

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

**URBANA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION**

**APPROVED**

**DATE:** September 14, 2010

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** City Council Chambers, Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Geoffrey Bant, Robin Hall, Barbara Hedlund, Ilona Matkovszki, Patricia Sammann, Mary-Ann Winkelmes

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cheryl Hayden, Robert Lewis, Sarah Ross

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Carrino, Economic Development Division Manager; Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator; Sukiya J. Robinson, Recording Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Katie Waters, Katy Vizdal, Brian Knox, Eric Robeson, David Wilcoxon

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**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

The Urbana Public Arts Commission was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Chair Robin Hall. Anna Hochhalter took roll and a quorum was declared present.

**2. CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Mr. Hall stated that the Public Art League would be moved up first under the Communications section of the agenda.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the August 10, 2010 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. With no changes proposed, Mr. Bant made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Sammann seconded the motion. All Commission members present were in favor of approval and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was none.

## 5. COMMUNICATIONS

- **Introductory Presentation by the Public Art League: Brian Knox, Eric Robeson, David Wilcoxon**

Ms. Hochhalter introduced the Public Art League. The founders of Public Art League gave a brief report on the recent start of their organization, which is focused on bringing art to the community. They presented a power point presentation of the many sculptures that were sponsored by businesses and residents in the community and the places where the sculptures were placed. They also thanked the Commission for its support. At the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **2009 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: David Allen, Illinois Summer Youth Music Program**

Ms. Hochhalter introduced David Allen, Outreach and Educational Engagement Director for the School of Music at the University of Illinois U-C. Mr. Allen gave a brief report explaining how the Urbana Arts Grant Program provided support for the 2010 Illinois Summer Youth Music Program. Mr. Allen also read some of the comments written by enthusiastic students who attended the camp. He thanked the Commission for its support and, at the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard. Mr. Hall requested that Ms. Hochhalter forward a short summary of the children's comments to the City Council.

- **2010 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Katy Vizdal, Independent Media Center**

Ms. Hochhalter introduced Katy Vizdal, Performance Venue Coordinator at the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center. Ms. Vizdal gave a brief report to the Commission on Urbana's first Children's Arts Festival, which had been funded in part by a grant from the 2010 Urbana Arts Grant Program. Ms. Vizdal provided information on the many art forms and organizations that were involved with the Festival and reported there were over 400 attendees during the 6 hour event. At the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by Staff: Monthly Progress Report**

Ms. Hochhalter presented the City staff's monthly progress report to the Commission, outlining projects in process, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

For an update on current projects, she reported the following:

- The Gallery District Incentive Program was receiving continuing inquiries and business participation.
- With regards to the Urbana Arts Grant Program, final reports were being received and reviewed by staff. She stated that she attached the report for Andrea del Moral's project and also stated that many of the 2010 projects were underway.
- With regards to the Art at the Market program, Ms. Hochhalter reported that the fourth art workshop of the season took place on August 28th. Justine Bursoni led a homemade paints painting workshop which featured paints made from natural materials such as coffee, beets, cabbage, turmeric, and spinach. The next workshop will be led by Roberta Bennett on September 25<sup>th</sup>. She stated additional information could be found online at: <http://www.urbanaininois.us/artworkshops>.
- With regards to the City Building Exhibit Space, Ms. Hochhalter reported that the new Artist of the Corridor exhibit began on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, featuring photographic works by Alexei Lyosha Svinarski. The exhibit, entitled "InFocus: Urbana, Illinois" will be on display August 2<sup>nd</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>. She stated she is working with Sandra Batzli to begin the next exhibit on October 1<sup>st</sup>. More details will be provided when they become available.
- With regards to the *Art Now!* UPTV Arts Program, Ms. Hochhalter reported that Commission member Sarah Ross has interviewed the next three featured artists: Aaron Ammons, Amy Rueffert, and Bonnie Fortune. She stated these shows would run on UPTV each Monday from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. beginning in October.
- With regards to fundraising, Ms. Hochhalter reported that staff had continued to research potential policies. She presented a policy which was developed for the City of Champaign regarding its fundraising activities related to its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- With regards to marketing, Ms. Hochhalter reported that City staff had been regularly updating the Public Arts Program's *Facebook* page, which as of this meeting had 307 fans.
- With regards to staffing, Ms. Hochhalter introduced Sukiya Robinson as the newest member of the Community Development Department. Tom Carrino reported that 120 applications for the Public Arts Coordinator position had been received and are currently in review. He stated that Mr. Robin Hall had been notified that he would be involved in the process when closer to final interviews.
- For projects with partners, Ms. Hochhalter reported briefly on her recent activities with the Public Art League, the 40 North | 88 West Board of Directors and Committees, and the Urbana Business Association.
- For upcoming events, Ms. Hochhalter reported that the date for the next Public Arts Commission meeting was set for October 12, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. She stated that there were several upcoming projects funded by the Urbana Arts Grant Program. They are: Contemporary Triptych concert-Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in the Smith Recital Hall. Poetry for the People Workshop series began September 11<sup>th</sup> and the second workshop will be hosted by artist and poet Ruth Nicole Brown on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm at the Urbana Free Library. Pygmalion Music Festival, September 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> at various locations in Urbana-Champaign. CU Folk and Roots Festival, September 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> at various locations in Urbana. BAG photographic installation,

September 1-29<sup>th</sup> at the Independent Media Center. Ms. Hochhalter also reported on Sharon Irish, a local public art historian, who had worked with the University and the community on a project called “Revisiting Murals, Animating Neighborhoods” where they were documenting the process of creating a mural located in Champaign. She handed out booklets on this project.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

• **Downtown Subcommittee Report and Discussion on the Boneyard Creek Master Plan Project**

Ms. Hochhalter introduced this agenda item. Mr. Gale Jamison, Assistant City Engineer, Public Works Department reported on the Boneyard Creek Improvements plan in which they plan to incorporate public art. Mr. Hall requested that Ms. Winkelmes present her part of the presentation. Ms. Winkelmes briefly reported on possible ways to incorporate public art into the Boneyard project. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and Mr. Jamison ensued. Mr. Hall asked that all thoughts/ideas regarding this project be directed to the subcommittee led by Ms. Winkelmes

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hall made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Sammann seconded the motion. With no further business, Mr. Hall declared the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Submitted,

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Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator