



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Urbana Public Arts Commission

FROM: Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator

DATE: August 8, 2013

SUBJECT: Murals on Glass Artist Recommendations

Background

In 2012, the Urbana Public Arts Program launched the Murals on Glass program, which features the work of local artists as adhesive vinyl decals on windows in downtown Urbana. The first iteration was a great success, appearing on the front page of The News-Gazette and on several TV stations. Developed by the Downtown Arts subcommittee of the Public Arts Commission from a suggestion of Selbert-Perkins (the firm who created the Signage and Wayfinding plan for the City of Urbana), the project brings positive attention to the area and creates opportunities for local artists.

Discussion

As the first iteration of Murals on Glass was to be one year long, staff and the Downtown Arts subcommittee began evaluating the first year of the program and planning for the next in spring 2013. There was great interest from the City in extending the program to beautify the windows of the Urbana Civic Center located at 108 E Water St. Also, there were several comments about extending the display of “Untitled (Abe in the Grass)” by Larry Steinbauer on the northeast tower of the parking deck. Continuing to display an image of Lincoln across from the Champaign County courthouse where he often practiced law seems fitting for this entrance into downtown Urbana. In addition, retaining “Untitled (Abe in the Grass)” allowed the existing project budget of \$5,000 to cover the additional civic center windows. The Urbana Business Association agreed to continue featuring artwork on the window of their office and again committed to paying half of the cost for this window. Each artist would again be awarded an honorarium of \$150 for the display of their work.

Staff and the subcommittee worked to draft a Call for Entries, (Exhibit A), and released it on June 7, 2013. This year the application was available online and was administered through the same Wufoo form system that will be utilized for the Keep It or Change It fundraising initiative. Applicants were directed to fill out contact information and upload up to three original images for consideration, an image identification sheet, and proof of Champaign County residency. The Call for Entries outlined the following Program Goals for the project:

- Promote visible, outdoor activity in downtown.
- Integrate public art into the urban environment, creating a sense of place and purpose, and promoting tourism and commerce.
- Beautify and improve the city streetscape.
- Provide opportunities for local artists in Urbana and Champaign County.
- Enrich the lives of Urbana residents and visitors.

The Call for Entries also identified the following criteria for artist selection:

- Demonstration of artistic quality.
- Appropriateness of artwork to a high-profile, downtown Urbana setting.
- Artwork aligns with stated program goals.

The call was publicized through a press release to local media, e-mails to local arts contacts and other agencies in the community, and the Urbana Public Arts Program Facebook, Twitter, and e-mail newsletter. It was advertised in the E3 section of The News-Gazette and online on the SmilePolitely website. The opportunity was also shared by 40 North | 88 West through their e-mail newsletter and Facebook page, as well as on social media by several other groups. Eleven artists submitted 29 entries for consideration by the due date of July 15, 2013. Exhibit B contains statistics on the applications received. None of the applicants had to contact staff with problems or in need of assistance with the Wufoo system. One person submitted the application via hard copy, which staff accepted.

The selection panel included Urbana Business Association (UBA) Executive Director Cynthia Johnson and board member Lori Johnson, City staff, and Lisa Janes, curator of the Urbana Museum of Photography. The selection panel met on August 6, 2013 and considered each of the submitted entries according to the criteria and program goals laid out in the RFQ. Following several hours of deliberation, the panel recommended the following pieces to be featured for Murals on Glass (Exhibit C.) The pieces are “Portrait of Chip McGee” by Chris Evans for the south parking tower, and for the two double windows on the south side of the Urbana Civic Center, “Summer” by Jill Miller and “Fall Elegy” by Rosalind Faiman Weinberg. The UBA representatives chose two possible selections for the whole board to vote on via e-mail. This process resulted in the selection of “Let’s Ride” by Molly Poganski for display on the UBA office window.

