



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

### Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month– June 11<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.

#### Staffing Update

- **Program Specialist Position Update:** 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 and implementation in the spring. Staff hope to have an announcement to share with the commission next month.
- **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. A number of applications have been received and interviews will take place within the coming weeks.
- **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.
- **Art Now:** June's edition of [Art Now](#) features Kelly McCleary, owner of The Quirky Quiltress. 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 *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. The opening reception held on June 6<sup>th</sup> was attended by Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin, City staff, Urbana Arts and Culture Commissioners, and five UHS students and their families. Works will be on display through August, with a student panel discussion on August 15<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-1pm at The Urbana Free Library.
- **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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. The first concert held on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> featured local band, Jinx and arts activities led by the Urbana Arts and Culture Program. This past weekend's concert, held on June 8<sup>th</sup>, featured local jazz band, John Offut Trio, and a "Nature Suncatchers" make n' take art activity with Sierra Murphy. The July 13<sup>th</sup> activities include a performance from Appalachian folk music from The Young and the Fretless and juggling workshop from flow artist, Michael Moxie.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

- **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 May 19<sup>th</sup> event featured *Kids Make Zines* featuring Hila Kelly, UCIMC Zine Librarian. This month the topic will be *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.

- **Murals on Glass/Urbana Utility Wrap Program:** Murals on Glass, an initiative to feature local artworks on downtown Urbana windows, will soon open an application period. Now the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 developing the plan for the Urbana Utility Wrap 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 takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month May-August. The series features live concerts, DJs, an artist's street market, kids zone, inflatables, games, live arts demos, and performing artists. Partners are still seeking sponsorships, booking artists, and finalizing planning details for the series.

The May 25<sup>th</sup> inaugural event was attended by between 700-900 attendees and had a strong participation from community groups, sponsors, and area businesses. The June 22<sup>nd</sup> event is already slated to have increased participation in the Teen Maker Lab, Arts Market, and Community Corner. June's event is held in collaboration with Jettie Rhodes Day programming.

- **Outreach and Partner Presentations:** On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Arts and Culture Coordinator, Rachel Storm, presented information about Arts in the Schools Grants to USD #116 teachers at the end of the school year, encouraging grant applications for the next cycle.
- **Dr. Williams Elementary "Colored Voices of the World" Mural Unveiling:** Arts and Culture Coordinator, Rachel Storm, attended the unveiling of the mural made possible through a 2017 Urbana Arts Grant awarded to Luis Gonzalo Pinilla and Patricia Leon. The mural unveiling was attended by the Interim Superintendent, Dr. Preston Williams, University of Illinois Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) faculty, USD #116 staff, and the public.
- **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.urbanainillinois.us/arts\\_support](https://www.urbanainillinois.us/arts_support).