

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

*Economic Development Division*

### **m e m o r a n d u m**

**TO:** Public Arts Commission

**FROM:** Pauline Tannos, Public Arts Coordinator

**DATE:** November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

**SUBJECT:** **Discussion on Open Scene**

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### **Background**

Open Scene was awarded a \$50,000 Our Town grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in spring 2016. Through this project, the City of Urbana is partnering with the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center (UCIMC) to create a plan for reclaiming the city's center through arts-based dialogues that directly incorporate the experiences of youth ages 16-24, especially those who feel disconnected from the downtown scene.

Open Scene's team leadership approach – youth partnering equally with adult community stakeholders – intends to empower local youth and works as a creative means of civic engagement in Urbana.

### **Update**

Twelve community stakeholders have been selected to be a part of Open Scene: Nicole Anderson-Cobb (University of Illinois Departments of Journalism and African American Studies), Phil Edwards (City of Urbana), Shaya Robinson (Speak Café), Lindsay Aikman (Centennial High School), Jason Keist (Parkland College), Susan Parenti (School for Designing a Society), Linda Turnbull (Champaign-Urbana Days Fashion and Talent Show), Kate Insolita (The Urbana Dance Company), Antonial Lotts (CU Fresh Start), Matt Cho ([co] [lab]), Barbara Gillespie (Urbana School District), and Amanda Harris (Urbana School District).

Open Scene staff is reviewing applications received youth leaders. Twenty-five applications were received by November 1, 2016. Twelve will be selected to participate.

A call for artists will be announced this month. Open Scene will select four artists this winter, including at least two artists who are based in Champaign County. Selected artists will lead weekend intensives for youth and adult participants in spring 2017.

## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Public Arts Commission share any comments or questions they might have on Open Scene.

Prepared by:

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Pauline Tannos