



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report 2nd Tuesday of the Month– August 14th, 2018

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Introduction

The following Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report describes activities of the Public Arts Program for the Urbana Public Arts Commission. The report includes information regarding projects that are in progress, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

Updates on Current Projects

- **Open Scene Open Mic:** The Urbana Public Arts Program and Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center are jointly organizing Open Scene Open Mic, a series of open mic events hosted throughout Downtown Urbana with the goal of continuing to grow Open Scene, the program initiated last year with the support of a National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant. Upcoming events include:
 - **August 22nd, 5:30-7:30pm: Open Scene Open Mic at Common Ground Food Co-Op** Host, Abdullah Aziz with live painting from the Co-op Gallery Artists
 - **September 6th, 5:30-7:30pm: Open Scene Open Mic at Boneyard Creek Crossing** Host, Dawn Blackman with Story Slam!
 - **September 26th, 5:30-7:30pm: Open Scene Open Mic at Urbana Dance Company** Host, Kate Insolia with a Performance Showcase
- **Art Now:** July's edition of [Art Now](#) features Dawn Blackman, local storyteller and steward of the Randolph Street Community Garden. A joint production by the [Urbana Public Arts 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](#). To learn more about Dawn Blackman and the Randolph St. Community Garden work, visit: <https://randolphcommunitygarden.com/>.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current Artist of the Corridor exhibition on display is *SCENES OF DOWNTOWN* by Christopher Evans and is a collection of illustrated works exploring Downtown Urbana and its people in a wide variety of settings--from cafes to public parks, music venues to markets. The artist sketches the life around him as he sits in a coffee shop, a tavern, or listens to live music. Artist of the Corridor is a dual-site exhibition with artworks displayed at the City of Urbana and The Urbana Free Library sponsored by the Urbana Public Arts Program. The opening reception took place on Wednesday, July 18th from 4:30pm-6pm and was well attended by roughly 40 people. The exhibit is on display from July 3rd-August 30th for viewing. A closing reception will

take place on August 30th from 5:30pm-7:00pm at The Urbana Free Library and will feature speed drawing, a Q&A with the artist, and a live musical performance by “Almost A” Trio.

- **Art at the Market:** Art at the Market, in partnership with Urbana’s Market at the Square, occurs every 2nd Saturday of the month during the farmers market season. The August 11th Art at the Market activities included the art of veggie stamping with The Land Connection in honor of National Farmers Market Week and a live musical performance from Bones Jugs. Bones Jugs *puts an eclectic spin on American styles from bluegrass to ragtime. The band features xylophone, banjo, guitar, upright bass, jug, bones, clarinet, kazoos, whistles, horns, and washboard for listening, dancing, and foot tapping!*
- **The Young Artist’s Studio:** The Young Artist Studio series presented by the Urbana Public Arts Program and The Urbana Free Library features youth arts workshops every 3rd Sunday of the month. The July 15th workshop featured local artist Kamila Glowacki and a workshop on “Watercolor Resist Painting.” The August 19th workshop will feature “Stained Glass Kites” with Sierra Murphy, followed by a “Puppet-Making Workshop” with Mark Enslin in September. All workshops are held 3pm-3:45pm in the Urbana Free Library’s Children’s Library (lower level).
- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** The Urbana Public Arts Program selected two sculptures for installation in Urbana: *Races* by Bobby Joe Scribner and *Ice Pops* by Craig Gray. Public Arts staff are working closely with the Public Art League to plan for the installation of both pieces. *Ice Pops* will be installed in Boneyard Creek Crossing and staff is working on a location along the Illinois Marathon route for *Races*. Staff plans to renew *Three Red Houses* in Boneyard Creek Crossing. A ribbon-cutting in conjunction with each installation will be announced.
- **Urbana Art Expo:** The Urbana Art Expo is scheduled for September 14th-16th, 2018. The application period closed on August 8th, 2018. The program received 30 applications in total. There are 17 spots for artists at this year’s Expo. Works will be reviewed by a jury this week and artists will be announced next week. Those interested in volunteering to be part of the Urbana Art Expo are encouraged to get in touch with the Public Arts Coordinator.
- **Social Media Engagement:** The Facebook page has increased in followers by 35 since the last report, for a total of 1,843 followers. Twitter experiences an increase of 0 followers for a total of 2,002. The Instagram page has increased by 31 followers for a total of 876 followers.
- **Volunteer Support:** Public Arts Commissioners and the public are encouraged to get involved with the Urbana Public Arts Program’s ongoing events and initiatives. Those interested in volunteering with the Urbana Public Arts Program can join planning efforts or sign up to volunteer at: https://www.urbanaininois.us/arts_support.