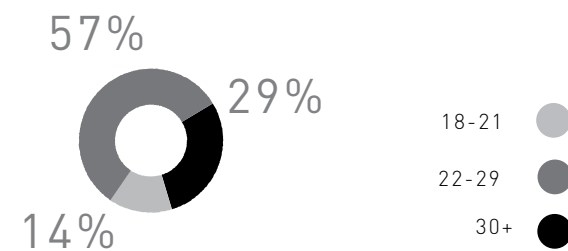
• do you think an office of multicultural affairs is an important part of a campus community?



yes
maybe
no

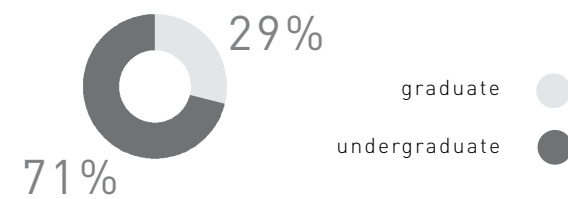


• please provide your age.



18-21
22-29
30+

• please check the appropriate answer.

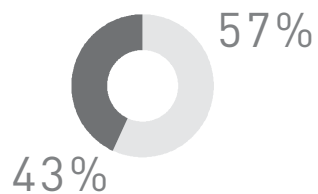


graduate
undergraduate

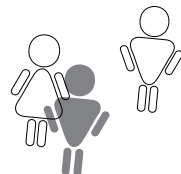




• please check the appropriate answer.



female ●
male ●



30 • Campus Climate Survey 2006

Assistant Director Of Catalyst Arts • 31

From The Assistant Director of Catalyst Arts

In the Academic Year of 2005-06 Catalyst Arts launched the first "Fellowship for Collaborative Practice." After three years of diverse vehicles for RISD students to experience community work through courses, work-study, grants, and internships, the Fellowship program was designed. In this critical new design RISD students applied to become a part of the program proposing a vision of a collaborative project they wished to pursue.

The fellowship offered students a stipend for their work, a budget for project creation, and intensive training and advisement throughout the year-long program. This framework represents a critical shift in the foundation of Catalyst Arts as an alternative learning community. Curriculum was established through readings, a learning plan, fellowship dinners, and mid-year critique with the acclaimed Alfredo Jaar. Deepening the training and learning experience for the RISD student raised the level of rigor of this professional practice.

In this valuable time for publicly engaged art and design practices, Catalyst Arts has begun to articulate the pedagogical, art historical, and curriculum models for this field of practice and to assist the college in determining its strategy moving forward.

Of particular note, Catalyst's fourth year was marked by seeing its first senior class, in Pawtucket partner schools, through graduation. Of the seniors that the program worked with, 80% were accepted to and are attending college. Among them include Jose Perez, a RISD pre-college alumnus, who was accepted to the RISD undergraduate program with an adequate financial aid package per year. This represents a key success of building college competitive candidates in a population of students who are often first generation college students or who had not considered art or design as a career path before their enrollment in the Catalyst Arts program.

Seth Goldenberg,
Catalyst Arts, Assistant Director





Catalyst Arts Mission

Operating through the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Catalyst Arts is a RISD service-learning program dedicated to experimenting in design and fine arts collaborative processes. The program creates community-based partnerships for RISD students to collaborate with and work within the greater-RI community. Founded in 2002, Catalyst Arts is centered on the importance of dialogue and believes that collaborative practices can foster new approaches for the arts to intersect with citizenship, entrepreneurship, and public engagement.

32 • Catalyst Arts Mission



David Dilks Catalyst Arts •

Catalyst Arts History

Catalyst Arts is a service-learning program that brings RISD students and youth from Pawtucket together in collaborative relationships to conceive, design, and create experimental art and design projects. Since its founding in 2002, Catalyst Arts has worked with over 150 RISD students and 300 RI youth. In this mentoring model both groups of students learn skills of leadership through the team-based focus of the work.

In its short history Catalyst has enjoyed invitations, commissions, and presentation engagements to share its methodology and approach to community-based learning. From an exhibition at Mass College of Art to a presentation at Duke University, Catalyst has gained a noteworthy reputation for its innovative work and practices.

Catalyst Arts History • Partners & Partnerships • 33

Catalyst Arts' Partners & Partnerships

• The following organizations represent Catalyst Arts' historic & current partnerships

- AS220 • Blackstone Academy Charter School
- Boys and Girls Club of Pawtucket • RI Department of Health • Mirror Image, Inc • Slater Mill Museum
- Tolman High School • WORD



Catalyst Arts •

