

2022 Alumni Comments

Sample University

Understanding the Alumni Comments

The Alumni Comments Report contains all responses to open-ended questions. See the Codebook for a complete list of variables, survey questions, response options, and the logic used to determine which alumni received each question.

Column Headers

Columns present the cohort and career area (arts or non-arts) for alumni who submitted comments. These characteristics were derived from specific variables on the survey. The 'Cohort' column represents the cohort variable, and the 'Currently Working as an Artist' column represents the curjob_art variable.

Topic Area

Each question comes from a different topic area of the SNAAP2022 Questionnaire.

SNAAP 2022 Alumni Comments • Institutional Experiences

Sample Institution

Is there anything that this institution could have done better to prepare you for your career or for your further education? Please describe.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2022	Yes	More training in business and grant writing.
2021	No	Overall, I had a great experience in my program. However, I would have like more interdisciplinary arts collaborations. I did not have the chance to learn from artists in programs like dance or music, even though I was a theatre major. That was the one
2020	Yes	The music department is in need of more resources.
2020	Yes	Diversity among the faculty would be helpful.
2018	Did not receive	I did not feel I had the support I needed from my advisor and other faculty members in the department.
2017	No response	Provide more performance opportunities.

Question

The questions asked of alumni are found here.

Cut Off Comments

If a comment appears cut off, please refer to the Excel version to see the entire comment. A non-text character may have been used.

Response Value

Respondents had four possible response options regarding whether they were currently working as an artist:

Yes = Currently working as an artist

No = Not currently working as an artist

Did not receive = Did not receive this question due to skip logic

No Response = Participant left this question blank

Alumni Comment

The alumni comment column includes the responses from each alum to the respective question.

All available responses are provided. Not all alumni responded to each question. These comments appear exactly as the alumni entered them and may not be suitable for distribution without prior review. Faculty members, administrators, or other alumni may be mentioned by name, and comments were not edited for grammar, offensive language, excessive length, or otherwise questionable content. For this reason, please use discretion when using, storing, and disseminating this report and the data file.

SNAAP 2022 Alumni Comments • Education

Sample University

Name of college or university where alumni completed degrees after pursuing their degree from this institution.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	First Degree After	Second Degree After	Third Degree After
2022	Did not receive	Parsons School of Design		
2020	Did not receive	Google / Coursera UX DDesign Online Course		
2019	Did not receive	University of the Arts London		
2019	No	Manhattan School of Music		
2019	No	University of St Andrews		
2019	Yes	SVA		
2018	Yes	New School		
2017	No response	Teachers College		
2017	Yes	California State University of Fullerton		
2016	Yes	Alberta University of the Arts		
2015	No	Hunter College		
2015	No	Social Practice Queens at CUNY Queens College		
2014	No	Stony Brook University		
2013	No	University of Virginia	University of Virginia	
2012	Did not receive	University of Colorado		
2012	Yes	UC Berkeley		
2011	Did not receive	University of Pennsylvania		
2010	Yes	The Glasgow School of Art		
2009	Did not receive	Columbia University	Columbia University	
2009	Did not receive	Gemology institute of american		

Variable names in Codebook are: deg_aft_1_inst, deg_aft_2_inst, deg_aft_3_inst.

Name of college or university where alumni completed degrees after pursuing their degree from this institution.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	First Degree After	Second Degree After	Third Degree After
2008	Yes	Columbia University in the City of New York	Columbia University in the City of New York	
2008	Yes	University of Washington		
2007	Yes	Institute for Doctoral Studies in Visual Art (IDSVA)		
2006	Did not receive	Hunter		
2006	Yes	Otis College of Art and Design		
2005	Did not receive	Boston		
2005	Yes	Princeton University		
2005	Yes	Cal State Teach, Fresno State		
2004	Did not receive	Georgia Tech		
2004	Yes	University of Oxford		
2003	Did not receive	University of Washington		
2003	No	Emory University		
2003	Yes	Brooklyn College		
2003	Yes	Hunter		
2002	Did not receive	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	
2001	No	The University of Notre Dame		
2000	Yes	University of London		
1999	Did not receive	SFSU		
1998	No	NYU	Pace University	
1997	Did not receive	Harvard University		
1996	Yes	Harvard Graduate School of Education	New York University Tisch School of the Arts	
1995	Yes	University of Arizona		

Variable names in Codebook are: deg_aft_1_inst, deg_aft_2_inst, deg_aft_3_inst.

Name of college or university where alumni completed degrees after pursuing their degree from this institution.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	First Degree After	Second Degree After	Third Degree After
1994	Did not receive	University of Pennsylvania		
1993	Yes	James Madison University		
1992	Yes	University of Illinois at Chicago		
1991	No	Dominican University		
1990	Yes	Alfred University		
1989	No	Wesleyan University		
1988	Yes	Stanford University		
1987	No	Simmons	Lake forest	Institute for clinical social work
1986	Yes	University of Delaware		
1985	No	University of California, Berkeley		
1985	Yes	University of São Paulo		
1984	No	University of Massachusetts	Univ of Massachusetts	
1983	Yes	Columbia University		
1982	Did not receive	Masters in Natural Resources and Global Sustainability		
1982	Did not receive	Loop		
1982	Did not receive	Music Conservatory of Brussels	Columbia University	
1981	Did not receive	Emory University School of Law		
1981	No	University of North Texas		
1980	Yes	Leslie College of Art + Design		
1979	Did not receive	University of Redlands		
1978	Did not receive	Rosary College		
1977	Did not receive	UCSB		
1976	Yes	Columbia		
1975	Did not receive	University of Virginia		

Variable names in Codebook are: deg_aft_1_inst, deg_aft_2_inst, deg_aft_3_inst.

Name of college or university where alumni completed degrees after pursuing their degree from this institution.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	First Degree After	Second Degree After	Third Degree After
1974	No	Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion	Alliant International University	Alliant International University
1974	Yes	Yale	Yale	
1972	Did not receive	University of Virginia		
1972	No	NYU	NYU	
1971	Did not receive	University of Texas		
1970	Did not receive	University of North Carolina at Greensboro		
1968	Did not receive	Yale School of Music	Suffolk University Law School	
1964	Did not receive	Boston University		
1963	Did not receive	Columbia University: Non Profit Certificate		
1963	Did not receive	University of Massachusetts (Amherst)	University of Massachusetts (Amherst)	
1962	Did not receive	UC Berkeley	Harvard	Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley CA
1962	No	University of Michigan		
1961	Did not receive	Rochester Institute of Technology	RIT	

Variable names in Codebook are: deg_aft_1_inst, deg_aft_2_inst, deg_aft_3_inst.

