In keeping with our theme of Resilience and Sustainability, we celebrated nine years of socially engaged programming at Urbano. Our Artist in Residence [AiR] program grew with a range of media, exhibitions, and integrated with our Youth Artist Projects. Three exceptional Artists in Residence had solo exhibitions in our gallery space, and led Youth Artist Projects that culminated in engaging exhibitions of youth work.

In Fall 2018 our AiR was Constanza Aguirre, whose exhibition Wandering in the Land of Oblivion was a series of striking black-and-white portraits of people at work. Aguirre led a Youth Artist Project where students used drawing and other media to explore the theme of human migration and displacement, and art making as an act of individuation and remembrance.

ENIGMA: Reactions to Racism was an installation of Spring 2019 AiR Chanel Thervil’s interactive portraits of Black millennials, allowing visitors to directly hear about instances of racism the subjects experienced. Thervil led students in The Promise of Tomorrow, a multi-media manifestation of resilience and survival, asking: If art is the conscience of society, then what do artists need to survive? What do youth need to make the future better for the communities they are a part of now and hope to build tomorrow?

We ended the fiscal year with Summer 2019 AiR Nathalia JMag’s Youth Artist Project Map This: Sustainable Fashion. JMag’s own sustainable fashion designs were on view in our gallery, and students designed, sewed, and participated in the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Block Party, publicly parading in their own stunning sustainable fashion designs.

Urbano hosted shorter workshops for specialized artist instruction. One set of workshops had students make films with Darren Alexander Cole, then score the films with original music, instructed by Alexander Barsov. During the Fall 2018 exhibition of Chilean photographer Samuel Shats, Urbano alum Faizal Westcott taught a digital photography workshop.

Strong partnerships with organizations including the Gardner Museum, Emerson College, and MIT DUSP expanded our reach and taught us about what we bring to the community and what we can learn.

Urbano is proud to be part of the 2019-20 NEFA Fund For Artists cohort, visiting peer organizations’ installations and sites, and leading the conversation about public art in Boston. In Winter 2019 Urbano was honored to receive a Boston Cultural Council grant, with a special award recognizing us as a Model Equity Organization.

We look forward to celebrating our 10th Anniversary in FY2020!

Thank you for your support,
**Guiding Principles**

**Mission**

Urbano is a community art studio that fosters public and participatory art as a vehicle for personal transformation, community cohesion, and social change. We bring together professional artists, local youth, and community members to learn and experiment through place-based, multidisciplinary projects.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guiding Principles / Project Logic Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participating Youth</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interested in creating art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interested in social change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interested in future job possibilities in the arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Members</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Audience and participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Socially Engaged Artists</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interned in social justice issues and participatory art practices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STRATEGIES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IMPACT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTCOMES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOALS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participating Youth**

- **Youth Attended High School Students (majority are BPS, all students attend public schools)**
- **Youth live in the Greater Boston area, with over 90% residing in Boston (primarily from Dorchester, Roxbury, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and Mattapan)**
- **Ages 16-19**
- **Often from low/middle-income families**

**Creativity and Problem Solving**

- **Youth attend class twice weekly, 6 hours/week**

**Program Evidence**

- **Youth attend high-quality contemporary arts programs**
- **Youth attend class twice weekly, 6 hours/week**

**Artist-in-Residence Program**

- **Youth attend class twice weekly, 6 hours/week**

**Youth will:**

- Develop skills and understanding related to contemporary arts practice and issues of social change.
- Have 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.

**Youth will:**

- Shown 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.

**Youth will:**

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Resilience and Sustainability

Each year Urbano’s programs are united by an annual theme. The theme for 2019 was Resilience and Sustainability. By addressing physical, social, and economic challenges, Urbano joined a city-wide initiative to build a more resilient Boston. Artists worked closely with community partners and youth artists to explore this theme through an intersectional lens, considering issues of race, socio-economic status, gender and sexual orientation, and environmental justice.

