



URBANA ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM 2019 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The following applicants have been approved for funding in the eleventh cycle of the Urbana Arts Grants Program. The list below provides preliminary information submitted by the applicants to the Program and is subject to change. Urbana Arts Grants Program is an initiative by the City of Urbana Arts & Culture Program. Questions about the Urbana Arts Grants Program should be directed to the Public Arts Coordinator at rlstorm@urbanaininois.us.

TIER I

1. *Celebrando Latinidad* by Alicia O. De Leon, City Sponsorship of \$900

Celebrando Latinidad is a pop-up photo booth intentionally placed in Latinx-owned businesses that invites members of the Latin American community in Urbana to have their portraits taken in the tradition of glamour shots and traditional family photos. The project aims to inspire pride, create visibility, and highlight diverse ethnic identities within the City of Urbana.

2. *Heartland Maker Fest* by Makerspace Urbana, City sponsorship of \$1,000

The Heartland Maker Fest is a free one-day, family-friendly event that celebrates arts, crafts, engineering, science, music and technology and the DIY spirit of our community held annually at Lincoln Square Mall. This highly interactive event features demonstrations, performers, and over 30 maker tables.

3. *Mobile Art Cart* by Paulina Camacho Valencia, City Sponsorship of \$1,000

The *Mobile Art Cart (MAC)* is a transportable community arts space that can fold up and attach to a bicycle or easily fit into a car. *MACt* invites community members to engage in a variety of art workshops creating conversations about local, national, and global issues. *MAC* will travel throughout the City of Urbana offering lessons in printmaking, book-binding, collaborative weaving, screen printing, and more.

4. *Teen Art at the Library* by The Urbana Free Library, City Sponsorship of \$1,000

Teen Art at the Library is a series of arts workshops as part of Teen Open Lab at The Urbana Free Library, and in collaboration with the Urbana High School Art Club that will introduce teens to a variety of arts tools culminating in an exhibition of created works displayed in the Lewis Auditorium in the Library.

5. *Writers of Oya* by Ashanti Files, City Sponsorship of \$750

Writers of Oya is a four-part workshop and performance series utilizing poetry as a tool of creative self-expression for middle school girls of color. The project will culminate in *Poets at the Park*, a public showcase with participating youth highlighting creative work produced within the workshops.

6. *All Score Urbana* by Ralph Lewis, City Sponsorship of \$800

All Score Urbana is a music composition workshop series for the whole family that serves local songwriters and composers through composition advice and access to on-site performers. The project will culminate with a public performance of works composed by the teaching artists.

- 7. *Fallin' into the Blues, Blues Dance Mini Festival* by BluesCENTRAL, City Sponsorship of \$1,000**
Fallin' into the Blues Mini Dance Festival by BluesCENTRAL will feature lessons, dancing, activities and live music, designed to introduce the art of blues dancing to local residents and visitors.
- 8. *It's My Body* by Emily McKown, City Sponsorship of \$900**
It's My Body is a video project consisting of the recording and production of a collaboratively produced music video inviting community participation in celebration of consent and empowerment. The video will be premiered together with a public open mic event hosted in Downtown Urbana.
- 9. *50+ Reasons to Love Art* by Lori Fuller, City Sponsorship of \$900**
50+ Reasons to Love Art will provide painting instruction and art materials to older adults (50+) in the community with the goal of making art more accessible and enriching to their lives. Lessons will create an environment that promotes social interaction and creative expression, culminating in a public exhibition.
- 10. *19th Annual Read Across America Celebration* by Read Across America, City Sponsorship of \$750**
This event provides a very exciting atmosphere where storytellers read books to children and model the joy of reading. The storytellers are accomplished authors/storytellers who read their works or relate short stories. They also have booths to continue their presentations and interactions with the event visitors.
- 11. *Recipes for Healing* by Giovanna Dibenedetto, City Sponsorship of \$750**
Recipes for Healing is a book that will help educate people about abuse and give hope to victims by combining personal stories and poetry from survivors with recipes that they tie into their stories. The book will also be printed in a pocket-sized version that will be available for those still stuck in a cycle of abuse allowing them to easily hide it and giving them something to let them know they are not alone.
- 12. *90 Years of The Machine: A Theatrical Experience* by June Clark Eubanks, City Sponsorship of \$750**
90 Years of The Machine is a live theatrical performance (based on the 1928 play, *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell) that illuminates nearly a century of the struggles women face in our society. This theatrical performance will be offered free to the public in Downtown Urbana.
- 13. *Women Who Painted Project (WWP Project)* by Paula McCarty, City Sponsorship of \$750**
Women Who Painted consists of oil/acrylic paintings and prints of digitally-painted portraits of historical female painters opening up a dialogue about their contributions to the history of painting. The project will consist of two exhibitions at the Illini Union Gallery and City of Urbana's Artist of the Corridor, as well as an artist's talk and a free painting workshop for youth at Art Coop in Downtown Urbana.
- 14. *No More Hiding Creation Myths* by Kenneth Bivens, City Sponsorship of \$750**
No More Hiding Creation Myths is a series of paintings providing a shift in visual representation of Black men, women and children—from caricatures to superheroes and beyond, toward a new traditions, paths, and possibilities. The project aims to navigate trauma, oppression, and resilience through comics. Works will be produced on large-scale wood panels and feature a public exhibition in Downtown Urbana.

TIER II

- 1. *Immersion: A Multidisciplinary, Experimental Arts Festival* by Jake Metz, City Sponsorship of \$3,200**
Immersion is a multi-disciplinary experimental arts festival that utilizes technology to create an immersive experience for both artists and attendees, scheduled for on May 3rd-4th, 2019 at the Independent Media Center in Downtown Urbana. The festival will include educational arts workshops, live musical performances, installations, and a visual art gallery held within a constructed sound dome.

- 2. *Champaign Urbana Jazz Festival* by CU Jazz Festival, City Sponsorship of \$1,650**
Celebrating its 5th anniversary, the *Champaign-Urbana Jazz Festival* will bring new collaborations, an anniversary celebration complete with parade, and pop-up shows alongside the traditional Festival traditions- jam sessions, a jazz brunch, and a plethora of free community events celebrating the history and future of jazz in the City of Urbana.
- 3. *DMT Music Festivals* by Dance Music Therapy, City Sponsorship of \$2,375**
Dance Music Therapy (DMT) is an array of DJ's who utilize therapeutic properties of music to create safe environments that inspire fun, fellowship, and impact change. DMT Music Festivals will present free monthly music showcases with a variety of guest artists and DJs from May to October at the Lake House at Crystal Lake Park.
- 4. *The Magic Lantern II* by EKAH, City Sponsorship of \$1,750**
The Magic Lantern II engages the public and inspire would-be animators and artists to tell their own stories through combining new and old methods of animation. The new series will continue to explore the art of animation by introducing unconventional materials and methods such as 3D printing and laser-cutting. The project will include a public showcase and demonstration, as well as educational workshop.
- 5. *Urbana Pops Orchestra* by Urbana Pops Orchestra, City Sponsorship of \$2,000**
Urbana Pops Orchestra will consist of four free recitals, a full- orchestra concert, pit orchestra for Urbana Park District's youth musical, on-the-job education for student musicians, and mentorship for young orchestral composers.
- 6. *Bizhiki Culture and Dance Company* by Native American House, City Sponsorship of \$2,500**
Bizhiki Culture and Dance Company will engage the audience through traditional and contemporary Native American dance and song, guiding participants to a better understanding of Indigenous cultures, traditions, resiliency, and revitalization. Apart from song and dance presentations, audience members will be invited to participate in group dances, followed by an educational Q & A with the artists.
- 7. *Community Puppet & Mosaic-Making* by School for Designing a Society, City Sponsorship of \$2,000**
Community Puppet-Making & Mosaic-Making Parties envision puppetry and mosaic-making as vehicles for storytelling and healing within the neighborhood surrounding Crystal Lake Park. Positioning the arts as a vehicle for social change, these arts-focused gatherings aim to build community, foster empowerment, and engage historically underserved populations and immigrant families living in the neighborhood. Attendees have free access to materials and culturally-diverse refreshments as they converge and create.
- 8. *Champaign-Urbana Black and African Festival* by CU Black and African Arts, City Sponsorship of \$3,150**
The mission of the *Champaign-Urbana Black and African Arts Festival* celebrates and highlights both Black and African heritages and cultures through a showcase of visual arts, music, fashion, entertainment, performing arts, food, and vendors. The goal of the festival is to build bridges between Black and African artists across the diaspora, showcase Black and African arts and cultures, and present the first event of this kind in the Central Illinois region! The festival will take place August 9th and 10th in Downtown Urbana.
- 9. *Bluestem Westie Fusion Fest* by C-U West Coast Swing, City Sponsorship of \$1,500**
Bluestem Westie Fusion Fest is an annual weekend of instruction and social dancing uniting local dance groups and growing the dance community. Open to all ages and skill levels, *Bluestem Westie Fusion Fest* offers two days of dance instruction in three tracks: 1) for seasoned WCS dancers, 2) fusion or related dances and 3) for WCS beginners and aims to be the largest event for West Coast Swing Dance in the area.

10. Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month Celebration: Asiafest by Asian-American Cultural Center, City Sponsorship of \$2,250

Asiafest is a family-friendly, interactive, multicultural, and educational event for those of all ages and backgrounds showcasing a diversity of local Asian cultures and communities. *AsiaFest* itself will increase opportunities for residents to engage in the arts in its many forms, such as dance, music, visual arts, interactive cultural arts, and cooking demonstration workshops.

11. Cinderella/Cinderfella Dance Troupe by Royel Bijou, City Sponsorship of \$1,000

Cinderella/Cinderfella Dance Troupe is a youth ballroom dance troupe that will learn three ballroom dances with a partner over the course of a month and a half, focusing on the basic steps of Waltz, Foxtrot, and Swing dancing. Following the instructional classes, youth participants will compete in a full-production public Cinderella/Cinderfella Ballroom Dance Competition.

12. Experimental Theatre Performance Laboratory for Young Theatre Practitioners by FAY|GLASSMAN Performance, City Sponsorship of \$2,250

As part of the theatrical production of *FOLDING TIME: Towards an Origami of the Everyday*, *Experimental Theatre Performance Laboratory* give youth the opportunity to work with professional performing artists for experiences that will encourage their original ideas and expose them to diverse performance forms. The two-week intensive youth workshop at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and the informal open-studio performances they will present in various Downtown Urbana locations present young theatre practitioners with unique opportunities to compose and perform.

13. Arts at Play by KOOP Adventure Play, City Sponsorship of \$1,250

With *Arts at Play*, KOOP activates public space for child-directed free play, providing multi-use materials and a high level of support for creativity and artistic expression to flourish. KOOP brings a large amount of raw materials, from paint, cardboard boxes, pipes, ropes or fabric to various public parks throughout the City of Urbana for creative play with supportive playworker. *Arts at Play* will offer the majority of its sessions at Blair Park and the Lierman Neighborhood Community Garden, engaged in partnership with Orchard Downs Family and Graduate Housing and the Lierman Neighborhood Action Committee to provide intentional outreach to underserved local and immigrant families in the adjacent neighborhoods.

14. Video Spotlight Urbana by Harsh Pro, City Sponsorship of \$1,125

Video Spotlight Urbana is a video series that showcases local Urbana artists and musicians through filmed interviews and live concert performances. *Video Spotlight Urbana* will highlight local music venues and showcase the unique vibrancy of the City of Urbana's music scene. *Video Spotlight Urbana* will be premiered to the public in an event in Downtown Urbana and air on UPTV6 and online.

ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS

1. Visiting Artist at Urbana High School: Lisa Kesler by Lisa Kesler, City Sponsorship of \$3,000

As an Urbana High School visiting artist, local multimedia artist and printmaker Lisa Kesler will collaborate with Urbana High School art teacher, Roberta Westerman, to lead a printmaking project with two classroom groups of students. The project would last for three weeks and include a special presentation to the AP Art Class and mentorship of students.

TIER III

1. 2019 Boneyard Arts Festival by 40 North | 88 West, City Sponsorship of \$6,000

This annual four-day event, showcasing the broad range of creative activity flourishing in our community, brings together local artists and businesses for a special event showcasing the arts of Champaign County.

2. 2019 Champaign-Urbana Folk and Roots Festival by C-U Folk and Roots, City Sponsorship of \$9,050

This all-volunteer-run festival will bring together many different organizations to present over 70 free/low-cost, all ages/abilities participatory activities and high-quality folk performances. By using a variety of downtown venues including the library, restaurants, hotels, bars, the mall and arts organizations spaces, the festival continually integrates the arts into the distinctive urban environment.

3. PYGMALION by Fein-Bursoni, Inc., City Sponsorship of \$9,950

PYGMALION is a multi-faceted event entering its 15th year in 2019, comprised of live music, technology, literature, live comedy, podcasts, and more. This progressive program brings together a diverse array of musicians, authors, innovators, and creators to provide the community with the best the world has to offer in the arenas of arts, culture, and technology.

4. 2019 Urbana Sweetcorn Festival by Urbana Business Association, City Sponsorship of \$10,000

Urbana-Champaign's longest running free festival in Downtown Urbana featuring live music on multiple stages, performances, a dynamic kids zone, and over 100 local merchandise, food & info vendors, artists, crafters, and music groups from around the world—celebrating arts, culture, and sweetcorn!