



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report

April 4th – May 1st, 2017

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

Updates on Current Projects

- **Illinois Arts Council Grant for Youth Employment:** The Public Arts Program was recently awarded a grant for Summer Youth Employment in the Arts by the Illinois Arts Council Agency. This grant will support a high school student summer intern whose role would be to provide general administrative support to Urbana's existing arts programming, marketing and events.

- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current show features the art of Rusty Clevenger's 3rd Grade Students at Dr. Preston L. Williams Jr. Elementary School. On March 31st, two groups of classes came in to see their artwork displayed in the City Building where they also had a brief question and answer session with Mayor Prussing. The opening reception for the public was held on Friday, April 28th from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. The students' exhibition will continue through June.



Staff is currently seeking recommendations for future exhibitions for the Artist of the Corridor.

- **Art Now:** In May, Art Now will highlight the collaboration program *Open Scene* by the City of Urbana and the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center. Episodes are aired on UPTV 6 every Monday at 6:30 pm, with reruns every Tuesday at 11:00 pm, and are available on YouTube. May's episode will air the week following the Final Workshop.

Staff is currently seeking recommendations for future artists for Art Now.

- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** A web-based, downloadable sculpture guide is now available for download on the city website at urbanaininois.us/sculptures. Postcard-sized flyers are also being distributed to promote the new sculptures throughout the city.

- **Urbana Arts Grant Program:** The City held a reception on Friday, April 21 at Pizza M to announce and celebrate the 2017 recipients of the Arts Grants awards. To learn more about the recipients, visit urbanaillinois.us/artsgrants.
- **Open Scene:** All four Artists have held weekend intensives at the IMC with youth and young adult participants. These events included Beat Making with Derek Linzy, Storytelling with Andrea Perkins, Hip-Hop with Mother Nature and Theater with Hill L. Waters & Lisa Fay. The Final Workshop combined with a silent Art Auction featuring artwork by Langston Allston was held this past Saturday.
- **Art at the Market:** Kicking off the beautiful weather and the Art at the Market season is an art workshop by The I.D.E.A. Store with musical performances by Vern and Vern on May 13th. Workshops (from 8am to 12pm) and performances (from 9:30am to 11:30am) will take place every second Saturday on the following dates for the remainder of the Art at the Market season: June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th, and October 14th. The full summer 2017 schedule with project descriptions can be found online at: www.urbanailinois.us/artworkshops.
- **Marketing:** The program's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts now have 1,422 page likes (an increase of 28 likes), 1,911 followers (an increase of 9 followers); and 466 followers (an increase of 18 followers), respectively from last month.
- **Public Arts Coordinator Position:** The City's Public Service Commission has approved 27 candidates for further consideration in the hiring process.