Programs

Based on its annual theme of Resilience and Sustainability, Urbano ran five programs in 2018-2019:

- Artist in Residence
- Youth Artist Apprenticeships
- Youth Artists’ Projects
- Youth Artists’ Workshops
- Artist Exhibitions
Each year Urbano invites 3-4 Artists in Residence who are practicing, emerging, mid career artists and recognized for their innovative, critical socially engaged practice. Each residency lasts 1-3 months and opens with a major exhibition at Urbano’s studio. In conjunction with each residency, Resident artists create a concurrent youth art project and events open to the public, all related to the resident artist’s work.
Chanel Thervil

is a Haitian-American artist and educator obsessed with all things art, pop culture, and history. Roaming the halls of NYC museums as a teen, she often found herself wondering why she felt so out of place. Fueled by her lack of satisfaction with the narrow range of representations of people of color on both sides of the canvas, Chanel decided to pursue a career in art. Her love for talking about art, doing research and dragging loved ones to museums, led her to completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting at Pace University and a Master’s Degree in Art Education at Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Recently, she’s worked in public art, portraiture, and collaborations with institutions like MassArt’s Center for Art & Community Partnerships, the Institute of Contemporary Art, and the Boston Center for the Arts. She currently serves as the program manager at The Art Connection. Her work was featured in Nine Moments for Now at The Cooper Gallery, which Hyperallergic named one of 2018’s Top 20 Art Exhibitions in the US. Her work was on view in the deCordova 2019 New England Biennial. To learn more, visit her website: http://www.chanelthervil.com.

Nathalia JMag

is a professional fashion designer with a degree from Framingham State University. She has participated in shows including Helsinki Fashion Week, named by Vogue as the first sustainable fashion week; and was part of the Emmy-nominated show Project Runway. Born in Colombia, JMag emigrated to the USA when she was 7 years old. Her perspective is a blend of cultures: she fuses her Colombian culture with her American culture to create one-of-a-kind designs. Her garments are fresh and new but also functional and comfortable. She prides herself in her eco-friendly and ethical designs; using a zero-waste design approach, choosing the most sustainable fabrics available to her, using all-natural dyes such as turmeric, and upcycling old clothing to give them new life. She is getting her Masters at RISD’s Nature–Culture–Sustainability Studies program. JMag is A Neighborhood Salon Luminary at the Gardner Museum. To learn more, visit her website: https://nathalijmag.com/
Youth Artists' Projects are 10 week-long explorations of social issues through art led by an Artist in Residence. Youth enroll in a project focused on the theme. Throughout each project, students receive high-quality, in-depth contemporary arts and studio classes modeled on college level seminars taught by practicing artists, who are selected through a call for artists process. These projects range across a wide 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, and collaboration, as well as technical skill. Students participate in selecting themes, concepts and design for their art, and take responsibility for the process. At the end of each semester, students present their projects at culminating public events, exhibits and art festivals involving mixed-media, collective theater, spoken word, creative writing, and visual arts installations, including public murals. Urbano apprentices help curate, publicize and produce these events.

**Anthony Peña**  
- 8 years at Urbano  
- Positions include Youth Artist, Fellow, Teaching Assistant, Studio & Programs Coordinator, Interim Programs Manager, Teaching Assistant, Co-Teaching Artist, Apprentice

**Serena Allegro**  
- 7 years at Urbano  
- Positions include Youth Artist, Fellow, Teaching Assistant, Apprentice, Social Media managing, and Annual Report contributor.  
- Graduated from Denison University with Cinema and History

**Priya Perkins**  
- 7 years at Urbano  
- Positions include Teen Artist, Youth Artist Fellow, Apprentice  
- Graduated from Urban and Visual Studies at The New School, Eugene Lang

**Faizal Westcott**  
- 7 years at Urbano  
- Positions include Youth Artist, Fellow, Teaching Assistant, Teaching Artist, Documentarian, Media and Documentation Coordinator, Website Manager, Apprentice  
- Graduated from UMass Boston with Exercise and Health Science

**Eucaris Jiménez**  
- 6 years at Urbano  
- Positions include Youth Artist, Fellow, Apprentice, and Teaching Assistant  
- Graduated from UMass Boston with Exercise and Health Science

Five Urbano alumni who had completed more than 5 years of Youth Artists’ Projects, and who showed outstanding artistic commitment and leadership qualities, were chosen for Urbano’s Youth Artist Apprenticeship program. Apprentices were mentored one-on-one and in small groups by the resident artists in art techniques, the use of art for social change, and practical aspects of sustaining an artistic career. They assisted with the curation and installation of exhibitions and helped publicize and run exhibitions and arts events. They also worked closely with Urbano’s administrative staff to learn the nuts and bolts of running an arts organization, and to acquire valuable documentation skills. Apprentices gain a high level of skill and professionalism that qualifies them for paid employment or advanced art studies beyond Urbano.

