



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report

2nd Tuesday of the Month– February 11th, 2019

Prepared by Rachel Lauren Storm, M.Ed., Arts and Culture Coordinator

Introduction

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

Staffing Update

- **Executive Internship from USD #116:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program is participating as a site for the Urbana School District #116 Executive Internship Program. Staff welcomed Urbana High School senior, Emily Crane, who will assist in programs, events, marketing, and promotion.
- **YWCA Women in Leadership Program:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Coordinator will be a site supervisor for the YWCA's Women in Leadership Program and as a result, will have a small group of students working on a projects developed in collaboration with staff. The students will work with the Urbana Arts and Culture Program through May of 2020 and are undertaking a project of developing a media kit for the program.

Updates on Current Projects

- **Urbana Arts Grants:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program completed its jury process Saturday, February 8th for Tier I, II, and Arts in the Schools grants.

A total of \$88,000 has been awarded to artists, arts organizations, and festival presenters for creative projects that enrich the lives of Urbana residents and visitors in the 2020 cycle. This grant program is open to all disciplines in the arts on public display within spaces open to the public, including but not limited to creative writing, dance, film, video, music, theatre, visual arts, crafts, performing arts, spoken word, environmental arts, multimedia arts, architectural arts, landscape architecture, and emerging media.

- **SNEAK PEEK Celebration:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program will hold its annual grant awardee celebration at Riggs Taproom on March 11th, 2020 from 5:30pm-7:30pm featuring a recognition of the 2020 Urbana Arts Grantees and a showcase what's in store in the coming year for the Urbana arts and culture scene. All 2020 Urbana Arts Grants applicants will be notified of their grant status prior to the event. The event will feature

food, mingling, live music, and celebration. Complimentary hor'doerves will be provided; cash bar open.

- **Boneyard Arts Festival:** The Boneyard is a unique 3-day exhibition of performance, literary and visual art hosted in a wide variety of venues -- from private businesses to public spaces -- all around Champaign County, Illinois. Through the festival, artists and venues of all kinds come together to collaborate on shows, registering their participation with 40 North, which then highlights their creativity during one amazing weekend in mid April. The Urbana Arts and Culture Coordinator serves on the Urbana committee and assists with pairing artists with venues.
- **Culture Fest!:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program is sponsoring its annual Boneyard event, now titled *Culture Fest!* The event will celebrate our dynamic and diverse arts and culture scene in the City of Urbana. Taking place Saturday, April 4th, 4pm-8pm in Boneyard Creek Crossing (corner of Race and Griggs Sts in Urbana) activities will feature artists, food trucks, activities, and a stage with DJs and live bands.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program and Urbana Free Library are proud to be collaborating with Clark Lindsey Village Inc. to present the next exhibition in the Artist of the Corridor Series: *The Passions Project*. The Passions Project is an exhibition of portraits of residents of Urbana's Clark Lindsey Village.

These striking black and white portraits capture older adults at Clark-Lindsey engaged in their passions. National photographer, Heidi Wagner, created this project in hopes of redefining how we perceive age by allowing viewers to forge a connection with subjects that challenges traditional views of aging. Clark Lindsey strives to create an environment that empowers all older adults to thrive, making this partnership a natural fit.

The closing reception will be held on Monday, February 10th from 12pm-1pm at The Urbana Free Library and will feature participating Clark Lindsey residents displaying art and offering brief demos illustrating their passions.

The next exhibition, *WOMEN WHO PAINTED* by Paula McCarty, features digital and oil portraits of famous women painters and is displayed in honor of Women's History Month. The exhibit will feature an opening reception held at City Hall on March 5th, from 5:30pm-7pm, free and open to the public.

- **Urbana's Inaugural Poet Laureate, Will Reger:** The City of Urbana's inaugural Poet Laureate, Will Reger, continues to present numerous projects with the help of Urbana Arts and Culture Program staff, including Poets on a Park Bench, Poems on Glass, and a now weekly poetry prompt released to the public. The Urbana Poet Laureate has made guest appearances in news media, open mics, public readings, and will soon partner with Urbana School District #116 staff to present writers workshops in area schools.

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts featured Urbana Poet Laureate Will Reger & Petroglyphs Book Release as part of Krannert Uncorked on Jan. 23rd, in the Krannert Center Main Lobby. The event was attended by over 60 people and featured a welcome from Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin.