Sample University

Name of college or university where alumni completed bachelor-level or graduate degrees *prior* to pursuing their degree from this institution.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	First Degree Prior	Second Degree Prior	Third Degree Prior
2022	Did not receive	Fu Jen Catholic University		
2022	Did not receive	St Petersburg University	St Petersburg University	
2022	Did not receive	Arts, Sciences, and Technology University in Lebanon		
2021	Yes	Washington University in St Louis		
2021	Yes	University of Applied Arts Vienna	University of Applied Arts Vienna	
2020	Did not receive	St. John's University		
2020	Did not receive	Baruch College		
2019	Yes	Webster University		
2019	Yes	University of Colorado at Boulder		
2019	Yes	University of Pennsylvania		
2019	Yes	Georgia State University		
2019	Yes	New York University		
2019	Yes	Oberlin College		
2018	Did not receive	University of delat		
2018	No	Georgetown University		
2017	Yes	Salem State College		
2017	Yes	Maryland Institute College of Art		
2016	Did not receive	Manipal University, Karnataka, India		
2016	Did not receive	Cornell	Cornell	
2016	Did not receive	Seoul National University		
2015	Yes	Amherst College		

Variable names in Codebook are: deg_bef_1_inst, deg_bef_2_inst, deg_bef_3_inst.

Name of college or university where alumni completed bachelor-level or graduate degrees *prior* to pursuing their degree from this institution.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	First Degree Prior	Second Degree Prior	Third Degree Prior
2015	Yes	University of Maryland, College Park		
2014	Did not receive	Yeshiva University		
2014	Did not receive	Columbia College Chicago		
2013	Yes	University of the Philippines		
2012	Did not receive	Temple University		
2012	Did not receive	New York University		
2011	Yes	National Kaohsiung Normal University	SAIC	
2011	Yes	University of Kansas	College for Creative Studies	
2010	No	University of California at Santa Cruz		
2010	No	University of Washington	University of Washington	
2009	Yes	Texas Tech University	Trinity College, Dublin	
2008	Did not receive	Eugene Lang College at the New School for Social Research		
2008	Did not receive	University of Missouri - Columbia		
2007	Yes	University of Alaska, Anchorage (BFA)	University of Chicago (MFA)	
2006	Did not receive	Liverpool university	Central St Martins School of Art	
2005	Yes	Rhode Island School of Design		
2004	Did not receive	The University of Adelaide	The University of Adelaide	
2003	Yes	Brown University		
2002	Did not receive	NYU	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts	
2001	Yes	Universidad Católica Andres Bello		

Variable names in Codebook are: deg_bef_1_inst, deg_bef_2_inst, deg_bef_3_inst.

Name of college or university where alumni completed bachelor-level or graduate degrees *prior* to pursuing their degree from this institution.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	First Degree Prior	Second Degree Prior	Third Degree Prior
2001	Yes	Boston University		
2000	Did not receive	Dominican University		
2000	Did not receive	University of Connecticut		
2000	No	Whitman College		
1999	Yes	University of Toronto		
1998	Did not receive	Carleton College		
1998	No	New England Conservatory of Music	Tufts University	
1997	Yes	SVA		
1996	Did not receive	Mount Holyoke College		
1995	Yes	Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen,		
1994	Did not receive	NCSU	NCSU	
1994	Did not receive	West Virginia University		
1993	Yes	SAIC		
1993	Yes	The Royal College of Fine Arts, The Hague, The Netherlands		
1992	Did not receive	Mount Allison University		
1992	No	Temple University		
1991	Yes	University of Victoria		
1990	Yes	The University of Michigan		
1989	Yes	School of the Art Institute		
1988	Did not receive	University of Southern California	University of Southern California	
1987	Yes	Wesleyan University	Yale School of Drama	
1987	Yes	San Francisco Conservatory; New England Conservatory		

Variable names in Codebook are: deg_bef_1_inst, deg_bef_2_inst, deg_bef_3_inst.

Name of college or university where alumni completed bachelor-level or graduate degrees *prior* to pursuing their degree from this institution.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	First Degree Prior	Second Degree Prior	Third Degree Prior
1986	Did not receive	Fordham		
1985	Yes	University of São Paulo		
1984	Did not receive	Loyola University	Roosevelt University	
1984	Did not receive	University of Alberta	University of Alberta	
1983	Yes	Rhode Island School of Design		
1982	Did not receive	Indiana University of Pennsylvania		
1982	Did not receive	Yale		
1981	Yes	Purdue University	Purdue University	
1981	Yes	Brown		
1980	Did not receive	Rollins College		
1979	Yes	Smith College		
1978	Did not receive	Allentown College (now DeSales University), Center Valley, PA.		
1978	Did not receive	Valparaiso University		
1977	No	Fordham University at Lincoln		
1976	Did not receive	Southern University	Bennington College	
1976	Did not receive	Yale		
1975	Yes	Lewis and Clark College		
1974	Did not receive	Princeton University	Temple University	
1973	Yes	New York university		
1971	Did not receive	Tyler School of Art, Temple University		
1970	Did not receive	University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana		
1969	Yes	U of Northern Iowa		
1968	Did not receive	Brandeis U		

Variable names in Codebook are: deg_bef_1_inst, deg_bef_2_inst, deg_bef_3_inst.

