



## URBANA ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM 2020 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The following applicants have been approved for funding in the twelfth 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 Arts and Culture Coordinator at [rlstorm@urbanaininois.us](mailto:rlstorm@urbanaininois.us).

### TIER I

**1. *Camp 20* by One People Summer Arts Camp, City Sponsorship of \$1,500**

*Camp 20* is a multidisciplinary summer youth art camp for kids ages 9 – 14. The program is offered 100% free to community youth and their families, this year's theme focusing on *Stories*. One People provides believers of the collective good an experience to use their critical and creative skills to esteem and celebrate their community.

**2. *Dance (For Your Life!): Out on the Town* by elizaBeth Simpson, City sponsorship of \$730**

*Dance (for Your Life!): Out on the Town* is a series of dance events that will leverage the power of thriving underground queer dance parties to support local venues in broadening the landscape of LGBTQAI-welcoming events and providing vital cultural programming. In an era of increased violence towards LGBTQAI communities, this innovative project will help cultivate welcoming spaces, support local venues, and center the dance floor as a space for therapeutic transformation.

**3. *21<sup>st</sup> Annual Read Across America* by Urbana Park District, City Sponsorship of \$500**

*21<sup>st</sup> Annual Read Across America* is a community celebration aimed at promoting reading and literacy by providing hands-on activities and storytelling in over 10 languages. The event, held in Lincoln Square Mall, will feature nearly 50 community organizations, 1,000 participants, and performances from master storytellers and performing artists.

**4. *Hands of Hope* by Cunningham Children's Home, City Sponsorship of \$1,200**

*Hands of Hope* invites students at Cunningham Children's Home to create plaster sculptures of their hands and decorate them in a way that highlights their abilities and destigmatizes mental-emotional illness. The sculptures will be featured in a public display at The Urbana Free Library.

**5. *Star – A Journey of Self Love* by Shaya Robinson, City Sponsorship of \$1,000**

*Star – A Journey of Self Love* is a poetry-design exhibition that follows the life of a dark brown girl and her journey of self-love. The story will be told in poetry from Shaya Robinson and illustrations from collaborating graphic illustrator, Stacey Robinson and culminate in an multi-site exhibition series held in conjunction with Urbana's Downtown Get Down and a closing during Women's History Month.

**6. *ART Moves* by Shivani Bhalla, City Sponsorship of \$900**

*ART Moves* is 6-week arts-based workshop series held at the Crystal Lake Boat House for people with Multiple Sclerosis (M.S.) that includes educational activities in painting and embroidery designed to support creative expression, build physical and cognitive skills, and strengthen community for those living with M.S. and their families, friends, and caregivers.

- 7. *Black Voices Dramatic Arts Production* by Black Voices Theater Productions, City Sponsorship of \$1,500**  
*Black Voices Dramatic Arts Production* will feature a variety of performances spanning music, dance, theater, spoken word, and visual art that center around issues facing black families and the whole community. Stories will invite reflection on a wide variety of social issues, identifying and addressing interpersonal violence, gun violence, mass incarceration, bullying, and discrimination. The performance will include a pre-show, art gallery exhibition, and a youth arts component.
- 8. *Independent Clapboard Film Festival* by Bourema Ouedraogo, City Sponsorship of \$1,500**  
The *Independent Clapboard Film Festival* is a festival of local short films made by Urbana-area youth as part of a summer filmmaking initiative led by Bourema Ouedraogo, Director of Global Visual Media Studios. Workshops will facilitate deeper awareness of film techniques, video production, localized recruitment and storytelling, and creative resourcing.
- 9. *Immersive Multimedia Development Initiative* by Jake Metz, City Sponsorship of \$1,000**  
The *Immersive Multimedia Development Initiative* is a spatial sound and video projection space that will allow local composers and artists to begin working in the emerging area of immersive media. The project will offer community workshops to demonstrate techniques in this experimental art form, followed by a call for proposals from artists interested in mini residencies to produce collaborative work. The results will be unveiled in an immersive media showcase, in hopes of putting Urbana on the map as an early contributor to this growing art form typically found exclusively in metropolitan areas.
- 10. *Art for Life* by Lori Fuller, City Sponsorship of \$1,000**  
*Art for Life* is a series of arts instruction workshops for Urbana community members with dementia and their families and caregivers. The goal is to provide a peaceful, comforting social environment, improve self-esteem, and reduce feelings of isolation through engagement with the arts. In addition to classes, *Art for Life* will produce and distribute an online resource for families to support ongoing arts practice.
- 11. *Face is Only a Location II* by Patricia León Quencan, City Sponsorship of \$1,500**  
*Face is Only a Location II* invites local women from Latin American diaspora to reflect on identity, culture, and diversity through photography and mixed graphic media workshops. Participants will collectively produce works for exhibition that will be displayed in various sites around Urbana and online, offering art and testimonies as creative opportunities for deepening and fostering cultural connections.
- 12. *Salsa Dance Night with the Afro-Caribbean Jazz Collective* by The Afro-Caribbean Jazz Collective, City Sponsorship of \$1,000**  
The Afro-Caribbean Jazz Collective will host a free Salsa Dance Night at the Rose Bowl in Downtown Urbana featuring a 10-piece salsa band. The event will offer up an opportunity for the Afro-Caribbean Jazz Collective to expand their repertoire to include more salsa music to share locally in hopes of fostering more salsa nights featuring live music and promoting cultural events for the local Latino community.
- 13. *Vibrant Public Mural* by FunAfraid, City Sponsorship of \$1,500**  
Local artist, Carlie Upchurch, will engage in a public input process that will help shape a vibrant, colorful hand-painted mural celebrating Urbana's local identity for display in Downtown Urbana. The mural project will include an unveiling and ribbon-cutting celebration open to the public.
- 14. *StoryWalk® in Urbana Parks* by The Urbana Free Library, City Sponsorship of \$520**  
The Urbana Free Library and Urbana Park District will invite summer art camp participants and local community members to write and illustrate book-like stories for transportable StoryWalk® exhibits during Neighborhood Nights summer 2020. Non-English speakers will be invited to participate in their native languages, showcasing Urbana's strong cultural diversity.