Due to how well the vinyl material has held up on the current Murals and consideration of staff and program capacity, the Downtown Arts subcommittee recommends displaying these recommended Murals for two years rather than one. The honorarium for each artist will be doubled to reflect this longer display. While this double honorarium increases the cost of the program, in the long term going to an every other year model will save money and result in an alternating schedule of new Murals on year and new sculptures the next. The project budget for display from 2013-2015 totals \$5,067.50. The additional \$67.50 over the original \$5,000 budget will be covered by the 2013 Illinois Arts Council Program Grant for Visual Arts General Operating Support:

	Parking Deck North East Tower	Parking Deck South Tower	UBA Windows	Civic Center Windows	
Printing/Installation	\$0	\$1,995	\$559.50	\$1,292.00	
Artist Honorariums	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$600	
Total	\$300	\$2,295	\$859.50	\$1,892.00	\$5,347
Minus UBA Contribution					\$279.50
			PROJECT	TOTAL	\$5,067.50

Recommendation

Staff and the Downtown Arts subcommittee recommend that the Commission approve the selection panel's recommended pieces for the Murals on Glass program and the extension of the display of these pieces to two years.

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Murals on Glass Call for Entries

Exhibit B: Murals on Glass Recommended Pieces



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

Economic Development Division
Urbana Public Arts Program



Call for Entries 2013-2014 Murals on Glass

Overview

The City of Urbana Public Arts Commission and Urbana Business Association invite artists residing in Champaign County to participate in the second cycle of Murals on Glass, a program featuring local artwork in downtown Urbana in the following locations: the Urbana Business Association office windows on Main Street, the south windows of the Parking Deck located on Elm Street, and the east windows facing the parking lot of the Urbana Civic Center on Water Street. Selections for Murals on Glass will be made by a jury of City staff, UBA staff, and arts professionals, and approved by the Urbana Public Arts Commission. The selected pieces will be reproduced in adhesive vinyl and adhered to the windows in these locations, remaining on display for a period of one year. Murals on Glass beautifies downtown Urbana, provides opportunities for Champaign County artists, and creates an attraction in Urbana and Champaign County. To see current Murals on Glass on display, visit <http://www.urbanaininois.us/muralsonglass>.

All applications are due by 5:00 PM CST on Monday, July 15, 2013. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Program Goals

- Promote visible, outdoor activity in downtown
- Integrate public art into the urban environment, creating a sense of place and purpose, and promoting tourism and commerce
- Beautify and improve the city streetscape
- Provide opportunities for local artists in Urbana and Champaign County
- Enrich the lives of Urbana residents and visitors

Timeline:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| •Call for Entries Released: | June 7, 2013 |
| •Applications Deadline: | 5:00 PM, Monday, July 15, 2013 |
| •Selection Panel Review: | June 22-26, 2013 |
| •Approval by Urbana Public Arts Commission: | August 13, 2013 |
| •Artist(s) Notification: | August 2013 |
| •Completion and installation of project: | August 2013 |

Submission Requirements

- Established and emerging artists are welcome to apply.
- Applicants must reside in Champaign County.
- Artwork must be appropriate to high profile, public, family-friendly setting.
- All genres, styles, and media will be considered.

To Apply

Applications must be submitted online by 5:00 PM CST by Monday, July 15, 2013. Online application may be accessed at: <https://urbanapublicarts.wufoo.com/forms/murals-on-glass-application/>

You will be prompted to upload the following:

- Image Files:** Submitted images must be jpeg files, 300 dpi, labeled as "lastname_firstname_01.jpg," i.e. "smith_jane_01.jpg." Each applicant may submit no more than three unique digital images for consideration. If selected, artists will work with City staff to size images correctly for display on windows; thus high quality versions of submitted images must be available. Submitted images should be no larger than 5 MB each.
- Image Identification Sheet:** Please include an image identification sheet with file names corresponding to image title, year completed, dimensions, and media. Upload document as a PDF file.
- Champaign County Residency:** Include a copy of one of the following: a photo ID with proof of current address, a current utility bill, or a signed lease agreement. Please upload file as a PDF document.