Name of college or university where alumni completed bachelor-level or graduate degrees *prior* to pursuing their degree from this institution.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	First Degree Prior	Second Degree Prior	Third Degree Prior
1968	Did not receive	Wellesley College	Yale University	
1967	Did not receive	Smith College		
1966	Yes	Case Western Reserve University		
1965	Did not receive	Princeton		
1964	Did not receive	University of New Mexico		
1964	Did not receive	Brown University	Parsons School of Design	
1963	Did not receive	University of BC		
1962	No response	Queens College of the City University of New York		
1961	Did not receive	Ithaca College		

If you would like to share more about the responses you provided about respect, being treated differently, or feeling valued in the prior questions, please use the text box below to do so.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2022	No	I was part of the COVID-19 class. My exhibit access for potential employers was very poor and of little concern for the price point of the education, with little follow-up after a quick show. My class was slated to graduate in 2021, but miscommunication or lack of communication between departments and the painfully excruciating process of working with advising to resolve the situation did not make this situation any better. So my cohort was moved to the Summer of 2022.
2022	No	I was one of very few in my class who had to work to financially support myself. Through the course of my degree I was holding at least two jobs, as well as running a side-hustle. Because of this, I felt alienated by my peers who did not have to worry about finances and could fully engage in the program.
2021	Did not receive	I was going through tough challenging circumstances due to COVID related issue. Lost my job, my savings, my investments and lost three family members.
2021	No	I feel that the best parts of my experience were the ones I found by searching for the gold in the midst of the rocks. There were too many classes that were not taken seriously by instructors. Too many times where I felt that no one cared about my academic progress and that I could disappear one day and no one would care. There were some really fantastic classes and teachers who I will always remember and thank for the experiences I got to have. There needs to be more resources, not just talk.
2021	No	While I had started with an intake of students who were not very kind, I graduated in a different intake year of students who were very supportive of each other and respectful in the studios. I believe that, unfortunately, there are times when the collection of students is comprised of personalities that don't work together. The institution has improved every year since I started. And I hope the school has also improved its support for students who are being bullied.

If you would like to share more about the responses you provided about respect, being treated differently, or feeling valued in the prior questions, please use the text box below to do so.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2021	No	There's a lot of attention on diverse racial representation, but not at all meaningful ways to address class backgrounds. I was one of very few I ever met from working class families, with parents with little formal education, and there's just zero support in that area, even with continued, active effort. No interest in dealing with what that means for students to navigate and perform and succeed not just in school but after school. Very frustrating and depressing.
2020	Did not receive	The institution is one of the most progressive and inclusive institutions in the country. DEI work seemed central to all of my academic pursuits there.
2020	No	Not every student comes from an art background. Certain art classes were too philosophical to understand assignments and intent of the course. that made me under confident and felt intimidated.
2020	No response	Being an older, black and Christian student was a rare combination that caused friction at times with students and sometimes teachers. Obtaining my goals was a challenging process and I only got it partially. However, I focused on my goals and made it into an enjoyable experience
2020	Yes	My experience was beautiful and transformative. I felt respected and challenged by my peers and instructors. Thankful to have attended.
2020	Yes	Many of the individuals in the student body made offensive comments regarding non-POC and non-LGBT+ individuals as if "white" heterosexuals are not welcome in this community.
2020	Yes	Some instructors were discriminative and don't really respect my name preference. Some were racist to me, but those experiences happened in my first semester only. After I changed instructors and have gone to other classes, it got so much better.
2019	Did not receive	My experiences were both positive and negative. I have gone on to do some amazing things since graduating, however, some of the toxic events experienced through interactions with faculty still somewhat haunt me. No institution is immune from such behavior or personalities, but I would wonder if the school might show a more concerted effort to bring onboard well meaning, self actual ones faculty, and to grant them the requisite support towards care & generosity in benefit of party.

If you would like to share more about the responses you provided about respect, being treated differently, or feeling valued in the prior questions, please use the text box below to do so.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2019	Yes	On some occasions, my background as international student was misunderstood. Instructors are not always aware of the challenges international students face. And on some rare occasions, I felt my background was undermined, where there were assumptions made about what I knew and didn't know.
2019	Yes	My experiences with professors and faculty were almost entirely positive. The negative experiences seem to have been very few.
2019	Yes	Found it difficult to navigate highly politicized school and campus culture.
2018	Did not receive	The institution is not unique when it comes to the pervasiveness of ableism and other bigotry, but it certainly did very little to encourage instructors to evaluate their own preconceived notions on what certain students could and could not accomplish. And from what I understand, especially in regards to ableism, that has not changed substantially.
2018	Yes	I am a white woman and I feel strongly about my own worth. If the experiences of my classmates of color contradict my own, my testimonial should not invalidate their experiences. I know there were moments where faculty did not handle racism/homophobia/transphobia in the classroom well.
2018	Yes	More work needs to be done with regards to how the school attends to its disabled students.
2016	Yes	I wasn't matching their artistic style and felt looked down upon for my more commercial style.
2015	No	Felt like many professors had no interest in guiding students to success — they just show up and grade. Some let ego clearly get in the way of critiques. Compared to undergrad and even high school, the instructors displayed unprofessional, unempathetic and petty behavior.
2015	Yes	I didn't feel like there were many opportunities to connect with other students outside of the classroom setting, like clubs or affinity groups. Those things seemed mostly directed at undergrad students.
2015	Yes	Growing up gay made education difficult for me all throughout my adolescence, so when I came to my institution it was the first time in my life I felt valued and unconditionally respected while attaining my education. I only look back on my time at my institution with great joy and happiness.

If you would like to share more about the responses you provided about respect, being treated differently, or feeling valued in the prior questions, please use the text box below to do so.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2014	No	I was an older student and most of the faculty seemed to regard me as not worthy of their time or instruction. My papers most often got “good job” put on them instead of the kinds of constructive criticism that would help me grow. My fellow students usually treated me just like any other student and I blended in well but the profs didn't afford me that same respect and treatment.
2014	Yes	I felt like I was not treated like other students because I did not always share the same interests and I think my advisor was dismissive and didn't offer much help. I had to go to other instructors or just apply my education by figuring it out myself.
2013	Did not receive	I felt the instructors favored certain students and instead of bringing out each student's strength, they were looking were more interested in highlighting very few that fit the mold they were looking for. I didn't feel supported at all in the fashion program but i really enjoyed my foundation year, I thought that was an excellent and well rounded program.
2013	No	Being Black and the child of immigrants, I believe some of the feedback I received on my writing from classmates was because a lack of cultural understanding. As one can understand, it's sometimes difficult to receive critique on one's work, but sometimes it felt infuriating to have to explain or defend it because it's considered "strange, unrealistic, or weird." Overall, I had a great experience in my program.
2013	Yes	Objectively speaking, the program is rigorous. Instructors in that program don't position themselves as your friends or mentors. I really wish more care and consideration were taken to involve alum in the program after graduation, whether by offering occasional teaching or mentoring opportunities. Other schools do a better job of this.
2013	Yes	I was an older student with a previous career in film. My peers seemed to respect my writing, feedback and were generally interested to be around someone who had a family and prior accomplishments. My professors seemed uncomfortable with an older student. I felt neither valued nor supported in my desire to learn from their experience.
2013	Yes	Lot of wealthy, highly privileged, white and often male students who were clearly supported and values beyond their abilities by a privileged, white, mostly male faculty