Youth Artist Apprenticeships

Anthony Peña  
- 8 years at Urbano  
- Positions include Youth Artist, Fellow, Teaching Assistant, Studio & Programs Coordinator, Interim Programs Manager, Teaching Assistant, Co-Teaching Artist, Apprentice

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- 6 years at Urbano  
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The Promise of Tomorrow

Teaching Artist: Chanel Thervil
Feb 2019 - May 2019

This Youth Artist Project asked students to wrestle with the question: If art is the conscience of society, then what do artists need to survive? Survival requires resilience, but there is no clear roadmap for artists to follow.

During this course, Youth Artists created 2D and 3D works of art. Key topics explored included history, self-care, and innovation. The final project was a mixed media installation that embodied the Youth Artists’ vision of what they need to make the future better for the communities they are a part of now and hope to build in the future.

Wandering the Land of Oblivion

Teaching Artist: Constanza Aguirre
Nov 2018 - Feb 2019

Artist Constanza Aguirre’s youth project revolved around themes of labor, identity, and displacement. This project used drawing as an attempt to show a humanity that is often ignored. Students worked with Aguirre to produce a collaborative exhibition that consisted of a series of large-scale monochromatic drawings and other media that students were interested in exploring, such as collage, photography, video, sculpture, and sound.
Programs

Youth Artists’ Projects

Map This: Sustainable Fashion

Teaching Artist: Nathalia JMag
Jun 2019 - Aug 2019

Artist Nathalia JMag’s youth project revolves around themes and practices of sustainable fashion. Students learn and apply textile design and techniques including: printing, sewing, embroidering, and block printing design. Classes use mapping data from project partner Olin College and connect their work to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum’s Big Plan exhibition. The class is part of the Isabella Stweart Gardner Museum: Map This developed in collaboration. The students develop and produce textile to participate in the Annual ISGM Block Party.

Urbano’s Visiting Artists introduce cohorts of 10-15 youth to artmaking related to the current exhibition. Workshops are typically half days and last 1-10 days. They include introductions to new artist techniques, research into social issues related to the resident artist’s work, and art-making. Youth art stemming from these workshops is exhibited or performed at Urbano’s gallery and community venues.
Teaching Artist: Darren Alexander Cole  
Jul 31, - Aug 7, 2018  
This was a contemporary motion picture digital workshop. Students worked with resident filmmaker, Cole, to make short narrative videos related to the theme: resilience & sustainability. This involved using digital cameras and other advanced filmmaking technologies. Youth learned the basics of different capture devices, different techniques for how to edit video, and simple ways to problem solve learning curves that are presented by new technology. Students had the opportunity to finish the workshop with new works. Under the title HOME, screened for the public at Urbano.

Teaching Artist: Alexander Barsov  
Aug 6 - 17, 2018  
Youth Artists made music for the film produced by the previous film workshop. They were exposed to the practice of composing original music (out of nothing) for a film, and they thought creatively and critically about the nuanced task of adding emotional color to the content of the film. Youth learned the elements of music: melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre; as well as how music is written on paper. Fundamentals of Logic Pro software was also taught in the workshop. Compositions were integrated to films and showcased at a screening opened to the public.
We invite artists to showcase their work in our gallery space in our Artists’ Exhibition series. They host workshops, talks, and performances that engage the community around the themes of their project. This year has included installations and programs that brought new and familiar faces back to Urbano to learn and share our mission of making art for social change.

Teaching Artist: Faizal Westcott
Sept 8 - 22, 2018

Urbano Youth Artists participated in a 2-day intensive photography workshop to learn the basics of photography and how to document the world around them. Following Urbano’s current theme of Resilience and Sustainability, the artists went out into the community of Egleston and captured images they thought spoke to the theme. Each students’ collection of four photos encapsulated a unique story that highlighted culture, community, and color.

Students then had the opportunity to display and sell their work at Urbano during JP Open Studios.
Wandering in the Land of Oblivion by Artist in Residence, Constanza Aguirre is a series of large-scale black and white works on paper representing figures in movement, performing gestures of human work and labor. Aguirre explores the possibilities of emancipation and reclamation through small acts of creation that resist the oblivion and dehumanization brought about by the hardships of displacement. Her work references thousands of her compatriots who have been forced to move due to the Colombian narcotics war and civil conflict.

