

# Alumnx

a·lum·nx

noun \ uh-luhm-niks \

Vermont College of Fine Arts values diversity, inclusivity, and respect for all. In keeping with these principles, VCFA has adopted the term alumnx to refer to our graduates. This non-binary, gender-neutral term embraces the full spectrum of gender identities within our community and reflects the college's ongoing work to ensure a welcoming, safe, and collaborative environment.

The term alumnx is increasingly being used among our students, faculty, and graduates, and throughout the broader arts and academic communities. After thoughtful deliberation across the institution, we consider this break from the traditional term "alumni" to be a clear step toward exercising more intentional language, which we strive to implement in all aspects of college life.

While the term "alumni" in its Latin origins is inclusive of male and female, such terminology adheres to an outdated, limited concept of gender. As an institution that believes in the vitality of words, we are committed to moving beyond the default, the traditional, the assumed. We are committed to the practice of pushing back against binary systems which inherently oppress and dismiss anyone who does not see themselves within two distinct categories.

## **We see you. We value you.**

With this change, we recognize the importance of language and its ability to empower those who have come through our VCFA programs. Each one of our graduates is a vibrant individual and part of a collective that upholds equity and celebrates difference. In our mission to be "a global community of artists continuously redefining what it means to be an arts college," we openly embrace opportunities for change that embody our belief that "the arts are central to the human experience and have the ability not only to reflect reality but also to create it."

We welcome you to share your thoughts with us at [alumnx@vcfa.edu](mailto:alumnx@vcfa.edu).

**We see you.  
We value you.**