If you would like to share more about the responses you provided about respect, being treated differently, or feeling valued in the prior questions, please use the text box below to do so.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2012	No	Some instructors overstepped when it came to disability - either diagnosing students unprompted or trying to force students to disclose diagnosis
2012	Yes	I felt very supported and challenged (in the best way) throughout my time at my institution!
2012	Yes	I think some of the competitive culture helped lend itself to fostering unhealthy mental health conditions. I am competitive and work hard to succeed but often time that came at a great cost to my mental and physical health. There should be limits and boundaries to how far it is ok to push a student. There is a difference between cultivating talent and disregarding human needs.
2011	No	As a Black student, there were uncomfortable situations I experienced in classrooms, from classmates and teachers, separately. While they weren't always intentional, the impact was the same. It's the reason why I co-created a student group for others like me so that we could have a place to talk about these issues and it became one of the fastest-growing groups on campus. There were other professors and staff who did offer great support, as well.
2010	Did not receive	Overly satisfied but no guidance/help in internships/job career which was a big surprise.
2010	Yes	As an older MFA student (50) I didn't encounter any bias in terms of my age. I was just another student.
2010	Yes	Some of the studio teachers had a narrow idea of what high fashion design should be. But I was very fortunate to also have some great teachers that really understood me.
2010	Yes	Very little training, awareness or compassion for students with disabilities and for students who are carers. Also lack of clear pathways for how students access services or what adjustments one could ask for. I personally experienced stigma for living with a complex mental health condition. Often instructors lack of awareness influenced how I was treated by my classmates. I still practice art today, but was told repeatedly by my instructors that I would never make it as an artist.
2009	No	I think I was in school at a time when EDI wasn't the top priority - but I also never felt like there was discrimination - It just wasn't the central topic, and voices from underserved communities just weren't as elevated at the time as they are now.
2009	No	Not a lot of space/respect for Christian students.

If you would like to share more about the responses you provided about respect, being treated differently, or feeling valued in the prior questions, please use the text box below to do so.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2009	Yes	i came out as trans in my graduate study there in the mid 2000s and was def met by faculty discrimination.
2008	Yes	Not much attention was paid to first generation college students when I was an undergraduate. There could have been much more mentoring and guidance
2005	No	Not at this time. So much time has passed and I have moved on (in order to survive financially) and am no longer within the visual arts. Present employment is not in the visual arts.
2004	No	This was a long time ago but people made assumptions about my sexual orientation, and this limited how I was seen as a performer
2004	Yes	Overall such a positive and valuable higher education experience!
2003	Yes	I was there 20 years ago, so things have probably changed since then re: working with the community etc. but i was also in fine arts, so we were kind of self-contained. i had a great experience. foundation year prepared me for absolutely anything that a workplace might ask of me, and the camaraderie between classmates was incredible. i made lifelong friends and feel proud to say i went to parsons. it is a very well-respected school that has helped me in my career since.
2002	No	I think I tended to get more from interactions from my peers than I did with faculty, but I wasn't the type to push for more relationships with them outside of obvious class stuff. It would have been nice to be more mentored which I felt was a little lacking but I didn't seek it out as much as I maybe should have.
2001	Yes	I was 31 years old when I enrolled in the program, and there were several ways in which I saw my experience as 'different' from other MFA candidates. Examples include: faculty bias toward younger students and a general perception of lack of student professional experience; challenges of having to maintain employment while enrolled. On the other hand, I was afforded some exceptional opportunities to be an instructor of record in departments other than my own area of study, which was valuable.

If you would like to share more about the responses you provided about respect, being treated differently, or feeling valued in the prior questions, please use the text box below to do so.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2000	No response	I'm a white male, and never felt disrespected or treated "differently," but I imagine other students with different backgrounds may have had different experiences--I do not recall our instructors or programs in general going out of their way to incorporate artists from diverse backgrounds, and I do recall the head of the department making a remark in our senior crit group that implied that a student of Asian ancestry was not native to America (even though she'd grown up in California)
1999	Yes	Anti-Asian discrimination from many people who believed we were all paying to get in and the quality of our work was less than others.
1998	No	I would hope that in the 24 years since I graduated that the music curriculum would be more diverse at this point. I did take classes which mentioned some diversity, but it was not necessarily a focus at that time. It should be an important topic going forward.
1997	Yes	Vast display of competition which I wasn't personally prepared for
1997	Yes	I was one of the few female lighting designers in the program at that time, and I remember the feeling that there was a 'fraternity' of lighting designers and I was a bit of an outsider.
1997	Yes	There was competition and meanness among some of the students. It was primarily a male female issue and a sense of certain students pushing a macho, chauvinistic image and atmosphere. I wouldn't say it was supported by faculty, but it also wasn't pushed back on by faculty.
1997	Yes	I felt very much accepted and people were strongly interested in my cultural background in Europe
1997	Yes	It was the 90's, life was different. The world was analog. I valued my experience, but it was "of the moment". So when I answered that I wasn't exposed to different identities, it's because no one was. I imagine things are different today.

SNAAP 2022 Alumni Comments • Institutional Experiences



Sample University

Is there anything that this institution, college, or department could have done better to prepare you for your career or for your further education? Please describe.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2022	Did not receive	To be more in contact with the professional world, meet more people from the industry and have more insight into the different fields and career paths.
2022	Did not receive	They had a terrific agent pitch meeting at the end of my second year. Would have been great if they had also offered this to first-year students. The more agents one can meet, the better.
2022	No	You can improve your academic advising departments at the graduate level since certain registrations require their assistance, but it functions poorly. And consider a free or discounted course in some of your studio classes for students who missed the opportunity for interdisciplinary studies during the pandemic.
2022	No	During my studies I felt like I fell through the cracks, despite my efforts to prevent this.
2022	No	Should've required internship as juniors or seniors!
2022	No	Career services should have available advisory for students. Advising is good but they should be funded more so they have more time to work with students.
2022	Yes	make tools more accessible/ announce they are available e.g. reading software for dyslexic people- a lot of my friends did not know it was available.
2022	Yes	I think it will be great if school can provide more connections to job opportunity for musicians.
2022	Yes	more Alumni talks would be beneficial to students
2022	Yes	Offer stronger networking options, prioritize student work being seen, build professional development into all years of training.
2021	Did not receive	Have more collaboration with local animation studios for students interested in animation and designing for animation
2021	No	Diverse, intentional and dedicated mentorship, teaching and conversations.
2021	No	It would have been helpful to discuss career options and draft a potential career plan before graduating.

Variable name in Codebook is in_bettex.

Is there anything that this institution, college, or department could have done better to prepare you for your career or for your further education? Please describe.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2021	No	They did send out competition opportunities, but I think these could be pushed more. It's hard to say that they should be required, but while being a student, there are more opportunities to present your work and gain some recognition or awards. This should be stressed or highlighted. It can boost hire-ability to have won a competition or have some recognition.
2021	Yes	Have more open houses for alumni and more career fairs for writers/editors.
2020	Did not receive	I think it would have been helpful if submitting work for publication was integrated into all of my writing classes.
2020	Did not receive	Internships, help finding a job. Building a portfolio
2020	No	Better assistance during 2020. I did not like that I was paying full tuition and was unable to feel fully immersed and I do not feel like I got my tuitions worth of my final semester.
2020	Yes	I didn't feel like there was much if any emphasis on connecting students with alumni through networking events. I don't think there was much emphasis on finding work at all. The masters program did not focus on practical things geared towards finding a job, its focus was much more conceptual. I think more time could be spent teaching techniques that are used in the design world.
2020	Yes	studio management, budgeting, maintenance work --- how to run a personal small business, how non-profit world differs from for profit small business
2020	Yes	The institution could have placed more focus on teaching and developing the real life skills designers need for the real life workforce. As a graduate, I have had to learn almost all of the essential processes for design preparation such as tech packs and manufacturing procedures at work. The institution set me back in that aspect when applying to entry level jobs in the field.
2019	Did not receive	I reached out for assistance at the health center and they were overwhelmed and could not take me on as a patient when my anxiety was affecting my. Though the wellness centre was 'advertised' to provide support, it did not have the capacity to help us. As an international it was impossible to navigate the healthcare
2019	Did not receive	better work placement. Preparing students for industry hiring practices. I got out of school and haven't received a job based on my education or skills. I went to industry conferences and discovered I was underqualified for jobs in my career scope.

Is there anything that this institution, college, or department could have done better to prepare you for your career or for your further education? Please describe.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2019	Did not receive	Lack of graduation due to covid which I am sure could have been so precious and fruitful. I wish we could do a get together again.
2019	No	More straightforward speaking about the art world/real world — it's difficult and it takes outside the box thinking and approach to make it! It's important to say how it is and show students other ways to get where they want after school!
2019	No	Teach about the real world, the current market. Also, in relation to the assistance question, i did not use assistance, but I reached out for assistance and was turned away. Mental health services said they would only see me if I was actively suicidal, i was in a mental health crisis though and desperately needed support.
2017	Did not receive	There wasn't much focus on what happens after we graduate, we were only supposed to focus on our work. We gained very little knowledge of what kind of opportunities we could pursue after graduating.
2017	Yes	Create a cumulative pathway to the portfolio course by explaining that the end goal at the beginning of degree work is to have a fully completed portfolio at the end of the program. All class projects given should relate in order to create a finalized, cohesive portfolio at the end of your degree instead of creating a portfolio in one class.
2016	Yes	We could have discussed different career paths like assisting, film, television, dance, commercial work, trade shows, tours, teaching, technical careers, regional work... our professors had very little interest in showing us career paths that veered from what they did even though most of us are not going out and getting design jobs on Broadway. They didn't have much interest in helping us get jobs at all, we were expected to just figure it out.
2016	Yes	Provide coursework specifically developed to appropriately address the growing need for social media presence and marketing skills, business coursework to prepare students to be independent contractors, explore website development, evaluate e-commerce tools, and best practices essential for the creative
2015	Did not receive	More direct critiques - sometimes felt like professors were too polite

Is there anything that this institution, college, or department could have done better to prepare you for your career or for your further education? Please describe.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2015	Did not receive	Share real, personal experiences about living and working in the world as an artist - the practical things as well as all the different kinds of stories that she'd light on how each path is wildly different, which would build confidence and faith in those who've relied on the school environment to thrive a smooth and ample space for transition into the realities outside of school
2015	Did not receive	Be more transparent about how capital flows within the art market, and helped students understand how to move up and network in the art world.
2015	No	I would have liked more concentrated opportunities to learn craft--fewer seminars; more mechanics of writing. Also, it would be helpful to have an option to study grammar (for students writing in English).
2014	No	What I found most valuable to me about my experience was the ability to explore various types of artistic expression and technique, and so I purposely didn't focus as much on classes that would train me for a specific career. Having said that, I did actively pursue internships and jobs, so I might've benefited from a more organized way of finding potential employers. But I was fortunate and was able to find work both for the summer between my two years and for immediately afterwards.
2014	No	Have more explicit, candid discussions about the realities of pursuing a career in the arts (there were basically none within the major itself)
2014	Yes	More practical, business, career education/preparation. As well as more clinical education, I had very little preparation for actually, practically becoming a therapist. So much was very theoretical and not practical.
2014	Yes	Business, financial and coalition building learning to supplement the core purpose of my degree and career goals. Prioritized fiscal viability and long term sustainability of the eventual professional work the students would pursue. Leadership and soft skill development.
2013	Yes	At the time, there was no support or training to obtain certification in art therapy. I felt completely lost.
2008	No	I graduated so long ago but it would've been helpful to have had more networking opportunities, career advice, and a chance to take business courses to complement my studies.
2006	Did not receive	Be honest about the fact that you will have to have two jobs, making your work and having an income and the two are only connected if you win the art career lottery and even then it doesn't last forever in most cases. There is no help for young artists in figuring out a parallel career. This borders on criminal.

