



2015 Urbana Arts Grant Recipients

The following projects have been recommended by the Urbana Arts Grants juries as recipients of Urbana Arts Grants 2015. The list below provides information submitted by the applicants and does not obligate either the City of Urbana or the applicant to activities described.

HERE & NOW

1. Jess Beyler, Flying Tiger and Escape Velocity Dragons, City sponsorship of \$2,000

An exhibition of 12 dragon paintings, each one 7-feet tall and 1-foot wide, and one winged tiger mobile at the common lobby shared by Error Records, Muris Technologies, Farm League Skate Shop and Action Jackson Comics in Downtown Urbana.

2. PEOPLES Company, The Ladder Dance, City sponsorship of \$1,500

This first performance by PEOPLES, a new dance company forming in Urbana, will be an hour-long piece designed for church halls, gymnasiums, VFW halls in Urbana-Champaign and surrounding areas. The Ladder Dance includes singing as well as movement and the composition of a sound score.

3. Jeff Glassman, Work-in-Progress: Elegant Complexity, City sponsorship of \$2,000

In this timely trans-disciplinary theatre piece, critical, playful and elegant principals of whole systems design are elucidated through five intricately inter-linked pieces. The project will include two "Open Studio" sessions in which audiences view and discuss the work-in-progress, preview performances at the Boneyard Festival, and an event at KCPA.

4. Rachel Storm, Girl Radio, City sponsorship of \$2,000

Girl Radio, a youth-organized radio show featuring Urbana-area girls between the ages of 9 and 13 years old, will be a fall radio program where girls connect with local community issues and share their insights on the radio about girlhood and neighborhood. The show will air weekly on WRFU 104.5.

5. Amira Davis, Jewelry Making for Self-Improvement, City sponsorship of \$1,000

Clients of a domestic violence and homeless agency, Courage Connections, will engage in a 4-week jewelry-making project. The women will work from a curriculum that emphasizes the use of gemstones and the significance of colors while discussing women's specific goals, aspirations, and challenges. The curriculum will also include discussion of women's empowerment and self-sufficiency through the arts, specifically, the women-centered practices of crafting.

6. Claire Happel, Performance of Works for Harp and Oboe Inspired by Rilke, City sponsorship of \$2,000

Performances of two works by Elliott Carter and Harrison Birtwistle inspired by Rilke's poetry, along with a newly commissioned work by composer Douglas Fisk, with oboist Karisa Antonia. The free concerts will be presented at Clark-Lindsey Retirement Village, the Urbana Free Library, and the University of Illinois Rare Book Library.

ENVISION 365

1. Kate Kuper, The Write To Dance, City sponsorship of \$1,000

Students from Yankee Ridge Elementary School will bring poetry to life through movement and dance in collaboration with classroom, dance/drama and guest artist teachers. They will create dances to their original writings and share the work in an informal culminating performance.

2. Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley, The Rumpelstiltskin Project, City sponsorship of \$2,000

In this three-stage project, students compare two storybook versions of Rumpelstiltskin, watch a puppet rendition of the tale, and engage in small group question-and-answer sessions.

CREATIVE MIX

1. BBL Fine Arts Camp, BBL Fine Arts Academy Summer Jazz Camp, City sponsorship of \$3,000

This week-long day camp focuses on basic musical skills and their applications in jazz, gospel, and contemporary musical styles. The camp exposes students to jazz music in fun ways and enhances their skill levels so that they can participate and persist in their respective school bands.

2. Central Illinois Puppetry Guild, Puppet Palooza, City sponsorship of \$1,000

This series of five free puppet shows and three workshops will be presented at Lincoln Square Mall in Urbana, May 30-June 27, 2015. Every puppet show will be family-friendly and entertaining for all ages.

3. Champaign-Urbana Area Project CUperStars, CUperStars, City sponsorship of \$2,500

A year-round talent showcase and enrichment program and competition, CUperStars is presented in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor venues as well as on radio broadcasts. Once selected, participants will work with vocal and performance coaches free of charge, and will showcase his/her talents at various venues throughout the community.

4. Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, The Orchestra's Rainbow of Color: The 2015 CUSO Youth Concerts, City sponsorship of \$3,000

The 2015 Youth Concerts will engage students in an exploration of musical color in an interactive symphony orchestra concert for area grade-school students. Featuring Rossini's famous *William Tell Overture*, excerpts from Tchaikovsky's tuneful *Symphony No.4*, and Emmanuel Sejourne's *Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra*, Maestro Stephen Alltop and the CUSO will engage students in an interactive performance demonstrating the instruments of the orchestra and how composers use different instruments to create different effects and emotions in music.

5. Fay|Glassman Performance, Theatre of the Hummingbird, City sponsorship of \$900

Building on the momentum of the pilot project, this month-long summer theatre project establishes itself as an originating, community-engaging youth/young adult theatre company. Over the course of 4 weeks, participants work together to learn compositional and performance techniques that move their original ideas through all phases of production culminating in an engaging, powerful evening of live theatre centered around themes of burning importance to the youth involved.

6. HG Dwell, The Architectural History of Urbana Museum at the Sanctuary, City sponsorship of \$750

This project is an exhibition of local architecture history in the historical building at 202 W. Illinois Street. There will be free shows open to the public to allow all members of the community to see this beautiful space transformed into an educational and enjoyable exhibit.

7. Rachel Storm, Outta the Mouths of Babes, City sponsorship of \$850

Outta the Mouths of Babes is a 12-week summer radio project where kids between 5-11 years old are chaperoned to arts and cultural events and review them on a weekly radio show airing on WRFU 104.5 and through online podcasts.

8. UCIMC Gallery, The Gallery: Inaugural Shows, City sponsorship of \$1,500

The Gallery, which is located in the lobby space of the IMC, will feature a series of monthly shows that will each last one to three weeks during 2015.

9. Urbana Pops Orchestra, 2015 UPO Season, City sponsorship of \$2,000

UPO will offer three free recitals this spring and a full-orchestra concert in June and a jazz concert in July – all at Urbana venues.

10. @urbanalove, 2015 Summer Movie Nights, City sponsorship of \$1,000

Summer Movie Nights is a free, family-friendly, outdoor event that promotes downtown as a destination where creativity and business thrive together. Before each event, there will be a variety of creative or community-based activities such as bike rides and/or local music performances. Movies will also be prefaced by short films made by and about local people, organizations, activities, and businesses.

URBANA FESTIVALS

1. 40 North | 88 West, *Boneyard Arts Festivals*, City sponsorship of \$3,000

For twelve years, 40 North | 88 West has been presenting the Boneyard Arts Festival. The event is broken into four days by district including Champaign, Campus and Urbana, and outlying communities called “Out and About.”

2. University of Illinois Asian American Cultural Center, *Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month AsiaFest Celebration*, City sponsorship of \$1,000

From henna lessons and Japanese ikebana to children’s and traditional folk dancing, the *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month AsiaFest Celebration* is a family-friendly, interactive, multicultural, and educational event for those of all ages and backgrounds.

3. Community Center for the Arts, *4th Annual Race Street Bash*, City sponsorship of \$2,000

This is a collaborative performing arts festival that celebrates community life in Urbana and draws public attention to our downtown area. As always, the event will provide a diverse range of high-caliber music performances, acrobatic displays, interactive exhibits, and participatory family events.

4. Champaign-Urbana Folk and Roots Festival, *Seventh Annual Folk and Roots Festival*, City sponsorship of \$4,500

Folk and Roots Festival is a three-day festival presenting dozens of national and regional folk performances, dances, jams, workshops and family programs in venues throughout downtown Urbana.

5. Makerspace Urbana, *Heartland MakerFest 2015*, City sponsorship of \$1,000

Heartland MakerFest 2015 is a one-day, family-friendly event that celebrates arts, crafts, engineering, music, science, and technology projects and the DIY spirit in our community.

6. C-U West African Drum and Dance Collective, *Midwest Mandeng Festival 2015*, City sponsorship of \$5,000

Midwest Mandeng Festival is an expanding West African drum and dance festival, offering added free performances and classes with world-class teachers from West Africa.

7. Read Across America, *5th Annual Read Across America Community Celebration*, City sponsorship of \$1,000

Read Across America is a community celebration to promote reading with hands-on activities for young children and professional storytelling to engage all ages. This RAA event provides a very exciting atmosphere each year, especially at the main stage where storytellers read books to children and model the joy of reading.