

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

**URBANA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION**

**APPROVED**

**DATE:** March 13, 2012

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

**PLACE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Geoffrey Bant, Gregory Chew, Barbara Hedlund, Robert Lewis, Ilona Matkovszki, Patricia Sammann, Virginia Waaler, Mary-Ann Winkelmes

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lisa Bralts, Robert Ladislas Derr (by phone), Kate Kuper

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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 Ms. Sammann. Christina McClelland took roll and a quorum was declared present.

**2. CHANGES TO AGENDA**

Ms. McClelland stated that the New Business items would be moved up under Old Business, between the Long-range planning exercise con't, and the Annual Planning Process.

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

The minutes of the February 14, 2012 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. With no changes proposed, Ms. Hedlund made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Chew 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 2011 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Kate Kuper**

Ms. Sammann introduced Kate Kuper, a local movement artist. She gave a report on her project, Busy Bodies Dance & Music Program, which took place at Washington Early Childhood School. The 3-5 year olds were taught basic skills in coordination, body awareness and sequencing. Ms. Kuper also collaborated with percussionist Rocky Maffit to conduct family events of music and movement. There were 360 students (some of whom use English as a second language), 75 parents, 12 teachers, and 17 teaching assistants that participated in this project. Ms. Kuper thanked the Commission for the grant received. At the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by 2011 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Robert Ladislas Derr**

Ms. Sammann introduced Robert Ladislas Derr, artist and Associate Professor of Art, at The Ohio State University. Mr. Derr joined the meeting by conference call. He gave a report on his project, “In My Shoes” in which he asked Urbana community members to submit pairs of shoes that had memories associated with them. Mr. Derr then traveled to Urbana and performed in all 31 pairs of shoes he received, at the location of the memory in Urbana. The Indi Go Gallery hosted the exhibition of the video and photographs that resulted from the performances. Mr. Derr thanked the Commission for the grant received. 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 Boneyard Creek Public Art, Ms. McClelland reported that the Champaign County Design and Conservation Foundation had committed \$32,000 toward public art in the project, which would fund street level stone markers on the Broadway Bridge and wall tile elements. She stated that Jack Mackie had been completing final designs, including the attached informational plaques. Ms. McClelland also stated that the Commission should decide if the plaques should include call-in or QR codes as an additional source of information.
- With regards to the Urbana Arts Grant Program, Ms. McClelland reported that this item would be discussed later on in the meeting.
- With regards to Downtown Arts Planning, Ms. McClelland reported that the Downtown Arts Planning subcommittee met on March 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Urbana Sculpture Project, vinyl window art, projections, and potential partners.

- With regards to Arts in the Schools, Ms. McClelland reported that Staff was working on questions from the February 17<sup>th</sup> subcommittee meeting.
- With regards to the Martin Luther King Jr. Park Project Subcommittee, Ms. McClelland reported that submissions for the RFQ were due by March 14, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. She stated that 31 applications had been received at that time and that more information was available at: <http://www.urbanainillinois.us/artsopportunities>.
- With regards to Outreach, Ms. McClelland reported that Staff was involved in the Urbana planning committee for the 2012 Boneyard Arts Festival, to be held April 19-22, 2012.
- With regards to *Art Now!*, Ms. McClelland reported that March's episode featured interdisciplinary artist, Jamie Kruidenier, airing on UPTV Channel on Mondays at 6:30 PM and Tuesdays at 11:00 PM.
- With regards to Art at the Market, Ms. McClelland reported that this item would be discussed later on in the agenda.
- With regards to the City Building Exhibit Space, Ms. McClelland reported that the current show featured paintings by Betsem Benjamin and Wiley Elementary third and fifth graders, to be exhibited through April 30<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the exhibit would be included as a venue for the 2012 Boneyard Arts Festival.
- 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 422 fans. She also stated that the Urbana Public Arts Twitter account, which could be followed @urbanapublicart, as of this meeting had 223 followers. Ms. McClelland reported that a monthly e-mail newsletter had been sent to 415 subscribers on February 15<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the printed promotional postcard was being distributed to area businesses and organizations. She also stated that Staff had worked with Single Stereo Design to create the attached new program brochure.
- With regards to Grants, Ms. McClelland reported that Staff was applying for a 2013 Illinois Arts Council Visual Arts Program Grant for general operating support that was due on March 15, 2012.
- For upcoming events, Ms. McClelland reported that the 2012 Urbana Arts Grants Announcement event was scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2012 from 5:30-7:00 PM at Buvons, located at 203 N Vine Street in Urbana. She also stated that the date for the next Public Arts Commission meeting was set for April 10, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

