



Young Curators Alumni Survey: Summary of Responses

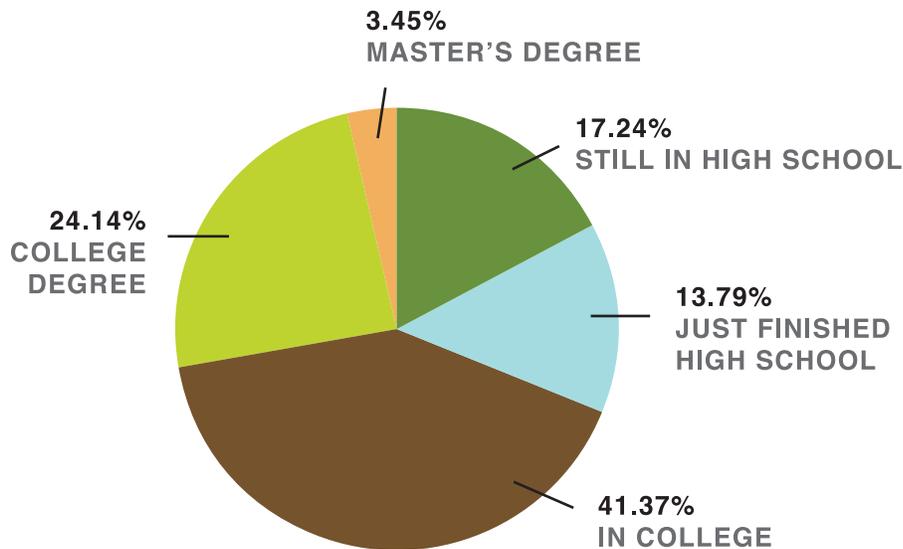
Education Department

Over the summer of 2015,
SITE's Education Department conducted a long-range assessment
of the Young Curators program.

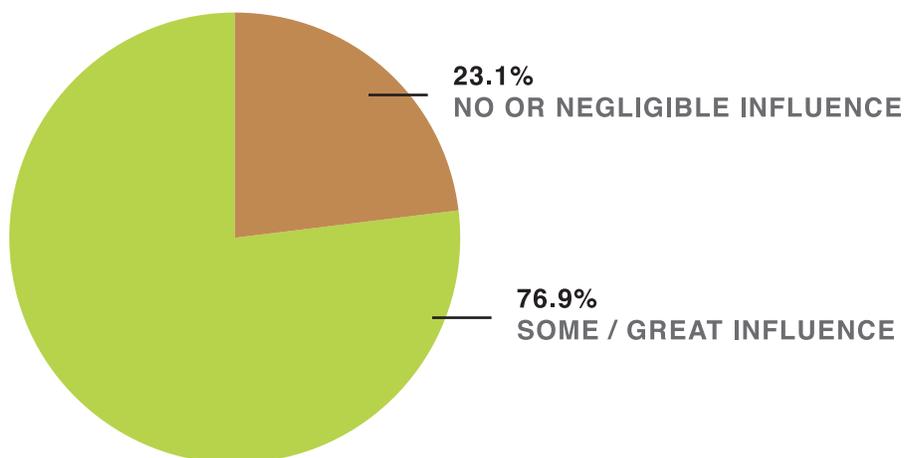
Out of 223 total Young Curators, SITE was able
to locate 83 of them.

Out of that number
35% of former young curators took an online survey.

■ What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? If currently enrolled, highest degree received.

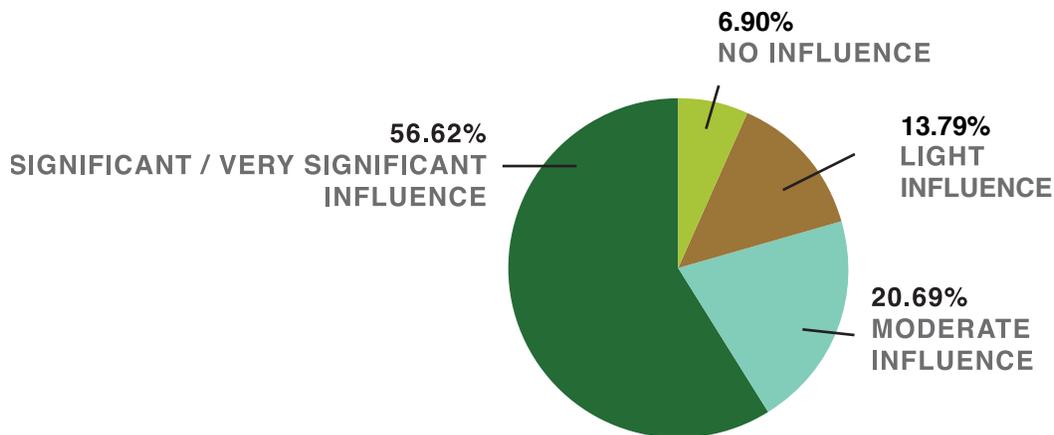


■ Did your participation in the Young Curators Program give you any insight into your current career? Please explain.



