



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report June 4th – July 8th, 2010

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Introduction

The following Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report describes activities of the Public Arts Program for the Urbana Public Arts Commission. The report includes information regarding projects which are in process, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

Update on Current Projects

- Gallery District Incentive Program—continued inquiries and business participation.
- Urbana Arts Grants Program—Most of the 2009 Projects have been completed. Final Reports are being received and reviewed. Attached are reports from Kate Kuper, Aaron Burch, Prompting Theater, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, and Gordon Kay. 2010 Projects are underway and many have been completed. Agreements are being finalized with grantees.
- Art at the Market: Art Workshops—The second art workshop took place on June 26th and was an “Origami Bat Airplane” workshop led by artist Brett Bloom. The Daily Illini featured the workshop in an article and can be read on-line at: <http://www.dailyillini.com/news/2010/06/28/art-at-the-market-values-creative-influences>. The next workshop will take place on July 31st and will be led by Traci Pines. The workshops for the 2010 season will explore issues related to “art and the environment”. Additional information can be found on-line at: <http://www.urbanaininois.us/artworkshops>.
- City Building Exhibit Space—The current Artist of the Corridor exhibit by Betsem Benjamin was installed on June 3rd and will be on display until August 2nd. The next exhibit will feature photographs by Alexei Lyosha Svinarski and will be on display August 2nd – September 30th.
- *Art Now!* UPTV Arts Program—Commission member Pat Sammann completed three interviews with UPTV staff Jason Liggett and the program was launched this month. Attached is a description of the process used to conduct the interviews. The program is scheduled to air on UPTV each Monday from 6:30pm – 7:00pm. Additional information as well as the videos will be posted on the Urbana Public Arts Program webpage in the near future.
- Marketing: Staff is regularly updating the Facebook page which has 282 fans. Staff is also in the process of updating the Arts Guide and the Public Arts Program brochure. Additionally, staff is working with the News Gazette to feature the Program’s various efforts.
- Projects with Partners:
 - Public Art League
 - 40 North | 88 West Board of Directors and Committees
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Public Art Project in King Park with Urbana Park District
 - Urbana Business Association

Upcoming Events

- Public Arts Commission Meeting date: August 10, 4:30 PM.

“Art Now!” UPTV Interviews

Procedure Outline provided by Pat Sammann

- It took me about a month and a half to get all the guests lined up and scheduled, then do the actual interviews. Jason at UPTV gave me a schedule of the times that he would be available to film before I set the days and times with the guests.
- I asked each artist to supply me with an artists bio and any other documents they felt were relevant, plus about 20 images of their work. I used these to develop a set of questions for each interview. If we would be moving around in the filming site, I thought through where on the site each segment of the interview should be filmed. I presented the questions to each guest well prior to the interview.
- I found that it was necessary and helpful to meet with the guests at least a week prior to the interview. That way they could give me any materials that they had on disc or paper and, if we were filming at their studios, it gave me a chance to note what the filming site would be like. (For example, I went to Springer to see how Chris Starkey had set up his works so I knew if there would be any problems for Jason in shooting Chris’ wall-sized drawings. I was able to supply images of some of the drawings on disc in case Jason couldn’t get a good angle on them, as some were hung in a narrow hallway.) It also gave the interviewee a chance to meet me and ask questions about how the interview would be conducted.
- I also met with Jason briefly before each shoot to make sure he knew what the shooting site would be like and to give him a copy of the teaser and the interview questions.
- Each interview begins with a teaser, which consists of a three- or four-sentence long descriptive voice-over about the artist’s style that runs over examples of the artist’s work. This is followed by the Art Now! opening, then the host on screen speaking the opening words “Hi, welcome to Art Now!, a program where we talk to artists whose work is part of our community. I’m (name), and I’ll be your host. Our guest today is (name), a painter/dancer/sculptor, etc.”
- Each interview ends with the host on screen saying “Thanks for watching Art Now! Our guest has been (name), and you can see his/her art locally at (places, dates). We hope you have enjoyed today’s show, and we also hope it will inspire you to explore the local art scene and to make your own art – now!”
- The structure I used in these first three interviews was to start with the artist’s background (how did she/he become an artist, what are her/his influences, why use particular media) followed early in the interview by examples of his or her work. I did not spend a lot of time analyzing these examples, as I primarily placed them there to give the viewer a feel for the type of work that the artist does. This was usually followed by a more in-depth look at one or more new pieces of work. *I found that most of what I covered in the interview flowed directly from the materials the artists gave me and the prior meetings I had with them.*
- It took 45 minutes to an hour to shoot each half-hour interview.
- As a courtesy, I will be giving each guest a DVD of the interview. Jason will be supplying those as he edits and completes each interview.