



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report July 9, 2014 – August 12, 2014

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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.

Updates on Current Projects

- **Urbana Arts Grants Program:** The grants subcommittee met to go over the 2015 grant application process and documents. The subcommittee decided to make a change to the granting structure. For organizations that have been funded by the City for three consecutive years, we are now going to require a 100% cash match to the City donation or take a break from the granting process for a year. The reasoning for this is that these City grants are not meant to be a basic support mechanism for organizations, but to function more as seed money as the organizations continue to diversify their funding base as they grow. Staff is also working with IT to streamline the grant application process and move it to our website, rather than a third party website as a common concern from grantees is that it is hard and/or confusing to upload and download files using a third party website. Staff is also working with IT on a comprehensive database on the City website of all grant projects from 2009-present.
- **Boneyard Creek Public Art:** Boneyard Public Artist Jack Mackie had his final walk of the public art part of the Boneyard project on July 23. He was very pleased with the result and we are readying his final payment for the project. A timeline for the remaining parts of the Boneyard is as follows:
 - a. Late August for flat and retaining walls and street work
 - b. September for landscape plantings to go in the ground
 - c. Spring 2015 for official ribbon cutting and dedication of the park and project
- **Fundraising:** We have received the green light, from the Legal Division, to set up a contract with the Public Art Program and the Community Foundation of East Illinois. Like the Legacy Tree project, which initiated this process, this agreement will provide a way for any funds raised for public art and for specific public art initiatives to be held in a way that does not put the City in any kind of ethical bind.

Citizeninvestor.com- We have also received the go ahead to utilize this platform for crowdsourced funding for specific projects. Possible ideas are:

- Sculpture purchase for the permanent collection
- Public art call/contest for banner designs for Boneyard to coincide with Spring

opening 2015

- Temporary outdoor performance project
 - Public art project celebrating Urbana- utilizing public space with community photos of Urbana, graphic posters of Urbana citizens, oral/media histories of buildings (maybe make it a yearly festival?)
- **Marketing:** Staff is regularly updating Facebook and Twitter accounts, with 730 fans and 1,137 followers, respectively.
 - **Downtown Arts subcommittee:** The Downtown Arts subcommittee is in the process of reviewing new sculptures for 2014-16 for the Urbana sculpture program. To date, here are the sculptures slated for a two-year lease in Urbana.
 - Stranger Reduction Zone- Timothy Flood, Denver, CO (downtown Main St.). This sculpture is sponsored by the City.
 - Asteray- Nicole Beck, Chicago, IL (by library). This sculpture is not sponsored by the City. Will replace Bench 9, which was deinstalled on Thursday, August 31. This sculpture will be installed in mid-August.
 - Athirst- Sarah Deppe, Madison, WI (Boneyard). This sculpture is not sponsored by the city. Looking at installation late September/October.

A national call has been placed with a deadline for early September for the last three sculpture spots to fill.

- **Art at the Market:** August 9 workshop and performances was veggie and fruit stamping with The Land Connection and a musical performance by Rebecca Rego and the Trainmen. The July Art at the Market was moved a week later because of weather. It featured Makerspace Urbana with Tee-shirts to Tote Bags and Aduki Jazz Quartet.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** A new exhibition has been mounted that features Urbana artist Jill Stroberger. She is a self-taught artist and creates landscape and nature-oriented paintings as well as mixed media pieces with beads, wire and wood. The exhibition will be up through November 2.
- **Art Now!:** In the August episode, our very own commissioner Kevin Hamilton, new media artist, was profiled. See episodes at: <http://www.urbanaininois.us/artnow>.

Upcoming Events

- Sweetcorn Festival- August 22-23rd.