**15. *Writers of Oya* by Ashanti Files, City Sponsorship of \$1,500**

*Writers of Oya* emerges as a middle school girls' writing program designed to teach the art of slam poetry and writing practice to process stress and trauma in a supportive environment. Participants engage in weekly meetings designed to foster creative writing and will present their work in various public events, including a community poetry slam and performance showcase.

**16. *Atelier Urbana* by Atelier Urbana, City Sponsorship of \$1,000**

*Atelier Urbana* will offer free, accessible figure drawing sessions and arts workshops exploring historic, contemporary, and commercial figure drawing. Both live drawing sessions and educational workshops are free and open to the community and will culminate in an art show of works produced through the project.

**17. *We Are the Resource (WATR) Critical Style Showcase* by Aimee Rickman, Shaheen Shorish, and Sophie Hall, City Sponsorship of \$550**

*We Are the Resource Critical Style Showcase* works to spotlight intrusive data-driven digital technologies impacting the lives of folks in Urbana and host a runway event hosted by local youth featuring wearable community-proposed micro-interventions. The project aims to draw attention to issues of consent, privacy, and power raised by surveilling technologies while presenting creative interventions.

**18. *Metamorphosis* by E.K. Anna Hennequet/EKAH, City Sponsorship of \$750**

*Metamorphosis* is an augmented reality (AR) project that will combine mobile mural art with animation work from local visual artist, EKAH. The viewer will be able to point a mobile device at a transportable mural and watch its figures come to life, creating new avenues for interacting with public art through AR technology. *Metamorphosis* will be displayed in high-traffic locations in Downtown Urbana, offering opportunities for community engagement.

**19. *Urbana Poetry Walk* by CU Poetry, City Sponsorship of \$700**

The *Urbana Poetry Walk* is an interactive community poetry event organized by CU Poetry and held at Carle Park inviting the community to walk around the park and stop at various points in the journey to participate in poetry readings, engage in poetry writing, and listen to poetry performance.

## TIER II

**1. *Visualizing a Climate of Community Engagement* by elizaBeth Simpson, City Sponsorship of \$1,500**

A series of free popular education workshops designed to leverage community theater practices to invite creative insight and collaboration in identifying and addressing local environmental challenges and their relationship to broader environmental issues. Workshops will be documented with graphic note-taking and outcomes will be presented for public feedback before being incorporated into a final performance. Results will be shared with policy-makers and officials.

**2. *DMT Music Festivals* by Dance Music Therapy, City Sponsorship of \$3,000**

Dance Music Therapy's *DMT Music Festivals* are 8-hour monthly music festivals presented by DJ collective, Dance Music Therapy (Kamau Gratham/DJ KamauMau, Mikki Johnson/DJ TDM, and Terrance Stevenson/DJ Terrance), presented at the Lake House at Crystal Lake Park in collaboration with the Urbana Park District. The festivals serve as all-ages gatherings offering house, soul, funk, R&B, hip-hop, acid jazz and world beats to emphasize the healing properties of music, dance, and community.

**3. *Play. Art. Urbana.* By KOOP Adventure Play, City Sponsorship of \$2,000**

*Play. Art. Urbana.* is a series of sixteen open-play events that invite youth to explore their own creativity with a plethora of raw materials, supportive adult playworkers nearby, and the invitation to play, create, build, and imagine. The events aim to bring neighborhoods together to activate public spaces, encourage creative expression, and promote self-directed play for young people.

