

RAW

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

RAW is thrilled to announce the exhibit and film screening theme for 2023:

REBUILD

We are living in the aftermath of a pandemic. The world is different now. We have the unique opportunity to reimagine the possibilities for putting the pieces back together.

We're asking our youth...

How do you want to rebuild your relationship with yourself and others, your community, and the world, in a way that better serves everyone?

A NOTE FROM ROSARIO

The theme of "REBUILD" aligns perfectly with RAW's current stage. It does not necessarily refer to physical restoration; I interpret it as an opportunity to build up on our infrastructure by intentionally centering our work on our youth, staff, and community with equity and social justice at the forefront. I lead by caring for the people at the center of our mission, our youth. This care demands us to be even more honest, equitable, and anti-oppressive than ever before, confronting lessons learned from the past and moving forward with a renewed sense of responsibility for our community. This approach inspires us to reimagine our organizational role and how transformative we can be. It is a time to be enthusiastic but strategic and committed to what "rebuilding" requires of each of us.



ROSARIO UBIERRA-MINAYA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Exhibit prototype by art therapist Alison Miller

PROJECT LAUNCH

COLLEGE +
CAREER ACCESS
PROGRAM

Kaitlyn Farmer

*Project Launch Senior Manager
RAW Alum*

Norway Dolan

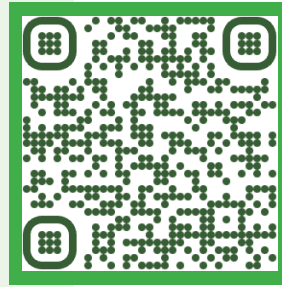
Project Launch Coordinator

Kaitlyn Farmer, former Project Launch Coordinator and Community Engagement Manager, is back as the **Project Launch Senior Manager!**

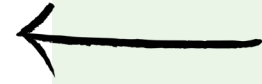
Kaitlyn, together with Norway Dolan, **Project Launch Coordinator**, are heading up the team currently serving 17 seniors in the Class of 2023. Seniors are in the midst of scholarship season as they await acceptances to college and career training programs. Last year RAW youth submitted over **115** scholarship applications and earned nearly **\$2.8MM** in scholarships, gift aid, and grants, none of which needs to be paid back!

This year **Project Launch** is planning for more academic and career-focused opportunities. Field trips include college/university campus tours, an upcoming Senioritis Day, and visits to local businesses like GE Aerospace in Lynn and Google in Cambridge.

Kaitlyn's goal for the year is to expand resources and strengthen the mentorship program for the 26 juniors who will be enrolled, given the fact that **51%** have a 504 or IEP (*Individualized Education Program*). Our cohort of dedicated, volunteer mentors are a pivotal part of **Project Launch**, helping guide seniors to plan their next steps after graduation.



FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT BECOMING
A PROJECT LAUNCH
A MENTOR HERE.



*RAW Seniors Andrés, Nathan, Connor, and Jannelle
at the State House for Youth Mentoring Day!*

**“I WANT ALL THE YOUTH TO KNOW
THAT THEY HAVE A TEAM IN THEIR
CORNER SUPPORTING THEM AND
ROOTING FOR THEM AS THEY PLAN
FOR THEIR FUTURE GOALS.”**

-NORWAY DOLAN, PROJECT LAUNCH COORDINATOR

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Michelle Richardson

*Community Engagement Manager
Former RAW Parent*

The day of Michelle “*La Poetica*” Richardson’s interview at RAW her car got a flat tire. Joining the RAW team as the **Community Engagement Manager** meant so much to her that she left her car on the side of the road and quickly called a cab. That hustle accompanies Michelle in everything she does. She is a natural born community engager as she calls it. She likes to make connections and bring people together. Uniting folks is Michelle’s thing!

Michelle was five years old when her family moved to Salem. Her love of music and performance began around that same time. Her dad was a lover of salsa and her mentors (*neighbors who owned the building that Michelle and her family lived in*) were performers. She could hear their music through the walls. Fast forward years later her passion for music and poetry intersected when she began an open mic night in Lawrence where she lived at the time. She had hoped adults would join, but her regulars ended up being a bunch of high school kids.

Michelle discovered that many of these teens didn’t have a parent who saw their magic. In her experience working with the kids in Lawrence she noticed it was never a parent who showed up to support, but a sibling, cousin, or friend. Michelle ended up being the adult who supported and uplifted the kids. She now plans to do the same for the youth who walk through RAW’s doors.

Michelle leads the group **Artists in Action**, a civic engagement group focused on creating social change and positively impacting our local community through the arts.

Michelle will be managing **VanGo**, RAW’s mobile art unit for community art making this summer. She will also be organizing two **They Look Like Me** (TLLM) events which will be open to RAW youth as well as the community. **TLLM** is RAW’s forum for community conversations that amplify the vision and the voices of our youth and feature guest BIPOC leaders, artists, and activists who bring an intersectional lens to their pursuit of racial, social, and economic justice.

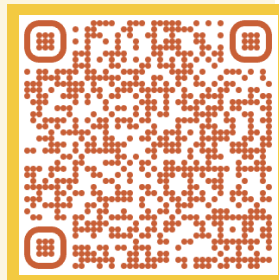
We are so excited to see Michelle in action in this new position!



Michelle driving the RAW van!

“IF YOU’RE EVER GOING TO
LOOK DOWN AT SOMEBODY LET IT
ONLY BE TO HELP THEM UP.”

-LIFE LESSON FROM MICHELLE’S LATE FATHER



HEAR A LITTLE
BIT MORE OF MICHELLE’S
STORY AND HER FIRST
INTRO TO RAW HERE:



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 HC Huynh ●
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 Leslie Herger
 Paul Hurteau

Andre Michalowski
 Alison Miller ●
 Bruce Orr
 Christine T. Rafal
 Michelle Richardson
 Richard Ross
 Laura Smith
 Sidney St. Ives ●
 Rebecca O'Brien Pani
 Alejandra Utrera
 Lisa Watkins

● We are thrilled to have alumni on our staff and Board!

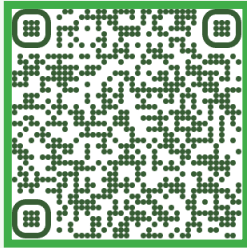
OUR PROGRAMS ARE SUPPORTED IN PART BY GRANTS FROM:



BASH

Party with a Purpose
 Tickets now on sale!

Scan here to purchase tickets



May 6th, 2023

@rawartworks

@rawartworkslynn

SAVE THE DATES

The Real to Reel Filmschool Screening

Tuesday, May 23rd | 6 - 8 PM

Lynn Auditorium

3 City Hall Square

Lynn, MA 01901

Exhibit Opening + Block Party

Thursday, May 25th | 5- 8 PM

Raw Art Works

37 Central Square

Lynn, MA 01901

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 www.rawartworks.org



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