

## RISD Rowing Club and NBC

A bit of background about RISD Rowing Club:

- Founded by Misha Kiselev (RISD Industrial Design rising sophomore and accomplished NBC rower) and Kylee Hong (Brown RISD Dual Degree rising sophomore)
- We are a student-run organization (or “club”) under the oversight of RISD Center for Student Involvement and the CSI Athletic Advisor, Byron Olson
- Mission:
  - We hope to share the sport of rowing to both beginners and experienced rowers, while providing the opportunity for those of all backgrounds in the RISD community an opportunity to participate.
- We have two groups within the club: recreational/beginner and advanced
- The Club is open to both Brown and RISD students

Our relationship with NBC thus far:

- Beginner Classes:
  - Our goal for these classes are to introduce rowing to many students who have never had the opportunity to row
  - In April, we organized the club’s first 4-week classes with the barge for a total of 32 students
    - We had two simultaneous sessions of 16 each meeting twice a week (Mon/Sat and Wed/Sun)
    - RISD paid the full price for the classes: \$4,200
- Advanced Cohort:
  - These are members who are interested rowing at a higher level and bought NBC yearly memberships
- Coxswains:
  - We have members of the club who also cox for NBC classes
  - Emma Powers, Anastasia Chase, and Kylee Hong
- Summary:
  - The club has brought NBC \$7,350 in revenue (with a low overhead: barge doesn’t require gas) in a very short period of time.
  - We have introduced upwards of 60 students to NBC, as well as the sport of rowing, through this venture. Many have expressed interest in continuing classes (some are already) or acquiring memberships.

- Some students have expressed interest in volunteering for NBC in the future, as well as generally spreading word about the club and its offerings.

#### Financial Background:

- To clarify commonly asked questions, RISD does not have an athletic department or Faculty devoted to running the logistics of the Rowing Club. It is entirely student run.
- Our budget is composed of contributions from CSI (which must split its budget with all other RISD student clubs) and student fundraising.
- Because of our commitment to inclusion and accessibility, our goal has always been to provide opportunities to row without requiring financial contributions from our members. So far, the beginner classes have been paid entirely by RISD and free for the students. The advanced group has paid for a portion of their membership that RISD could not cover.

#### Previously Discussed Agreements with NBC:

- As we've discussed at length, our goal is not another scholastic partnership like Bayview or Lincoln. Furthermore, we do not have and will never have the budget, coaches, nor institutional backing as RISD Rowing Club is a student organization not a true collegiate athletic team.
- We have agreed to operate within normal NBC procedures – organizing classes and buying memberships. The classes are also open to college students outside of RISD and Brown.

#### Future Vision:

- Our plan is to continue to operate within standard rules and procedures of NBC classes and memberships.
- This fall, we hope to organize 2 6-week long class sessions in the fall and 2 more in the spring. Potentially a session in the winter as well. According to our estimations, this will bring NBC approximately \$25,000 over the course of the academic year.
- Those in the RISD Rowing Club who wish to compete (the small advanced team) plan on training within the scope of what a NBC membership provides.