



Dear Drawing Studio students and community members:

On January 1, 2023, our class tuition will reflect a 10% increase, the first increase in years. We wanted to let you know the reason for this change, how it fits into our mission, and give you options if you find the cost to be a barrier.

It is vital for us to pay our working artists and teaching artists equitably. Therefore, two years ago TDS increased our standard pay for our Teaching Artists by 15%. Even though we increased pay for teachers, we have kept tuition costs the same this whole time.

After delaying as long as we can, it has become clear that it is time to adjust tuition to help continue to pay our teaching artists and models equitably. This move is in line with our mission of realizing fair wages for Teaching Artists and for models. The price increase moves us closer to representing the true costs of running quality programs.

Indeed, the true value for access to arts *requires* that we pay folks well enough to dedicate their lives to service through the arts. Therefore, as tuition rises, so will our standard rate for all Teaching Artists. The goal is to raise the standard rate to \$50/instruction hour (currently \$40/hour). Both full and partial scholarships will continue to be offered generously.

In the meantime, we have a vibrant in-kind donation program with people who are earning their class tuition through volunteering. We are writing larger grants to supply more free programs than ever before. We are raising money to offer full & partial scholarships. To request one, fill out the form on our website. (If you want to fund our scholarship program, please reach out to Anthony Avila at [anthony@thedrawingstudio.org](mailto:anthony@thedrawingstudio.org).)

Please take a moment to reflect on this message. I hope that you join us in our vision and mission. If you feel that you have concerns about this price increase, pay equity for Teaching Artists, or anything else, please call our office or stop by for a conversation. ***We ask you not to email a response because too much is lost in electronic communication.***

You can ask for Anton Russell, our Program Director, to be heard & to reflect on this

Remember our crossroads and see the vision: Teaching Artist pay equity & arts accessibility for all. We will get there, as long as we get there together.

Peace.

Anton Russell

Program Director