Is there anything that this institution, college, or department could have done better to prepare you for your career or for your further education? Please describe.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2006	Did not receive	Better understanding of what roles were appropriate to pursue with my degree.
2004	No	We did no work on camera and that is the most lucrative aspect of being an actor
2004	No	I learned practical design programs and skills but I could have learned more about ways to use those in the professional world, what careers were open to me and overall more investment on what my future would be after graduation.
2003	Did not receive	Respect for me as older student. Racial justice. Internships. Advice. Letters. Support after graduation.
1998	Did not receive	The last semester should have focussed more on the real life options out there. Given a more international Perspective to us as well. That was lacking I feel. All the focus was on the portfolio ONLY.
1998	No	Training in writing press releases, savvy social media techniques, and making websites should be required learning, esp at the grad level.
1989	Yes	Experience in writing grants, graduate school applications, resumes. More writing skills in general.
1981	Yes	The topic of career was hardly discussed and I continue to feel that was very helpful. Careers need to take time, a life time, and the "business" of creating careers is counterproductive to maturing as an artist.
1981	Yes	make us learn bookkeeping for artists
1967	Did not receive	At the time of my enrollment there was no office to offer direction in seeking post graduate employment

If there are additional things you would like to tell us about your education, community life, or career that were not adequately covered on the survey, please do so here.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2022	No	I attended a conservatory program that ended in Feb. of 2020 and this was when my original career was going to take off but the pandemic hit and I was forced into quarantine. I decided it would be best to spend my time indoors continuing my education hence why I attended and obtained my degree. I'm proud of my work, but it definitely has not gone the way I planned. But this needed to happen for me to obtain a full degree and not let myself or my original career goals come to a standstill.
2021	No	My job path is weird, I am an actor. Full stop. However, I also work in healthcare education part-time to pay the bills, and to give back to younger students. The past few months, I was working in communications in the political sphere full-time, because I care about the world. I am still an actor despite this; I am still an actor because of this.
2021	Yes	Finding a first full-time job during the pandemic was extremely challenging. I had to settle for being paid less when I know my skills should be valued more.
2020	No	I have completely switched fields out of performing arts and into a STEM field. I think this transition was influenced partially by the pandemic, but also definitely in part due to how unsatisfied I was with my training, how disconnected I felt from any kind of artistic community, and how unequipped and unsupported I felt after graduating.
2020	No	I was severely depressed as I couldn't find work for over a year. More career services AND financial aid should be offered. I regret my debt
2020	No	Owing to inadequate preparation (on my part and for lack of guidance) in combination with the pandemic, I have left the arts as a profession for the foreseeable future. Economic incentives are not whatsoever aligned with the value this work brings to society. I do not wish to starve or lose all independence in pursuit of personal happiness. I don't whatsoever regret my choice of education, but I'm not sure I'd choose it again.
2019	Did not receive	In terms of finding full-time employment within the field I went to college for, I sadly haven't yet in the 3 years since graduating. The only miracle that hasn't caused me to go crazy with financial issues, is the Student loan repayment freeze that was in place with the pandemic. I know that is resuming soon, and I'm in a bit of a panic for finding work.

If there are additional things you would like to tell us about your education, community life, or career that were not adequately covered on the survey, please do so here.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2019	Did not receive	I feel very underqualified for any work and let down by the system I thought would increase my income and provide some sort of career
2019	Yes	My ONLY negative comment to getting a Master's is how much debt I am in now. It was absolutely worth the knowledge and experience, but I will have to work very hard to pay off my loans.
2018	Did not receive	I cannot get a full time job with my degree, let alone something remotely related to the career I'm interested in. My fiancé is helping me live day to day because the part time job I have can never cover for my living, let alone medication and food.
2018	Did not receive	Once I graduated, I felt thrown into the world with not a lot of skills. Thankfully I am talented and relentless in my approach, but even now, I find it hard to keep up with life without feeling buried in debt.
2018	Yes	I am disabled which directly correlates to why and how I participate design. It would be meaningful to see this reflected in design practice.
2018	Yes	I am working in the somewhat niche home-sewing industry, and hope to use my design skills to create sewing patterns for individual use. One thing that I thought was glaringly absent from my education was any sort of design for plus size bodies, and access to dress forms and models of diverse size ranges. Definitely room for improvement there!
2017	Did not receive	My income increased while in grad school when getting hired full time at a job that utilized my creative skill set. In the last 6 months it has decreased due to moving and needing to complete my unpaid internship.
2017	Did not receive	More professors who enjoy what they do and enjoy sharing and teaching that information to students is needed. More community is needed. Activities, events etc to bring students together.
2017	Did not receive	After receiving my BA I could not do anything with it, like teach high school, you have to have a credential that is an additional year and a half of classes and only good for that state, or I could get a MA for an additional two years and be able to teach college classes anywhere, and I was hoping to see the world, I didn't know how many people had degrees like mine and were hoping for the same job
2016	Yes	I do not work in the arts. I would like to but it was too hard after moving away from Chicago. Networking and community were too hard to build away. Income was too inconsistent and unreliable. My work is creative and related to photography but ultimately it is a corporate job.