In the words of French art critic Gérald Souillac, “the social impact of Aguirre’s work resides in the fact that it acknowledges the importance of art and craft making–herein painting–as a meaningful and dynamic representation of the vital need of humanity for freedom and progress.”

La Victoria: Resilience & Creativity

Artist: Samuel Shats
August 30 - October 5, 2018

Urbano was excited to present this exhibition as part of a series exploring the theme of Resilience and Sustainability. The “Población La Victoria” is one of the most emblematic neighborhoods in Santiago, Chile. La Victoria as a small take over neighborhood with unique characteristics within the big city. This series of photographs reflects the daily life of a group of neighbors whose main legacy is community coexistence. This work is part of a collective creation produced by the SALTO Collective (Lincoyán Parada, Arthur Conning, Teodoro Schmidt, Oliver Hartley, and Samuel Shats).

In the words of historian Gonzalo Leiva, “the La Victoria population forms a space that not only cemented homes, but also generated a strong sense of belonging and identity. For this, the photographic exhibition is an aesthetic exercise, a coherent work of documentary and artistic record. It seeks to synthesize in images, like a kaleidoscope, the structuring fragments of population dynamics, because La Victoria, with its particular social, political and cultural modes of life, dispenses energy and testimonial luminosity.”
Enigma: Reactions to Racism

Artist: Chanel Thervil

February 5 - May 17, 2019

At the core of resilience is endurance; the ability to push forward despite pain. Since the beginning of America's history people of color have been expected to endure. Between the whispers of the civil rights movement and the glaring social justice issues revisited in the post Obama era, there’s been a societal obsession with having conversations about racism. While the actions that arise from these conversations has been hard to track and measure, they continue to persist. One of the nuances of these conversations is the recurring focus on white intentions, pain, and confusion over their impact on people of color holding the same space. Racism can equally be awkward, perplexing, and ironic for all parties involved. ENIGMA used mixed media installations of portraits, abstraction, and interviews to unveil some of the nuances of these experiences from the perspective of Black Millennials in Boston.

Nathalia JMag

June 6, - August 23, 2019

Artist-in-Residence Nathalia JMag is a Colombian-American contemporary fashion designer who believes in sustainable and ethical approaches to apparel. Her work centers on the intersection of design and eco-sustainability alongside an internal re-imagining of the factory-labor driven fashion industry. Map This: Sustainable Fashion, is an exhibition featuring JMag’s fashion collections exploring design futures, green urbanisms, and climate change culture.
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 for 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.
Youth Programs Demographics

- **Youth Artists of Color**: 87%
- **Youth Artists Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home**: 65%
- **Youth Artists Who Are Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch**: 76%
- **Youth Artists Whose Parents Were Born Outside of the U.S.**: 84%
- **Youth Artists Who Would Recommend the Program to Others**: 100%
- **Youth Artists Born Outside of the U.S.**: 21%
- **Youth Artists Whose Parents Were Born Outside of the U.S.**: 81%

For the demographic data below: 37 students were enrolled in Urbano's FY18 Youth Artist Programs (Summer 2018, Fall 2018, & Spring 2019).

- **Age**:
  - 14 y/o: 6%
  - 15 y/o: 25%
  - 16 y/o: 22%
  - 17 y/o: 30%
  - 18 y/o: 11%
  - 19 y/o: 6%

- **Race and Ethnicity**:
  - Asian American/Pacific Islander: 15%
  - Black/African American: 31%
  - Latino/Hispanic: 25%
  - Native American: 13%
  - White: 11%
  - Other: 11%

- **Gender**:
  - Male: 41%
  - Female: 57%
  - FTM: 2%

13% of the individual student sample (N=37) chose two or more categories in this question.
Youth Programs / Evaluation

“High-quality contemporary art education
Participants’ self-reported perception of community impact as a result of Urbano programs: community building and connection making skills honed through Urbano (Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, N=37)

- Knowledgeable about contemporary art and artists
- Consider themselves to be an artist
- Are interested learning about public art
- Feel they are able to make noticeable change with art

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. Teaching artists use rubrics and tools to assess each individual youth artist’s artistic and personal growth relative to his or her starting point.

The entry and exit surveys were only given to participants in programs that took place over multiple days. For single day programming, only attendance numbers were recorded.

