



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report September 3, 2015 – October 9, 2015

Prepared by Sarah Brody, Public Arts Intern

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 progress, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

Updates on Current Projects

- **Urbana Art Expo:** In the inaugural year, over 380 people, excluding artists and their assistants, attended the Urbana Art Expo at the Urbana Civic Center on Sunday, September 13, from 10:00am to 5:00pm. A total of 22 artists showed and sold their work at the juried exhibition, generating around \$5,300 in sales in one day. The City charged a commission fee of 10% to benefit the Urbana Public Arts Program. The participating artists were Langston Allston, Roberta Bennett, Don Briskin, Allen Creamean, Beth Darling, Fred Delcomyn, Heather Dent, Kathryn Fitzgerald, Caroline Goldsmith, Travis Hocutt, Suzanne Keith Loechl, Sam Logan, Maria Ludeke, Karissa McDermott, Christina Nordholm, Ellie Pinzarrone, Erica Robertson, Carolina Rodriguez, Lynn Hawkinson Smith, Michael Owen Thomas, Jana Uebele, Sendra Uebele, and Nathan Westerman.

The Urbana Art Expo was presented by the Urbana Public Arts Program in collaboration with 40 North: Champaign County Arts Council, and was supported by the Urbana Park District and the Champaign Park District. The Expo was free and open to the public. The evening before, a reception was held to welcome artists to the Expo.

- **Arts Grants** The arts education grant *Arts in the Schools* received seven proposals for the October 2, 2015 deadline. Up to \$3,000 will be awarded to projects involving schools in the Urbana School District #116. A jury consisting of Latrelle Bright, Barbara Hedlund, and Traci Pines was held on October 9th to select finalists to move on to the second round of the application process. Notification letters will be sent out within the week. The guidelines and application process for the *Urbana Arts Grant* will be released next month.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** Ellie Pinzarrone, local artist, art educator, and founder of Ellie Pinz Studio at [co][lab] is the current Artist of the Corridor. The next Artist of the Corridor is currently being decided on for an installation date in the second week of November.
- **Art at the Market:** On September 12, Art at the Market featured a hula hoop-making workshop with Braswell Magic. Rebecca Rego & the Trainmen were scheduled to perform, but they unfortunately had to cancel due to a family emergency. Though normally Art at the Market only runs from May to September, on October 13, Weiskamp will lead a family-friendly printing workshop, as well as a rescheduled performance by

Rebecca Rego & the Trainmen.

- **Murals on Glass:** A dedication event to honor both Phil Strang and Nathan Westerman, whose artworks were selected for the current cycle of Murals on Glass, was held on September 4th. Both artists, several City Staff, and about 10 guests attended.
- **Art Now!:** The October episode of Art Now! features Peter Bodnar, who is a painter and drawer. See episodes at <http://www.urbanaininois.us/artnow>.



- **Marketing:** Staff continues to update the program's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, which now have 1,009 fans, 1,551 followers, and 66 followers, respectively. Staff also manages a monthly e-newsletter, which currently has about 650 subscribers, and posts about upcoming events on community webpages and online calendars, such as chambanamoms.com and news-gazette.com.
- **Fundraising:** Staff members in the City's Community Development Department, including Public Arts staff have collaborated with staff and board members of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center (UCIMC) to submit a proposal for The National Endowment of the Art's *Our Town* grant program. The application was submitted on October 8th for the project titled, *Open Scene: Debuts of Youth's Views in Downtown Urbana*. Grant decisions will be made no sooner than April 2016. The grant project description is below:

To support *Open Scene: Debuts of Youth's Views in Downtown Urbana*, the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center and the City of Urbana will partner together to create a plan for reclaiming the city's center through arts-based dialogues that directly incorporate the experiences of youth. These creative engagement and planning processes will be anchored at IMC's emerging cultural facility located in the historic post office building in the heart of downtown.

Working with artists from varied disciplines, youth project leaders will interface with stakeholders to explore and express around questions related to key information and cultural needs of Urbana residents including youth, cultural workers and artists, people of color, new Americans, the unemployed, elders, and the disabled. In turn, youth project leaders and stakeholders will co-facilitate community-wide arts-based civic dialogue workshops. Showcases of creative work rendered will be open to the public throughout the process.