

**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:** January 5<sup>th</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**

Project leaders, which include adult stakeholders and youth participants, have been selected from the application pools to participate in Open Scene.

A call for artists was announced in November, and 49 applications were received by the deadline. On December 22, a jury consisting of Mark Enslin (IMC Board Member), Blair (Open Scene Project Coordinator), Erica Cooper-Peyton (PAC), Jason Patterson (PAC), and Coco Harmon (youth and local artist) met to review all applications. The jury selected 9 applications as finalists.

The group of finalists was then shared with project participants, who had the opportunity to cast their votes. The four artists selected from the finalists are Derek Linzy (Attachment A), Callier Hill Fay Waters (Attachment B), Mother Nature (Attachment C), and Andrea Perkins (Attachment D).

## **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

Attachment A. Derek Linzy's Open Scene Application  
Attachment B. Callier Hill Fay Waters' Open Scene Application  
Attachment C. Mother Nature's Open Scene Application  
Attachment D. Andrea Perkins' Open Scene Application