Evaluation tools

“Urbano supports me to make my ideas into a reality”
- Youth Artist; Fall 2018

My goals would be to have a wonderful experience, meet new people, make a change in community and contribute a huge part to the program.”
- Youth Artist; Spring 2019

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.
Goal

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

CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Participants’ Self-Reported Perception of Community Impact as a Result of Urbano Programs: Community Building and Connection Making Skills honed through Urbano

(Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, N=37)

As a result of participating in Urbano’s programs, I am...

- A confident person
- Excited about the future
- A responsible person
- Able to work well with others

Prior to their involvement at Urbano...

53% of Youth Artists were only somewhat aware of political and social issues that affected their community.

23% of Youth Artists did not hang out with people different than themselves.

14% of Youth Artists understood their communities issue and needs.

After participating in FY18 Artists` Projects...

100% of Youth Artists stated that they were interested in participating in additional classes and workshops.

100% of Youth Artists felt they were a more responsible person.

100% of Youth Artists felt they had an adult to look up to or consider a mentor.

94% of Youth Artists felt they were able to work well with people different than themselves.

84% of Youth Artists plan to attend college after high school.

“Youth Programs / Evaluation

"My goal is to know how to utilize art in order to help demonstrate how to world is shifting apart. I want to make a change for everyone to work together and make the world a better place.”

~ Youth Artist (Spring 2019)
Youth Programs Evaluation

PARTICIPANTS AS ENGAGED CITIZENS

Participants’ Self-Reported Perception of Community Impact as a Result of Urbano Programs: Community Building and Connection Making Skills honed through Urbano
(Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, N=37)

**Goal**

Challenge participants to express a strengthened identity as active, powerful, and engaged citizens of the city of Boston, addressing difficult subjects in hopeful ways.

**Goal**

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

**PARTICIPANTS AS ENGAGED CITIZENS**

Participants’ Self-Reported Perception of Community Impact as a Result of Urbano Programs: Community Building and Connection Making Skills honed through Urbano
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**Youth Programs Evaluation**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Participants’ Self-Reported Perception of Community Impact as a Result of Urbano Programs: Community Building and Connection Making Skills honed through Urbano
(Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, N=37)

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**Youth Programs Evaluation**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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**Youth Programs Evaluation**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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**Youth Programs Evaluation**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT**

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**Youth Programs Evaluation**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Participants’ Self-Reported Perception of Community Impact as a Result of Urbano Programs: Community Building and Connection Making Skills honed through Urbano
(Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, N=37)
Audiences
In FY2019, Urbano held 18 events at no cost, serving 987 audience members.

Financials FY 2018
Revenue and Expenses Snapshot

Income
- Corporate Grants: $47,500.00
- Foundation Grants: $159,200.00
- Government Grants: $67,000.00
- Individual Contributions: $13,430.09
- Other Income: $5,723.40
- Total Income: $292,853.49

Expenses
- General Operations & Administrative: $37,716.19
- Fundraising: $9,661.25
- Programs: $232,430.63
- Marketing: $7,386.94
- Total Expenses: $287,195.01
Urbano Partners and Supporters

We are grateful to our funders, donors, partners and dedicated board, without whose support Urbano’s tremendously successful FY19 season would not have been possible.

Over the course of what promised to be a challenging year for arts funding, Urbano received pivotal, affirming support from the Surdna Foundation and the Linde Family Foundation. Combined awarded Urbano a $100,000 bridge grant, for a total of $200,000 across two years, in recognition of a sudden gap in youth arts funding.

Urbano received a $20,000 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, in support of its Apprentice Program. This continued NEA funding positions Urbano in a larger national network of organizations that expand access to the arts in under-resourced communities.

Urbano was awarded generous Youth Reach and Cultural Portfolio grants totaling $21,000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, whose arts advocacy at the state level is also critical in sustaining Urbano’s work. Urbano received municipal recognition, through a $5,000 grant from the Boston Cultural Council and a matching grant from the city as a Model Equity Organization.

Additional generous foundation and corporate sponsors in FY18 included Frank Reed & Margaret Jane Peters Memorial Fund I; State Street Bank: $15,000; State Street Foundation: $25,000.

As the year was coming to a close, we learned that Urbano has received critical funding to get $55,000 for FY19 and FY20 from the New England Foundation for the Arts; and a $100K for 100 grant from the Cummings Foundation.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our supporters!