If there are additional things you would like to tell us about your education, community life, or career that were not adequately covered on the survey, please do so here.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2015	Did not receive	My actual situation is unique in the sense that since 2019 I've been living a nomadic life traveling across The United States, Mexico, and Canada and I am planning to keep doing this for at least five more years. I don't have a traditional job or routine and my income varies greatly depending on the art projects that I work on. So it was hard to answer accurately some of the questions because my lifestyle it's not a traditional one.
2015	No	My instructors ranged from not effective to excellent/very helpful. I expected the peers in my cohort to be better writers (grammar and craft), more focused and disciplined, and more fluent in critique, and I was surprised by how much time and energy I had to give to work that didn't seem to come from much effort.
2015	No	I am by no means happy with my situation. My education has been less than meaningless in the job market.
2015	Yes	Considering how much debt I owe from my graduate degree, now that I teach at the school I feel like an indentured servant.
2015	Yes	I still hold the institution in my heart. The teachers and experiences in classes have made a lifelong impact I will never forget and which I still can recall and use in my career as a designer and teacher.
2014	No	After the pandemic, I changed jobs to a more lucrative, but less arts-related, job. The skills (tech) are closely related to the ones in my prior job, but the work itself differs.
2014	Yes	The institution was an extremely liberal and academically simulating environment but at the same time, socially depressing, racially problematic space. The diversity on campus is very limited and is a largely rich white American environment which can become very isolating for foreign nationals.
2010	No	I had a great experience, but in retrospect I feel that even as a smart go-getter, I didn't know all the resources I could've taken advantage while I was there, and I didn't push myself out of my comfort zone as much as I could have. Some of that is the benefit of being older and looking back, but I do think students who came into college knowing professors were there as resources, that you should make personal connections with them and staff for future networking purposes, had a head start.
2010	Yes	Although my training was very theoretically and academically rigorous, there are remain few opportunities to “be an artist” in our economy. The arts education is a principally indirect benefit.
2010	Yes	Loans... high interest rates means they keep growing, and are at 160,000, and are growing exponentially. It's a problem

If there are additional things you would like to tell us about your education, community life, or career that were not adequately covered on the survey, please do so here.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2009	No	I double majored, one of which was an arts major, but the other was political science. I'm now an attorney. I use skills from my arts education in my legal work.
2009	Yes	The most valuable thing I learned is how to talk about the work I do through presenting and critiquing my work and the work of others. This skill helped distinguish me as part of a design team early in my career and I continue to use this skill in my job daily.
2008	Yes	My arts education was especially helpful in navigating the recent pandemic, and in securing employment that pays well and is fulfilling.
2005	No	I'm a doctor and always intended to become one, but intentionally majored and got MA in art history bc I love the humanities and wanted to engage in meaningful study in a topic I loved
2005	No	My experience in graduate school was detrimental to my overall sense of self--confidence, well-being, hope for the future. I did learn a lot about resilience, however. Ultimately, my degree did not lead to the career that I had planned to pursue (and was trained to pursue). It took me a long time to come to terms with that outcome.
2004	No	I have pursued creative writing outside of my career context, as many writers do. I would consider taking this into account in the survey. I have published a book and published work in many journals.
2003	Yes	I stumbled after graduation finding a career that felt satisfying—hard to switch gears from liberal arts study to specific real world skills. Especially lacked a roadmap.
2002	Yes	I loved my time at my institution but was not given tools to advance in a career as an artist (i.e. how to submit work to galleries, what networks to join to advance a career in fine art, how to financially support a career in the arts with supplemental income, how to present work when sharing with galleries and collectors etc.) I do feel that I received a solid education in the arts, allowing me to conceptually and visually advance and think critically. I value what I learned but do not feel that it was the driving force in advancing my employment opportunities or creative career.
2002	Yes	While I am very happy and lucky to have work in my field, I don't earn enough at just my full-time job so I am adjuncting on top of that. This leaves me little time to do my studio work, which is frustrating.

If there are additional things you would like to tell us about your education, community life, or career that were not adequately covered on the survey, please do so here.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2001	Yes	If I could mentor the 22 yr old self that I was, I would teach her life skills such as how to redefine the concept of career and success, how to create a process/plan for a project, how to set aside time for feedback and reflection, and how to start with "how can I help" in all that I do. I believe these are teachable topics, and I find fulfillment in helping others gain awareness in these issues.
2000	Did not receive	My network remains my graduate classmates.
1999	Yes	I do not recommend undergraduate art school for low income students who have parents with no college level education. It took me years to learn how to write properly and learn how to study. I should have learned the basics at a university first.
1998	Yes	My student loans were recently forgiven by the Biden administration. I am a public school teacher. Until then, how I was going to pay my 100K debt was a weighty concern.
1996	Yes	Pandemic pay remained the same, but job demands and time spent to fulfill requirements increased
1985	Did not receive	The pandemic hit at a time when I was on track to start directing television through studio programs aimed to address the inequities of diversity/inclusion in this business; unfortunately in this business things move quickly and I am fighting the perception of now being old news along with ageism adding to the mix...
1983	No	my arts education provided a substantial base to pursue several interesting career paths over a 40 year span
1983	No	I began painting again and have been exhibiting my work. Working towards expanding my painting career which is separate than the job that supports me.
1982	Yes	It is very challenging to make a living as an artist. I have only done so for 40 years by living below poverty level. For me it is worth doing so. I would like to see, however, much more public and government support of the arts and more business preparation for surviving as an artist. I lost all my income due to the pandemic and have not recovered. I have no job security, no retirement, no benefits or pension or social security. A career in the arts should be more supported and respected but society. Success is a chimera.
1975	Yes	I have had several careers. Teaching is the most recent-- basically the last fifteen years, during which my writing work became a sideline due to changes in the economy. Before that I was a freelance arts writer and artist, and made good money from both. Before that, I had a craft business making hand-painted tile. In my experience many people in the arts have serial occupations in this way. It would make more sense if you asked about careers in a way that reflected this.

