

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

URBANA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

APPROVED

DATE: May 10, 2011

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Geoffrey Bant, Cheryl Hayden, Barbara Hedlund, Patricia Sammann, Mary-Ann Winkelmes

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Robert Lewis, Sarah Ross

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ilona Matkovszki

STAFF PRESENT: Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator; Sukiya J. Robinson, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Casey Dierlam, Kathryn Fitzgerald

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

The Urbana Public Arts Commission was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Ms. Sammann. Christina McClelland took roll and a quorum was declared present.

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA

Ms. Sammann stated that she would like to add an additional item under Communications to elect a Vice-chair for the Commission.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the April 12, 2011 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. With no changes proposed, Ms. Winkelmes made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Hayden 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

- **Presentation by 2009 Urbana Arts Grantee Casey Dierlam**

Ms. McClelland introduced Casey Dierlam, a doctoral student at University of Illinois in piano performance. She gave a brief background on her project, the Contemporary Triptych which was a series of piano concerts with Ms. Dierlam and other performers in 2009. This project was conceived for the sole purpose of promoting contemporary piano music by local composers. Ms. Dierlam then played a small excerpt from each of the 3 concerts for the Commission. She thanked the Commission for its support and at the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by 2010 Urbana Arts Grantee Kathryn Fitzgerald**

Ms. McClelland introduced Kathryn Fitzgerald, Art Director of Amara Yoga & Arts, and art educator. Ms. Fitzgerald gave a brief presentation on her 2010 project called The Mandala Project in which the public was invited to work together on painting mandalas on Saturday mornings during Market at the Square hours. She shared a slideshow of the many mandalas that were painted and stated that some of them were currently being displayed in a hallway in Lincoln Square and would be displayed in her Artist of the Corridor exhibit here at the City building in June. Ms. Fitzgerald thanked the Commission for its support and at the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

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

Ms. McClelland 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:

- With regards to the Urbana Arts Grant Program, Ms. McClelland reported that the 2009 and 2010 projects were being completed and reported. She stated that all agreements for the 2011 projects had been signed and that grant projects were beginning. She also stated that at the meeting the night before, the Committee of the Whole motioned to approve the FY11-12 Public Arts Program Plan.
- With regards to Boneyard Creek Public Art, Ms. McClelland reported that the request for qualifications had just been loaded on the city website and she would be emailing the final copy to Commission members.
- With regards to the Downtown/Royer subcommittee, Ms. McClelland reported that they met on April 26th to discuss Councilman Dennis Roberts' April presentation to PAC about Royer district signage. She stated that Staff had been following through with obtaining ballpark estimates from Selbert Perkins on several signage options. Information received so far was that a directory sign was estimated at approximately \$8,700. Ms. McClelland stated that there would be more for that subcommittee to

- discuss in the future.
- With regards to Art at the Market, Ms. McClelland reported that Staff had currently scheduled all the artists for the six workshops during the 2011 Market at the Square Season. She stated that the theme was “Nontraditional Materials” to encourage the public to engage with unexpected materials in artistic ways. Ms. McClelland stated that she was finalizing the schedule and gathering descriptions from the artists and would release the information the following week.
 - With regards to *Art Now*, Ms. McClelland reported that May’s new episode was an interview with sculptor and UIUC professor, Tammy Rubin.
 - With regards to the City Building Exhibit Space, Ms. McClelland reported that the current Artist of the Corridor exhibit began on April 4th, featuring the work of Cheri Manrique and would be on display until May 31st. She stated that the June-July Artist of the Corridor would be Kathryn Fitzgerald.
 - With regards to fundraising, Ms. McClelland reported that the Fundraising subcommittee met on April 13th to discuss the next steps for fundraising. She stated that City Staff and the subcommittee recommended setting up a Friends of the Arts group, led by a dynamic experienced individual that is involved in the arts and has fundraising contacts, and can identify specific projects for fundraising.
 - With regards to marketing, Ms. McClelland reported that City staff had been regularly updating the Public Arts Program’s *Facebook* page, which as of this meeting had 350 fans and averaged 88 page visits a month. She also stated she had started an Urbana Public Arts Twitter account, which could be followed @urbanapublicart, and as of this meeting had 45 followers. Ms. McClelland reported that a monthly e-mail newsletter had been sent to 288 subscribers on April 19th. She also stated that she had attended a presentation of the UIUC graphic design class on strategic marketing of the Urbana Public Arts Program and overall the class’ suggestions did not seem to be a good fit for the program’s needs. Staff would be looking into a possibility of hiring a graphic designer to produce much needed print materials.
 - With regards to grants, Ms. McClelland reported that Staff had submitted an application for a Program Grant for General Operating Support from the Illinois Arts Council. She stated that a response would be heard in August 2011, regarding this application.
 - With regards to conferences, Ms. McClelland reported that Staff had been awarded a registration fee scholarship to attend the 2011 Americans for the Arts Annual Convention in San Diego, CA from June 16th-18th. More information about the conference could be found at <http://convention.artsusa.org/>. She also stated that Staff would be attending the 2011 One State Together in the Arts Conference in Bloomington-Normal on May 23 and 24.
 - With regards to partnerships, Ms. McClelland reported that after consulting with Public Works, Staff was moving forward with a collaborative project with Urbana Park District interns to identify potential sites for public art in parks in Urbana.
 - For upcoming events, Ms. McClelland reported that the date for the next Public Arts Commission meeting was set for June 14, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. She stated that the Grants Subcommittee would be meeting May 11, 2011.

- **Elect a Vice-Chair**

Ms. Sammann introduced this agenda item. With her recent appointment as Chair of the Commission, there was now a need to fill her former position of Vice-Chair. She stated that Ms. Winkelmes had expressed some interest in this position. With no further nominations, Ms. Sammann called for a vote. All Commission members present were in favor of this nomination and Ms. Winkelmes was appointed Vice-Chair by unanimous vote.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion and Approval of Public Art League Agreement**

Ms. McClelland introduced this agenda item. She reported that the Public Art League had updated their agreement per the request of the Public Arts Commission. She stated that a provision was added that the jury panel selecting artwork would include a representative from the Public Arts Commission and that if the City chose to discontinue any display of artwork, PAL would arrange for deinstallation within 30 days of notification. Ms. McClelland stated that with those changes, Staff would recommend approval of this agreement. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and Staff ensued. With no further comments or questions from the Commission, Ms. Sammann asked for a vote. A vote was taken and with four members in favor, and one member opposed, the agreement was approved.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hayden made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Bant seconded the motion. With no further business, Ms. Sammann declared the meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Submitted,

Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator