



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

### Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month– January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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#### Introduction

The following Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report describes activities of the Arts & Culture Program for the Urbana Arts & Culture Commission. The report includes information regarding projects that are in progress, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

#### Updates on Current Projects

- **Urbana Arts & Culture:** On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the City Council voted to approve the Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 4 – Public Arts Commission and Public Arts Program (Arts & Culture Commission and Arts & Culture Program). The program and commission are now officially designated as the “Urbana Arts & Culture Commission and Program.” This change will be progressively reflected throughout the program in the coming months.
- **Urbana Arts Development:** The City of Urbana is proposing a collaboration with Brinshore Development on the *Urbana Arts* building, a 4-story affordable apartment building with 6 live-work artist residences on the ground floor and an arts and cultural center that is proposed to be directed and operated by the Urbana Arts and Culture Program. There would also be a public plaza and nine adjacent tiny homes. This project responds to requests from the community for more artist spaces, affordable Downtown housing, and venues for artists.
- **Urbana Arts Grants:** The City of Urbana Arts & Culture Program announced the opening of the 2019 cycle of its Urbana Arts Grants Program. Up to \$80,000 will be awarded to artists, arts organizations, and festival presenters for creative projects that enrich the lives of Urbana residents and visitors.

This grant program is open to all disciplines in the arts on public display within spaces open to the public, including but not limited to creative writing, dance, film, video, music, theatre, visual arts, crafts, performing arts, spoken word, environmental arts, multimedia arts, architectural arts, landscape architecture, and emerging media. Grants will be available in five categories listed below:

- **Tier I Grants** ranging between \$500-\$1,500 for individual artists and initiatives
- **Tier II Grants** ranging between 2,000-\$4,500 for mid-sized initiatives
- **Tier III Grants** ranging between \$5,000-\$10,000 for large-scale special events
- **Arts in the Schools Grants** for arts education initiatives in USD #116 schools

- **Poet Laureate Program** Honorary award for Champaign County resident poet

Applicants may apply by e-mail or submit a hard copy. The application form and guidelines can be found at [www.urbanaininois.us/artsgrants](http://www.urbanaininois.us/artsgrants). All application materials are due by 5:00 p.m. CST on Friday, February 15th, 2019.

**Urbana Arts Grants Workshops:** City staff of the Urbana Arts & Culture Program continue to offer informational workshops to those interested in learning about this funding opportunity. Workshops are designed to give applicants opportunities to explore the grant application, best practices for grant writing, and an overview of the application process. Staff will also share information about other opportunities within the City of Urbana's Arts & Culture Program. All workshops are free and open to the public. Please note: the same information will be given at each workshop.

**Urbana Arts Grants Workshop Schedule:**

Wed. Jan. 9th, 2018 11am-12pm  
Salt and Light, 1819 Philo Rd. Urbana

Fri. Jan. 11th, 2019 5:30pm-6:30pm  
Common Ground Food Co-Op, 300 S Broadway Ave. Urbana

Tues. Jan. 15th, 2019 12pm-1pm  
School of Art and Design (Room 312), 408 E Peabody Dr. Champaign

Thurs. Jan. 17th, 2019 12pm-1pm  
The Urbana Free Library, Lewis Auditorium, 210 W Green St. Urbana

Thurs. Jan 24th, 2019 12pm-1pm  
Giertz Gallery at Parkland, 2400 W Bradley Ave. Champaign

- **Open Scene Open Mic:** The Urbana Arts & Culture Program and Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center collaborate to offer Open Scene Open Mic, a multi-generational open mic series that aims to center the voices of artists of color and draw in a wide-array of participants in Downtown Urbana. The series welcomes music, spoken word, storytelling, comedy, beat-making, and dance with performers of all ages.

The next scheduled open mic will take place on **February 13<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm at Arcadia featuring host, Ja’Naea Modest (DJ Silkee)**. Staff are also planning an Open Scene Showcase: Black Herstory Slam in conjunction with Urbana First Fridays on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

- **Art Now:** January’s edition of [Art Now](#) features Kelly Hieronymus, a visual artist and owner of Sunshine Studio. A joint production by the [Urbana Arts & Culture Program](#) and [Urbana Public Television](#), Art Now airs at 6:15pm every Monday on UPTV6, re-runs at 11pm on Tuesdays, and online on the [UPTV6 Youtube Channel](#).

- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current Artist of the Corridor exhibition on display is *I LIKE TO JUMP LIKE A HORSE*, by Angela Inez Baldus and features acrylic paintings and illustrations exploring family, landscape, and memory. The exhibit will be on display through the end of January at The Urbana Free Library and City of Urbana Building as part of the Artist of the Corridor Series. The next Artist of the Corridor Exhibition will feature paintings by Natalie Pivoney.
- **Art IN the Square:** Art IN the Square, a collaboration with the Urbana Business Association, offering concerts as part of the indoor farmer's market began on December 8<sup>th</sup> with a concert from The Chickadee Sermon, a 4-piece folk quartet with acoustic guitar, banjo and string bass. Art IN the Square continues to offer mid-morning concerts at Market IN the Square every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.
- **The Young Artist's Studio:** The Young Artist Studio series presented by the Urbana Public Arts Program and The Urbana Free Library features youth arts workshops every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. The December 16<sup>th</sup> workshop featured Tissue Paper Painting led by staff of the Urbana Arts & Culture Program. The next installment will feature Color Collage with local artist, Elizabeth Simpson on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. All workshops are held 3pm-3:45pm in the Urbana Free Library's Children's Library.
- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** The Urbana Arts & Culture Program staff have been in communication with organizers of the Illinois Marathon regarding how *Races* by Bobby Joe Scribner can be incorporated into the marathon's activities in 2019.
- **Downtown Events Series:** The Urbana Arts & Culture Program is working in partnership with the Urbana Park District, 40 North Champaign County Arts Council, and the Urbana Business Association to develop a downtown events series for Downtown Urbana that will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month May-August. Representatives from each organization will continue to meet as the project unfolds.
- **Social Media Engagement:** The Facebook page has increased in followers by 17 since the last report, for a total of 1,970 followers. Twitter has had no increase in followers. The Instagram page has increased by 30 followers for a total of 999 followers.
- **Volunteer Support:** Public Arts Commissioners and the public are encouraged to get involved with the Urbana Arts & Culture Program's ongoing events and initiatives. Those interested in volunteering with the Urbana Arts & Culture Program can join planning efforts or sign up to volunteer at: [https://www.urbanaininois.us/arts\\_support](https://www.urbanaininois.us/arts_support).