

MEMORANDUM

TO: Urbana City Council
FROM: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin
DATE: October 11, 2021
RE: Board and Commission Appointments

I am pleased to submit the following Appointments for your approval:

Urbana Arts and Culture Commission – effective immediately through June 20, 2024**Sarah Buckman**

Sarah Buckman is a UIUC graduate and the marketing manager at Common Ground Food Co-op. Sarah is a local food and culinary arts educator, who knits, paints, and enjoys taking food photography. As an avid supporter of the local arts, she has organized local art markets and curates art gallery installations in Common Ground promoting local artists of all ages. Sarah serves as a community liaison between numerous active local organizations and is interested in assisting the Urbana Arts & Culture commission with future arts and cultural programming.

Heather Rose

Heather Rose is an educator and healer, as well as a mother of two youth; Zabrina, 16, and Zackary, 12. She is a known activist within the community as well as a poet, broadcaster, and occasional painter. She is an Eastern Illinois alumna and has obtained both a community health degree and master's degree in health promotion and leadership. Heather has made it plain and clear while working with formerly incarcerated individuals and youth she offers everyone a safe space. Heather envisions a more holistic approach when it comes to education and wellness which she has pushed the narrative of having a community being more involved with optimum health, nutrition, mindfulness, and art therapy.

Howard Schein

Howard Schein has called Urbana home for over 54 years and has been a long-time advocate for the arts and community organizing locally. For 35 years, Howard was the Program Director of Unit One Allen Hall, an arts-based living-learning community advancing social change at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he also served as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Higher Education. He has been active in local community engagement work, including mentoring through CU 1 to 1, Urbana Middle School, Urbana High School, and the University of Illinois' I-Promise Program. He has served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, a neonatal intensive care volunteer at Carle Hospital, and a Park District swim coach. He currently serves on the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee and the Eastern Illinois Foodbank's Public Policy Engagement Committee. Today, he continues his work as a studio potter and is the owner of Howie Schein Pottery, exhibiting his work in local art fairs and expos.

Blair Ebony Smith

Blair Ebony Smith is a strong advocate for arts and cultural engagement. Blair is an Assistant Professor of Art Education and Gender & Women's Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to joining the faculty, she was a Postdoctoral Research Associate in art education with the Krannert Art Museum during which she curated *Homemade With Love: More Living Room*, a multimedia publicly engaged installation exploring the everyday interior life and creativity of Black girls, women, and femmes. Her past experience includes being Program Coordinator of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center where she was a core organizer of *Open Scene*, sponsored by a National Endowment for the Arts grant obtained jointly with the City of Urbana's Arts and Culture Program. Her curatorial and artistic praxis is focused on Black girl celebration, Black feminist poetics, sound art, and design. Blair obtained her PhD. from Syracuse University in Cultural Foundations of Education.