



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
Economic Development Division
Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report
2nd Tuesday of the Month– May 14th, 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.

Staffing Update

- **Program Specialist Position Applications Accepted:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program and Urbana’s Market at the Square are jointly hiring a Program Specialist. The position provides year-round support to a range of administrative, event and promotional activities for both programs, focusing on the Urbana Arts & Culture Grants in the winter and Market preparation in the spring. Applications are currently being solicited with support from the City of Urbana’s Human Resources Division.
- **Illinois Arts Council Summer Youth Employment Grant:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program is proud to report that the program received the 2019 Summer Youth Employment Grant from the Illinois Arts Council, allowing for \$1,800 of funding towards employing an area high school student. Applications are currently being solicited with support from the City of Urbana’s Human Resources Division.
- **Community Learning Lab Masters Interns:** The Community Learning Lab (CLL) creates and supports relationships between the community and the students at the University of Illinois in a partnership that is mutually beneficial. Students complete projects or internships through the program at no expense to the organization. The Urbana Arts and Culture Program welcomes two new interns, Sheng Chiang (John) Ji and Lanjun (Leona) Wu, master’s students in the College of Business.
- **CARE4U Program Intern:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program has become a selected site for the CARE4U Program, Champaign Area Relationship Education for Youth Program. CARE4U teaches positive relationship, job readiness & money management skills to members (ages 15-24) in Champaign-Urbana in 25 weekly sessions during the school year and places students in summer employment opportunities through a partnership with the Regional Planning Commission (RPC), wherein RPC pays the student directly for their employment. Urbana High School sophomore, Kaylee Crushshon, joins the Urbana Arts and Culture Program staff this summer.

Updates on Current Projects

- **Urbana Arts Grants:** For the 2019 cycle of the Urbana Arts Grants Program, the Urbana Arts and Culture Program awarded \$80,000 artists, arts organizations, and festival presenters for creative projects that enrich the lives of Urbana residents and visitors. Projects are currently underway. Bluestem Westie Fusion Fest, Immersion Experimental Music and Arts Festival, Bizihki Culture and Dance Company, and AsiaFest all already completed successful major events!
- **SNEEK PEEK Celebration:** The Urbana Public Arts Program celebrated the announcement of this year's 2019 Urbana Arts Grantees and Arts in the Schools recipients with *SNEEK PEEK*, a public reception held at Blackbird on April 16th featuring live music, hors d'oeuvres, and a presentation of the 2019 grant recipients. The reception was attended by over 100 people and included remarks from Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin. Together with the Arts and Culture Coordinator, Arts and Culture Commissioners, Pat Sammann, Barbara Hedlund, Jessica Snyder, and Courtney Becks presented the awards.
- **Art Now:** May's edition of [Art Now](#) features the 100th Anniversary Episode of *Art Now!* and features interviews with Pat Sammann, Jason Liggett, Ginny Waller, and Rachel Storm. 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](#). The production was made possible by local videographer, Nic Morse.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current Artist of the Corridor exhibition on display is *After Hours*. *After Hours* premiered in conjunction with Boneyard Arts Festival 2019 featuring art created by staff artists at the City of Urbana and The Urbana Free Library. A Mayoral initiative, this group exhibition showcases a wide variety of artistic mediums--from woodworking to photography, textiles to painting. The work will be on display through the end of May.

The next exhibition in display beginning in June will be *LINOLEUM & INK* curated by Arts in the Schools grant recipient, Lisa Kesler. *LINOLEUM & INK* is an exhibition of prints created by Urbana High School art students in collaboration with Artist-in-Residence, Lisa Kesler. Forty student artists participated in a 3-week intensive in linoleum block printmaking and reduction printing with the artist, creating their own work in the process. Works will be on display through August.