- 4. *Immersion: A Multidisciplinary, Experimental Arts Festival* by Jake Metz, City Sponsorship of \$3,000**  
*Immersion* is a multidisciplinary experimental music and arts festival that utilizes technology to create an immersive experience for both artists and attendees. The two-day festival held in Downtown Urbana offers live music, workshops, projection installations, visual art exhibitions, dance performances, and an immersive 360-degree sound environment.
- 5. *Celebrating 20 Years of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center* by Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, City Sponsorship of \$2,500**  
The Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, in celebration of their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, will hold a series of events celebrating arts, media, and technology for social change. Two educational workshops and a reunion festival will take place as part of the anniversary. The main event will feature a radical history tour of Urbana-Champaign, workshops, performances, and youth activities.
- 6. *CU Black & African Arts Festival 2020* by CU Black and African Arts, City Sponsorship of \$3,500**  
*CU Black & African Arts Festival* is a two-day celebratory festival highlighting a diversity of Black and African cultures through arts, music, fashion, entertainment, vendors, food, and the performing arts. The event will offer unique opportunities for supporting Black and African art, business, and cultural work.
- 7. *Teen Art in Urbana: Experience and Expression* by C-U Community Fab Lab, City Sponsorship of \$2,000**  
*Teen Art in Urbana* is an Urbana-based art program developed for teens, by teens. A teen artist council will be developed and through its leadership, teens will engage in youth-led art workshops, peer-teaching, and storytelling, culminating in a public exhibition of art in both the Teen Art Gallery at The Urbana Free Library and the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center.
- 8. *She Spins Urbana: A Camp for Girls* by Ja'Naea Modest/DJ Silkee, City Sponsorship of \$2,500**  
*She Spins Urbana* is a week-long educational camp designed for girls of color age 10-17 that will introduce the art of beat-making, recording, and DJing. Each two-hour workshop will introduce camp participants to the history of women of color disc jockeys and technical instruction. Participating youth will design their own set to be unveiled at a public showcase event.
- 9. *Small Press Fest!* by Sarah Christensen, City Sponsorship of \$2,500**  
*Small Press Fest!* is a celebration of regional small press and independent publishers that aims to showcase DIY media, foster community, and create a space for self-published authors and artists. The festival and events leading up to it include educational workshops on independent publishing, guest speakers, performances, artist's talks, author's roundtables, and an exhibit hall.
- 10. *Save the World Mural* by Madelyn Witruk, City Sponsorship of \$2,000**  
In collaboration with CU Adventures in Time and Space, artist Madelyn Witruk will paint a mural on two westward facing walls of 302 N. Broadway Ave. The mural will have an optical illusion effect and adventure-themed iconography in large-scale design and color, activating the north Broadway corridor.
- 11. *Main Street Carnival* by Hybrid Performance Arts, City Sponsorship of \$1,650**  
*Main Street Carnival* is a downtown event designed to promote flow arts, including fire spinning/poi, hooping, juggling, circus arts, live art, belly dance, and more. The event will feature electronic DJs, street musicians, walk-around entertainers, kid's activities, and aerial artists to produce a one-of-a-kind artistic and cultural experience that promote area businesses and offers Urbana a unique celebratory carnival.

**12. *International Day of the Girl* by Be The Benchmark LLC, City Sponsorship of \$1,850**

International Day of the Girl is a large-scale, community event inviting young girls and the wider public to promote girls in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math). Through interactive booths, live performances, and engaged artmaking, the event serves to highlight STEAM opportunities, invite girl's leadership on global issues, and promote girl's empowerment.

## **ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS**

**1. *Symbiotic Sustainable Sculpture* by Nathan Westerman & UHS Sustainable Design STEAM Club, City Sponsorship of \$1,500**

Geometric sculptures designed by local artist/educator, Nathan Westerman and students in the Urbana High School Sustainable Design Club will be created in Urbana High School and installed in various locations in Urbana, culminating in a public exhibition. The sculptures will serve as both visually interesting objects and homes for insects and animals beneficial to the environment. The materials used will be re-purposed steel and wood from discarded school furniture, as well as new materials.

**2. *All Score Urbana* by Urbana High School, City Sponsorship of \$900**

*All Score Urbana* is a community engagement music composition program designed to offer Urbana High School students the opportunity to compose, workshop, and record their own original music with local composers and performers. The music composed by student participants will be performed in a public exhibition at the conclusion of the program.

**3. *Capoeira Angola 4 the Community* by Capoeira Angola Center IL, City Sponsorship of \$750**

*Capoeira Angola 4 the Community* is a series of workshops held in Urbana School District #116 schools designed to introduce K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students to capoeira, the Afro-Brazilian art form that combines elements of dance and music into movement. A public performance showcase with students will be offered at the conclusion of this multi-session program.

## **TIER III**

**1. *2020 Boneyard Arts Festival* by 40 North | 88 West, City Sponsorship of \$8,000**

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. *2020 Champaign-Urbana Folk and Roots Festival* by C-U Folk and Roots, City Sponsorship of \$9,500**

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 \$9,500**

PYGMALION is a multi-faceted event entering its 16th year in 2020, 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. *2020 Urbana Sweetcorn Festival* by Urbana Business Association, City Sponsorship of \$8,000**

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!