- “Yes, it showed me some about how one would submit pieces to shows and how to set up a show. I have actually begun coordinating a show for teen art with a friend of mine, using what I learned in the program.”
- “The Young Curators Program provided a controlled environment to openly discuss ideas and artistic direction. By having the knowledge and skills of those more experienced, the Young Curators Program was successful in showing all the facets that go into creating a show.”
- “Yes, the Young Curators program gave me insight into the museum and art non-profit world, which is the sector I want to work in.”
- “Before I participated in the Young Curators Program, I had little idea that there were actual careers in the arts outside of just being an artist - I had never been exposed to such careers.”
- “Yes. The Young Curators Program allowed me to be around other young creatives and around professionals in the field I am pursuing which played a part in my decision to continue my studies after high school. The Program was my first dip into the pool of curating and in exhibition planning/participation.”
- “Absolutely. Being part of a group that was largely youth-led allowed me to experience first hand the potential of young people to accomplish significant projects. This continued to influence my approach in working with educational programs at Earth Care (a Santa Fe non-profit) and at UC Santa Cruz. Participating in Young Curators allowed me to internalize the fact that young people can create substantial, influential programs for the community.”
- “A bit. It took a while but it gave me the courage to change what I needed to about myself. Gave me the strength to become who I am today.”

■ On a scale from 1 (no influence) to 5 (very significant influence), please rate the effectiveness of the Young Curators Program in helping you make healthy decisions and improving your general well-being.



- “Being a Young Curator gave me the confidence to talk about art, especially contemporary art, and to engage with the larger art world.”
- “The young curators really taught me how to work with other people in an effective way that leads to desirable results.”
- “Being around important conversation with high-schoolers instead of adults makes me take peers more seriously and has provided me with a lot of connections to Santa Fe’s artistic community.”
- “Having positive after school activities is a good thing”
- “Gave me strength to understand that change can come in many forms.”

■ What was the most valuable aspect of the program? What was the most challenging aspect of your experience with the program?

The Young Curators alumni were more willing to list valuable aspects of the program than challenges they faced, and responses were incredibly diverse.

Valuable aspects reported include: gaining business experience, working with a team, discovering museum career options, promoting teen artists, forming a connection to SITE and its staff, and learning professionalism and planning skills. Challenges reported include: effective communication, compromising, resolving disagreements, promotion of the exhibition, and forming an interest in the arts.

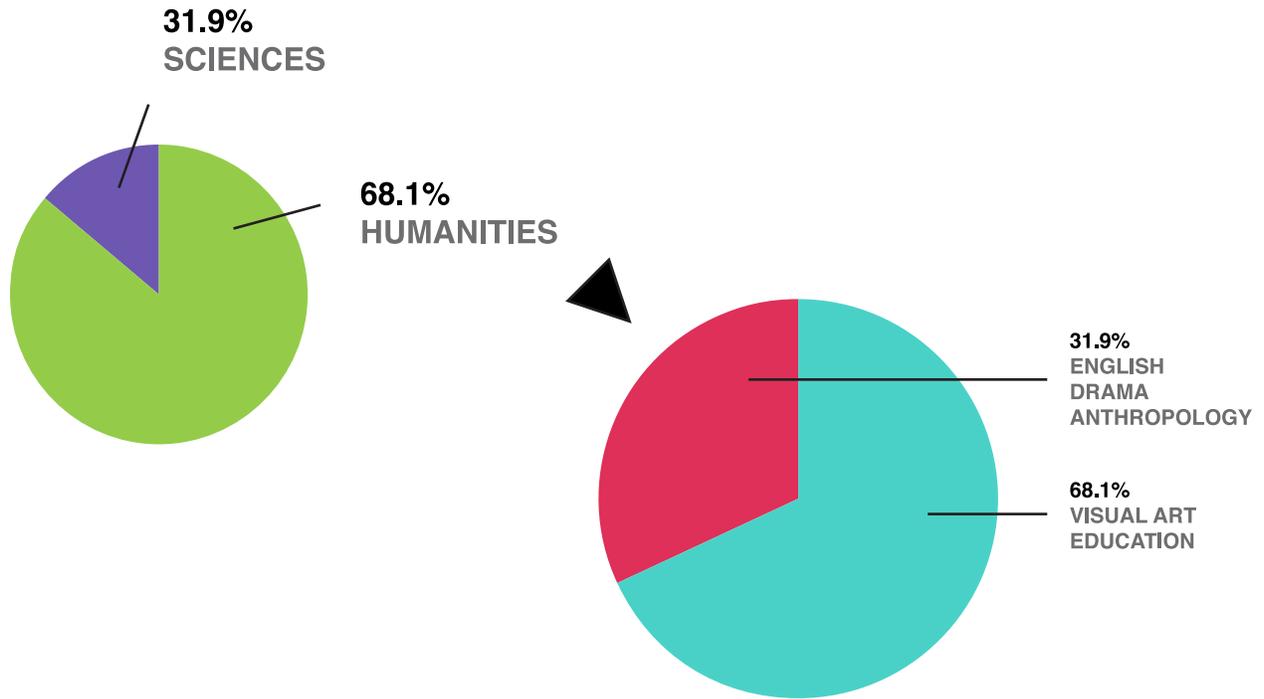
● “Both the most valuable and challenging aspect is being able to communicate my personal vision and adapt it to fit with others. Young Curators was most definitely an exercise in listening and collaboration.”