- **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. The final concert of the season was held on April 13th and featured Hobnob String Band, in conjunction with Market in the Square's Easter Brunch.
- **Art at the Market:** In partnership with Urbana's Market at the Square, the Urbana Arts & Culture Program, continues to offer mid-morning concerts and arts workshops led by local artists at Market IN the Square every 2nd Saturday of the month. The first concert

held on Saturday, May 11th featured local band, Jinx and arts activities led by the Urbana Arts and Culture Program.

Last month, the Arts and Culture Coordinator mentioned that Urbana Arts & Culture Program was excitedly pursuing a new initiative, the North Row Arts Market, an effort to garner more artists and artisans at the outdoor farmers market. This initiative is being postponed until next year, allowing for further research and input.

On the 2nd Saturday of August, Art at the Market will join Urbana's Market at the Square to celebrate *National Farmer's Market Week*, featuring creative family-focused farmer's market activities in addition to Art at the Market's regularly scheduled programming. In years past, this has included a kale eating contest, arts activities, and games.

On the 2nd Saturday of October, Art at the Market will join Urbana's Market at the Square to host *Market at the Scare*, a fall-themed fest featuring creative family-focused fall and Halloween activities in addition to Art at the Market's regularly scheduled programming. Last year's event featured ghost stories with The Urbana Free Library, a haunted concert from Urbana Pops Orchestra, and Make-a-Monster with Melissa's Monsters; all in addition to activity booths provided by a wide variety of local organizations, face painting, and fall-themed games.

- **The Young Artist's Studio:** The Young Artist's 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 April 28th workshop featured *Madhubani Art with Shradha Tiwari*. The next workshop on May 19th will feature *Kids Make Zines* featuring Hila Kelly, UCIMC Zine Librarian. Followed by *DIY Masks and Costumes* on June 23rd with Laurel Nobilette. All workshops are held 3pm-3:45pm in the Urbana Free Library's Children's Library.
- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** *Races* by Bobby Joe Scribner was recently featured as a landmark as part of the 2019 Illinois Marathon! *Races*, a piece that includes abstracted runners donned race bibs and raced alongside marathon participants. The Illinois Marathon newsletter featured the sculpture as a point of interest on the route map.
- **Boneyard Arts Festival 2019:** Urbana Arts & Culture Program staff serves on the Urbana Planning Committee for *Boneyard Arts Festival* sponsored by 40 North Champaign County Arts Council, contributing the major outdoor event in the area on Boneyard weekend. On Saturday, April 6th from 12pm-4pm, the Urbana Arts & Culture Program offered family-friendly arts programming, including musical and dance performances from Dance Music Therapy, puppetry from Puppetfolk Productions, a bubble display from Joyful Bubbles, as well as magic and flow arts from Michael Moxie and Satina. The event included food trucks, face painting, and art stations offering arts and crafts for the whole family.
- **Murals on Glass:** Murals on Glass, an initiative to feature local artworks on downtown Urbana windows, will soon open an application period. Now the 5th cycle, Murals on Glass selects artwork from a resident artist from Champaign County to have their work

reproduced in adhesive vinyl and adhered to the front windows of a municipal building. The selected location this year will be the Cunningham Township Office's front windows. Staff are researching additional initiatives that could be incorporated into the program.

- **Downtown Get Down 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 sponsor the *Downtown Get Down*, a downtown events series for Downtown Urbana that will take place on the 4th Saturday of the month May-August. The series will feature live concerts, DJs, an artist's street market, kids zone, inflatables, games, live arts demos, and performing artists. Partners are currently seeking sponsorships, booking artists, and finalizing planning details for the series.
- **Outreach and Partner Presentations:** Public Arts Coordinator, Rachel Storm, is scheduled to present information about Urbana Arts and Culture Program's events with a special focus in Urbana's Downtown Get Down and strategizing best practices for outreach to underserved populations to various local campus and community organizations, including: Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office, East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center, Global Education and Training, Illinois International, and USD #116 Family-Community Liaisons.
- **Volunteer Support:** The Urbana Arts & Culture Program is seeking volunteers through new listings with CU Volunteer and the University of Illinois' Office of Volunteer Programs.

Arts & Culture 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.