



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report 2nd Tuesday of the Month– February 12th, 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 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. 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 offered seven informational workshops to those interested in learning about this funding opportunity with between 10-30 attendees at each workshop. Workshops are designed to give applicants opportunities to explore the grant application, best practices for grant writing, and an overview of the application process. Workshop locations included Parkland College Giertz Gallery, Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, Common Ground Food Co-Op, Salt and Light, The Urbana Free Library, and School of Art and Design at the University of Illinois. Information was also given at the School of Social Work's Annual Grant-a-Thon and University of Illinois cultural centers. Drop-in

grant hours have been offered as all-day opportunities to meet with staff to get questions answered and overall support during the application process.

- **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 **Open Scene Black Herstory Slam** was a showcase of Black women artists organized as part of the Love for All Poetry Crawl sponsored by Urbana First Fridays and in honor of Black History Month on February 1st, 2019. There were roughly 100 attendees.

The next scheduled open mic will take place on **February 13th from 6pm-8pm at 25 O'Clock Brewery's new tap room featuring host, Ja'Naea Modest (DJ Silkee).**

- **Art Now:** February's edition of [Art Now](#) features Marc-Anthony Macon, a visual artist describing himself as a Neo-Dadaist and artist of impulse. 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 *HARD TO PLACE*, by Natalie Pivoney and features oil paintings of buildings in the City of Urbana and other unique places. The exhibit will be on display through the middle of March 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 works by staff of the City of Urbana and The Urbana Free Library, entitled *After Hours*. *After Hours* will be in conjunction with Boneyard Arts Festival 2019.
- **Art IN the Square:** Art IN the Square, a collaboration with the Urbana Business Association, continues to offer mid-morning concerts at Market IN the Square every 2nd Saturday of the month. This past Saturday, February 9th featured music by Melvin Knight. Inspired by the sounds of the 60s, Melvin Knight is a soul/R&B singer from Champaign-Urbana backed by Elijah Harris, Kurt Shelby, and James Russel Simms. There are two concerts remaining in the series: March 16th, 2019 features **Port Mor Traditional Irish Music** in honor of St. Patrick's Day celebrations and April 13th features **Hobnob String Band**, each performing at 10am at the Market IN the Square.
- **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 one a month on Sundays at 3pm. The January 27th workshop featured **Color Collage with Elizabeth Simpson** and the February 3rd workshop featured **Impulsive Art Making with Marc-Anthony Macon**. The next two workshops include **Finger-Knitting with Ashley Price** on March 17th and **Madhubani Art with Shraddha Tiwari** on April 28th,

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 4th Saturday of the month May-August. Representatives from each organization will continue to meet as the project unfolds.
- **Boneyard Arts Festival 2019:** Staff from the Urbana Arts & Culture Program serve on the Urbana Planning Committee for Boneyard Arts Festival sponsored by 40 North Champaign County Arts Council. The primary function of the committee is identifying venues and participating artists, to connect them for art exhibition and performance opportunities.
- **Outreach and Partner Presentations:** The Urbana Arts & Culture Program staff were featured as part of the *University of Illinois' Grant-A-Thon* in February, offering insights of grant writing best practices and local grant opportunities. The panel portion of the presentation included staff from the Community Foundation and Mental Health Foundation.

The Urbana Arts & Culture Program coordinator presented to 30 staff members from the University of Illinois' Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations, comprising the campus cultural and resource centers. The presentation included an overview of programs and opportunities for further collaboration.

- **Social Media Engagement:** The Facebook page has increased in followers by 20 since the last report, for a total of 1,990 followers. Twitter has had no increase in followers. The Instagram page has increased by 12 followers for a total of 1011 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.