● “There are many valuable aspects to The Young Curators Program. One of the more valuable aspects is handing the reins over to the young people and allowing them to see what they can do creatively. Teenagers are rarely given responsibility to put something together from scratch, and even more rare is the opportunity to do it with an idea they come up with for themselves. The Young Curators Program is a group of young people who take a rough idea all the way to a polished exhibition, they get to work hard and produce something they are proud of.”

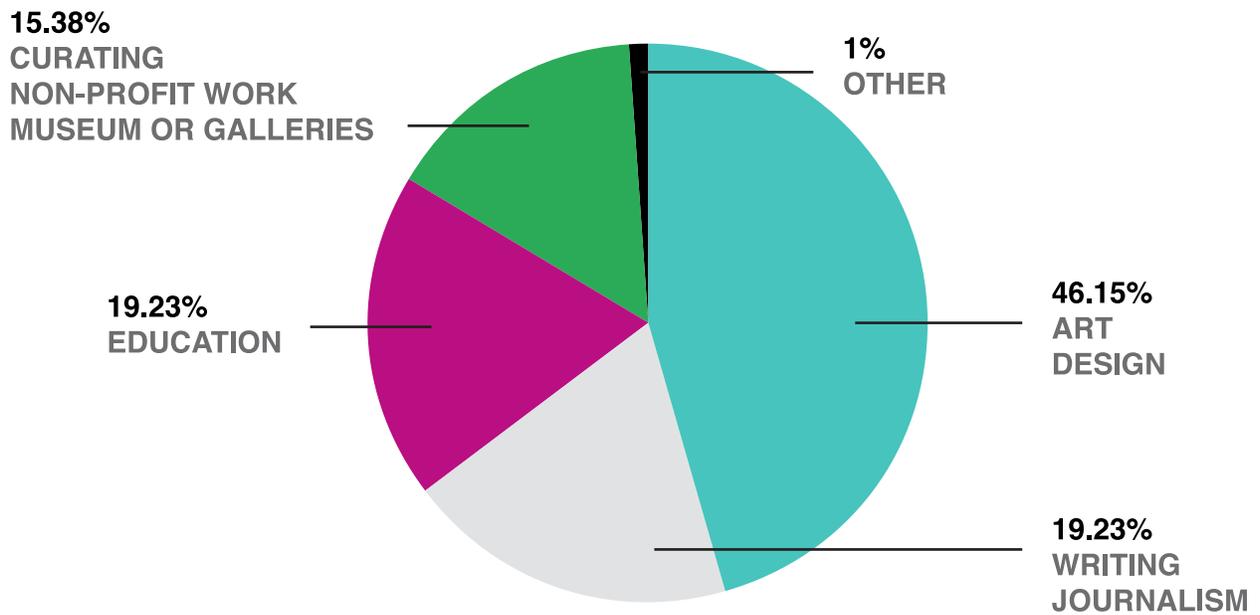
● “Most valuable was learning to work with others in a professional way (mainly just learning a good time to speak your mind and when not too). I had such a leg up when I went to college because I had this experience and no one else in my department did. The most challenging for me is that now I have all this experience but I’m rarely able to use it because my school is not supportive like the young curators was. When I was in this program we had an idea and whoever was in charge helped the students so that we could make these dreams a reality and in most cases even better than I imagined. Now I’m not in a supportive environment, so ideas for shows or art projects are usually swept under the rug.”

● “The most valuable was learning and growing with other curators. Got to be very close and understand people in a different habit. The most challenging would be the fact that I had no interest in art or really anything outside of certain subjects in school. It really opened my mind to new things and it was superb.”

■ Areas of study:



■ Career goals:





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