Artist Selection Criteria:

Submissions will be evaluated based on:

- Demonstration of artistic quality.
- Appropriateness of artwork to high-profile, downtown Urbana setting.
- Alignment with stated program goals.

A temporary selection panel will be created to review submissions and recommend works for approval by the Urbana Public Arts Commission. The panel will be composed of City staff, members of the Public Arts Commission, Urbana Business Association staff, and members of the art community. The Urbana Public Arts Commission will approve the final recommendation from the Selection Panel.

Notification:

Artists will be notified of selection status by mail and e-mail.

THE CITY OF URBANA PUBLIC ARTS PROGRAM AND SELECTION PANEL RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY ENTRIES, TO WAIVE ANY PROPOSAL TECHNICALITIES, OR TO TERMINATE THE SELECTION PROCESS AT ANY TIME FOR ANY PROJECT.

All materials must be submitted online by July 15, 2013 by 5 PM CST. Contact the Public Arts Coordinator with any questions.

Email: cmmcclelland@urbanaininois.us

Phone: (217) 384-2311

Fax: (217) 384-0200

Address:

Public Arts Coordinator

Community Development Services, City of Urbana

400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

Attachments

Exhibit A: 2013-2014 Murals on Glass Window Sites

2013-2014 Murals on Glass Window Sites

Urbana Civic Center East Windows



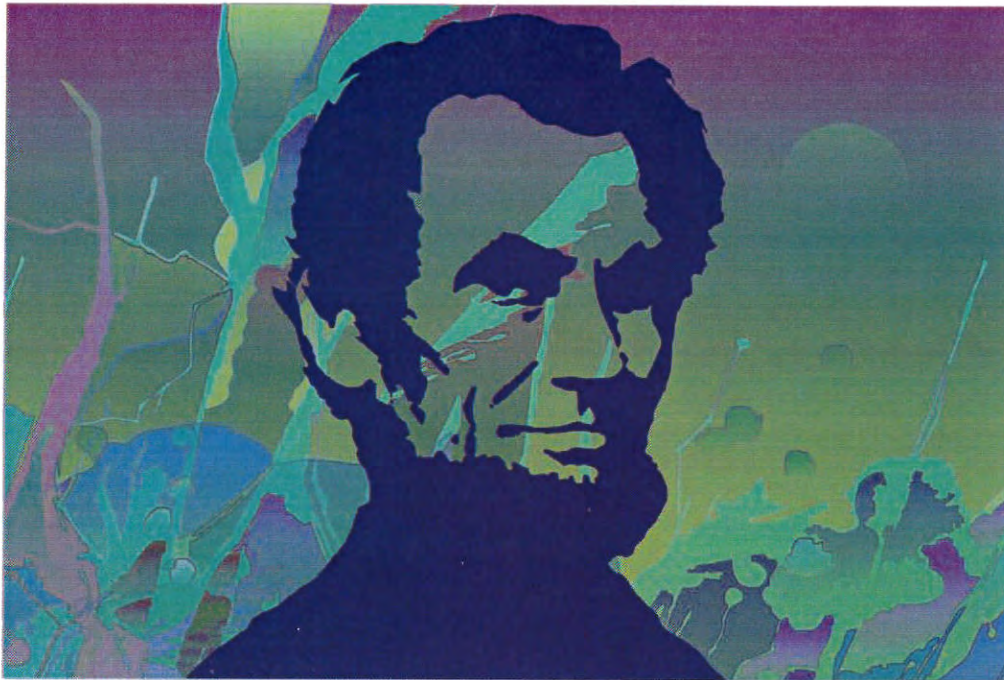
Urbana Parking Deck South Tower Windows



Urbana Business Association Windows



North East Tower: *Untitled (Abe in the Grass)* by Larry Steinbauer



South Tower: "Portrait of Chip McGee" by Chris Evans



UBA Windows: "Let's Ride" by Molly Poganski



Urbana Civic Center: "Summer" by Jill Miller and "Fall Elegy" by Rosalind Faiman Weinberg