If you'd like, please share a few words or phrases you use to describe your own identity.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2022	Yes	LGBTQ+ Filmmaker
2022	Yes	International student working in the US
2021	Did not receive	I'm a Black biracial non-binary ceramic artist. I am also the kind of person who fills out surveys for fun.
2021	No	Working poor, inner-city, first-generation American.
2021	Yes	Black American woman, 25 years old
2020	Did not receive	International student, over qualified for most jobs since the pandemic. Hustling .
2020	Did not receive	Dutch, Mexican, American, Texan, Catholic, First-Gen, Filmmaker
2020	Yes	Non-traditional student, female, atheist, first-gen college grad,
2019	Did not receive	Mexican artist who is still not skilled enough for any job despite many hours of study
2019	Did not receive	I am a Lebanese visual artist, working on proving that the digital world is part of the physical world. An extension rather than a different reality. I was able to reach this resolution over time, by moving around and studying in different places + meeting people from all over the world
2019	No	Spiritual Student using me life experiences for healing and inspirational purposes through art, active lifestyle, and travel
2019	No	I'm from a working class background, and this was the major thing that defined me from others at art school and has made recovering from the poor return on investment really hard.
2018	No	I am a mixed-race black, gay man from a working class midwestern background.
2017	No	I'm an entrepreneur, the founder of a mission-driven financial literacy company, a wife, and a polymath with many interests and passions including design, education, wellness, and entrepreneurship.
2017	Yes	I'm a mixed queer person of color of an immigrant family and the first person in my family to attend and graduate from college.
2016	Did not receive	I am a fairly priveledged Indian woman currently living in India. I work in the space of design research and strategy.
2015	Yes	Spouse, pet parent, advocate of mental health, artist

Variable name in Codebook is identity_text.

If you'd like, please share a few words or phrases you use to describe your own identity.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
2013	No	Vegetarian, child-free by choice, multi-disciplinary artist
2011	Did not receive	Enriching lives through contemporary art in my region.
2011	Did not receive	I am a mother, grandmother, wife, educator and artist who has been making art throughout her life and sharing my passion for art as a cathartic and important form of communication through educating others and consistently showing my work.
2011	Did not receive	career focused, with a strong focus on suitability, working to create harmonious creative collaboration
2009	No	I'm a parent, spouse, and friend who needs to be creative and tries too hard to solve problems.
2005	Yes	audio mastering and restoration engineer, educator, parent
2003	Yes	Mother, figurative artist working on fine art, jewelry/worn sculpture, illustration, art direction
2002	Did not receive	I'm a disabled and neurodivergent parent, artist, and arts administrator.
2002	Did not receive	I identify as a retired art historian and college professor.
2001	No	Workhorse. I am a workhorse. I work at my job, and I work on art.
2000	No	Parent & Wife who is an appreciator of the arts and education.
1998	Yes	Hopeful Comic book artist! TBD
1997	Did not receive	Creative problem solver, dreamer, leader, individual, life partner, parent, supporter
1996	Yes	Diverse designer in theater, film, graphic and entertainment design
1995	No	Mindful of good health, good family relations, open-mindedness, well informed, emphatic, creative and positive.
1995	Yes	Mom, wife, privileged, well-educated, lucky, grateful
1994	Did not receive	First generation American woman, stay-at-home Mother, Jewish, Artist, Irish, Philadelphian, Wife, Kohenet, Life-long learner, Dog therapy team member, Creative, Volunteer, Introvert, Highly Sensitive Person
1990	Yes	Architect from Chicago recently relocated to Tokyo
1989	Did not receive	Music educator still actively performing.
1987	Yes	I am a parent of twins, and an actor and university professor.
1986	Did not receive	Retired graphic designer and Creative Director in digital marketing; practicing artist learning sculptural papermaking; wife, mother, doting grandmother, faithful friend; avid hiker and rower

If you'd like, please share a few words or phrases you use to describe your own identity.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
1986	No	Politically and socially liberal, well-educated, Jewish. Place a high value on the arts and humanities and on experiencing a wide variety of cultures.
1985	Did not receive	Culturally Jewish but view myself as a member of the world that expresses my world views and ideas of beauty and communication by making art
1985	Yes	I'm a married, father of one child, and a filmmaker
1983	Did not receive	I identify based upon my cultural heritage and as a mom, wife and daughter.
1981	No	Compassionate, realistic liberal. Wife of POC and mother to LGBTQ son.
1981	No	Parent of two young adult sons, both now actively pursuing careers in the arts. Educator in the childbirth field, resuming artistic pursuits.
1981	No	I'm a librarian, who is also a performing musician.
1980	No	Singer-songwriter, Mind-body psychotherapist, social architect, community builder, social entrepreneur, mom
1980	Yes	I describe myself as a conceptual cartographer, making maps of the known world that explore science and the laws of nature in relationship with the biosphere and human society. I live with my spouse, also a visual artist, and 2 cats. I love research, audiobooks, learning and envisioning ideas.
1979	No	I don't identify as anything. The relationship to my music is complex. I identified as a pianist, but in my young adult years questioned whether that was a good thing and attempted to drop that identification.
1979	Yes	Actor married to an Actor, mother and teacher of acting.
1979	Yes	Gay male arts administrator widowed in 2021 after 40 years with partner, 10 of them married. Began as professional opera administrator, became legally blind a decade ago, have since then been classical concert promoter.
1979	Yes	scholar committed to the public humanities
1978	Did not receive	Single gay Lutheran Christian church musician and sometime librarian.
1978	Yes	I come from a long line of artists, in London, Europe and the US, including both of my parents. I am an artist who has been lucky to have a pretty successful career, though I have had to be resourceful over the years, as I've always prioritized my studio practice over wealth.
1977	Did not receive	I am a painter. I explore the landscapes of the west and southwest for several reasons and gathering inspiration for my paintings is one.

Variable name in Codebook is identity_text.

If you'd like, please share a few words or phrases you use to describe your own identity.

Cohort	Currently Working as an Artist	Comment
1974	Yes	I am a university professor--day gig. and a musician in my other life
1973	Did not receive	Former professional musician, music administrator and music educator
1973	Yes	Retired, but working part time for additional income.
1969	Yes	Lighting Designer, Arts Manager and Educator.
1968	Did not receive	Active in church life (as a Preacher) and music, do family weddings, read a great deal, attend symphony concerts, participate in disseminating and reading items of interest, travel as health allows
1966	Yes	I identify myself primarily as a teacher and a musician. I raised a family of five children, four of whom are working musicians. I use my familial background often in relating to students. I am 79, so I am not looking to advance my working life now. I do plan to continue to teach and play, but I do not feel the need to expand my working hours. I am happy with my living and working situation.
1964	Did not receive	My identity is totally wrapped in my work as a costume designer.
1963	Did not receive	Independent, intellectual, liberal, atheistic woman retired from teaching career (Ph.D.) with variety of interests, especially birding, cello-playing, saddlebred horses, travel, reading, New England heritage and antiques.
1961	Did not receive	A retired writer/teacher with a feeling for community