Upcoming Poet Laureate activities:

- Poetry Out Loud (*participating judge*), Feb. 12th, 2020, 6:30pm-7:30pm
- The Laureate's Showcase, Feb. 13th, 2020, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Poems on Glass Deadline for Submissions, Feb. 21st, 2020 by 5pm

- **Art Now:** February's edition of [Art Now](#) features middle school creative writing project, The Writers of Oya. A joint production by the [Urbana Arts & Culture 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](#).

- **Art IN the Square:** Urbana Arts and Culture Program and Urbana Business Association are proud to feature Market IN the Square Concerts, musical performances at the indoor farmer's market in Lincoln Square! Concerts occur on the 2nd Saturday of the month and feature live musical performances at 10am in Lincoln Square Mall's food court. The February performance will feature Bodacious String Band of Community Center for the Arts (Feb. 29th, 2020) and traditional Irish music in honor of St. Patrick's Day (Mar. 14th, 2020), followed by Ther'Up.Y playing blues and soul music in April.

- **The Young Artist's Studio:** The Young Artist's Studio series presented by the Urbana Arts & Culture Program and the Urbana Free Library features youth arts workshops every once a month on Sundays at 3pm. The Jan. 19th workshop featured Gina Johnson of Goodthingz Urbana with a "Paint Your Goodthingz" workshop, inviting young people to paint a mini canvas depicting their favorite people, places, and experiences in Urbana. The canvases are displayed in a display case on the first floor of The Urbana Free Library in conjunction with Urbana Arts and Culture Program exhibition efforts. Upcoming 2020 season workshops include:
 - **Kids Learn to Sew!** Sun. Feb. 16th, 3pm, The Urbana Free Library
 - **Kids Make Mosaics!** Sun. Mar. 15th, 3pm, The Urbana Free Library
 - **Kids Learn to DJ!** Sun. Apr. 19th, 3pm, The Urbana Free Library
 - **Kids Learn Filmmaking!** Sun. May 17th, 3pm, The Urbana Free Library
 - **Poetry Workshop for Kids!** Sun. Jun. 21st, 3pm, The Urbana Free Library
 - **Watercolor Bookmarks!** Sun. Jul. 19th, 3pm, The Urbana Free Library
 - **Capoeira Angola for Kids!** Sun. Aug. 19th, 3pm, The Urbana Free Library
 - **Kids Learn African Dance!** Sun. Sept. 20th, 3pm, The Urbana Free Library
 - **Accidental Pop Art!** Sun. Oct. 18th, 3pm, The Urbana Free Library
 - **Storytelling Workshop for Kids!** Sun. Dec. 13th, 3pm, The Urbana Free Library

- **Murals on Glass/Urbana Utility Wrap Program:** Murals on Glass, an initiative to feature local artworks on downtown Urbana windows, will soon open an application period. Now the 5th cycle, Murals on Glass selects artwork from a resident artist from Champaign County to have their work reproduced in adhesive vinyl and adhered to the front windows of a municipal building. Staff are proud to announce that *In the Sunshine* by BLACKMAU (Kamau Grantham and Stacey Robinson) has been selected to be displayed on the Cunningham Township's front windows.

Additionally, the jury selected 8 approved artworks for utility boxes. Installation of both Murals on Glass and the Utility Box Murals will take place come spring. In the meantime, Urbana Arts and Culture Program continues to seek sponsors for utility box murals.

- **Outreach and Partner Presentations:** Arts and Culture Coordinator, Rachel Storm, will present at the Feb. 11th, 2020 Urbana Rotary Club meeting about emerging and sustained initiatives from the Urbana Arts and Culture Program.

In addition, staff will present at the 2020 Grant-A-Thon at the University of Illinois, representing a local granting organization alongside the Mental Health Foundation and Community Foundation. The forum, sponsored by the University of Illinois School of Social Work, invites students and the public to learn about grant writing, evaluation, and support.

- **Volunteer Support:** The Urbana Arts & Culture Program is seeking volunteers through new listings with CU Volunteer and the University of Illinois' Office of Volunteer Programs.

Arts & Culture Commissioners and the public are encouraged to get involved with the Urbana Arts & Culture Program's ongoing events and initiatives. Those interested in volunteering with the Urbana Arts & Culture Program can join planning efforts or sign up to volunteer at: https://www.urbanaininois.us/arts_support.