

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

*Economic Development Division*

**m e m o r a n d u m**

**TO:** Public Arts Commission  
**FROM:** Rachel Lauren Storm, Public Arts Coordinator  
**DATE:** October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** **Recommendation to Establish an Arts and Culture Commission**

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**Background**

At the request of Mayor Marlin, the Urbana Public Arts Commission has engaged in an exploratory process over the last five months for expanding the scope of the Urbana Public Arts Program and elevating cultural work in the community. **Exhibit A** is a draft motion for the establishment of the Urbana Arts and Culture Commission and Program, detailing specific changes to the existing Urbana Public Arts Program ordinance (**Exhibit B**: 2008 Public Arts Establishing Ordinance).

**Options**

The Commission may:

1. Approve the recommendation of Public Arts Program ordinance changes
2. Approve the recommendation of Public Arts Program ordinance changes with revisions
3. Deny recommendation of any Public Arts Program ordinance changes

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the recommendation of the proposed Public Arts Program ordinance changes as presented.

Prepared by:



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Rachel Lauren Storm

## **Exhibit A:**

Motion to recommend to the Urbana City Council that City of Urbana Ordinance No. 2008-03-013 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION AND PERMANENT PUBLIC ARTS PROGRAM be amended to establish an Arts & Culture Commission and Arts & Culture Program and that the Ordinance be amended to:

- 1) Revise the name of Commission and Program throughout the Ordinance as follows:
  - a. the “Urbana Arts & Culture Commission”, and
  - b. the “Urbana Arts & Culture Program”.
- 2) Add a definition of “Culture” as follows:
  - a. “Culture” includes but is not limited to historic and contemporary traditions of performance, custom, ritual, celebration, fashion, cuisine, knowledge, storytelling, heritage, and oral transmission.
- 3) Revise the Mission of the Commission and Program as follows:
  - a. Mission. The Urbana Arts and Culture Commission celebrates and nurtures the City of Urbana’s cultural and artistic diversity.
- 4) Define the Vision of the Commission and Program as follows:
  - a. Vision. The City of Urbana is a place where arts and culture thrive and all community members and visitors can engage in and experience arts and culture in all of its forms. The Arts and Culture Commission and Program nurtures creative expression, celebrates diversity, builds creative public spaces, and showcases the City of Urbana as a thriving destination for arts and culture. The commission embraces and celebrates the diverse histories, beliefs, and cultures within the City of Urbana.
- 5) Acknowledge that the Composition of the Commission shall reflect the “full diversity of the Urbana Community”
- 6) Grant sufficient authority to the Commission to approve and award grants in amounts of \$5,000 and above.
- 7) Reflect the following three priorities with respect to selection of proposed arts and culture projects:
  - a. Community accessibility of arts and culture
  - b. Artist accessibility to resources
  - c. Opportunities for collaboration and partnerships among and between cultural groups