- **Long-range Planning Exercise, continued**

Ms. Sammann introduced this agenda item. Ms. McClelland gave an update on the progress since the last meeting. She stated that the only change was that she had updated the draft with some additional things that the Royer subcommittee had suggested. Ms. Sammann asked if there were any other comments or changes. Mr. Bant suggested that the wording be changed to propose a section for art in the park as opposed to just the Martin Luther King project as the only park related project. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and staff ensued. Following discussion, Mr. Chew moved to approve the long-

range plan. Ms. Winkelmes seconded the motion. With no further comments or questions from the Commission, Ms. Sammann called for a voice vote. All Commission members were in favor of approval and the motion carried unanimously.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Update from Greg Chew: UHS Auditorium**

Ms. Sammann introduced this agenda item. Mr. Chew briefly discussed the idea of having special events anchored by historic buildings. New memories could be created by children and people of Urbana at Royer designed historic sites and buildings. He proposed to take some of the historic buildings and as a historic date comes along, an event could be created that would involve schools, choruses, music etc. He stated that the UHS Auditorium would be entering its 100<sup>th</sup> year soon and suggested that an event be held on July 29<sup>th</sup> on the front steps of the auditorium to commemorate that and also the new renovations. He also suggested a plaque to commemorate this anniversary. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and Staff ensued. At the end of discussion, Ms. McClelland suggested that this topic be continued during the annual plan discussion.

- **Performances at the Market**

Ms. Sammann introduced this agenda item. Ms. McClelland presented the proposal to increase arts programming at the Market in addition to the 6 Art at the Market events that currently exist. The proposal suggested creating a monthly performance series at the market, where the performing group would be compensated \$300 for each 2 hr performance. Ms. Bralts, Director of the Market at the Square, gave information on where the performances would take place in the market and answered questions from the Commission. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and Staff ensued. Mr. Bant made a motion to approve the proposal for \$600 for the first two performances that occur in this fiscal year. Ms. Winkelmes seconded the motion. With no further comments or questions from the Commission, Ms. Sammann called for a voice vote. All Commission members were in favor of approval and the motion carried unanimously.

- **Urbana Arts Grants Recommendations**

Ms. Sammann introduced this agenda item. Ms. McClelland reported that 52 applications were received for the 2012 Urbana Arts Grants Cycle. She stated that it was the second highest number of applications received in the program's history. Ms. McClelland briefly highlighted parts of the memo on this agenda item. Commission comments and questions followed. Mr. Chew made a motion to approve the list of proposed 2012 Arts Grant recipients as presented. Ms. Waaler seconded the motion. With no further comments or questions from the Commission, Ms. Sammann called for a voice vote. All Commission members were in favor of approval and the motion carried unanimously.

- **Annual Planning Process**

Ms. Sammann introduced this agenda item. Ms. McClelland facilitated this discussion. She stated that for 2012-2013 fiscal year, she had prepared a table of suggested budget expenditures for the Commission to review and make changes if needed. Ms. McClelland briefly summarized each program and its proposed budget amount. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and Staff ensued. Ms. Winkelmes made a motion to approve the proposed FY 12-13 budget. Mr. Bant seconded the motion. With no further comments or questions from the Commission, Ms. Sammann called for a voice vote. All Commission members were in favor of approval and the motion carried unanimously.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Lewis made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Waaler seconded the motion. With no further business, Ms. Sammann declared the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Submitted,

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Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator