



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

### Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month– June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Prepared by Rachel Lauren Storm, Public Arts Coordinator

#### 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

- **Urbana Arts Grants Program:** The 2018 cycle of the Urbana Public Arts Grant program includes 35 funded projects in the categories of individual, group, nonprofit, and festival grants. Projects are underway and will be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
- **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. The first event will be held at Cunningham Township's new community garden on Wednesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-7pm.
- **Art Now:** May's edition of Art Now features Cynthia Oliver, a local dance artist and choreographer, whose work explores contemporary dance, feminism, black popular culture, and the expressive performances of Africans in the diaspora. Episodes appear on UPTV 6 every Monday at 6:30 pm, with reruns every Tuesday at 11:00 pm, and are available on YouTube. To learn more about Cynthia's work, visit: [www.cynthiaoliver.com](http://www.cynthiaoliver.com). The July Art Now episode will feature local poet, Jim O'Brien.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current Artist of the Corridor exhibition on display is WAYS OF SEEING by Durango Mendoza (Creek). Durango Mendoza (Muscogee Creek/Mexican) is a sculptor (assemblage), photographer, storyteller, poet, and author. WAYS OF SEEING is a collection of Durango Mendoza's photography and assemblage work.

The opening reception took place on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm-6pm at the City of Urbana Main Lobby. As part of his exhibition, Durango will offer a sculpture workshop for community members 12 and up (or younger with an adult helper) at the Urbana Free Library on June 30<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-3:30pm. Interested participants can register on the Urbana Free Library event calendar. The workshop will be followed by a closing reception on June 30<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-5pm in the Lewis Auditorium (lower level) at the Urbana Free

Library featuring an artist talk, demonstration, and refreshments. Workshop participants will be invited to display their sculptures during the reception.

- **Art at the Market:** Art in the Market, in partnership with Urbana's Market at the Square, occurs every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month during the farmer's market season. The June 9<sup>th</sup> Art at the Market featured a performance from Desafinado, a seven piece ensemble that plays a combination of Samba, Bossa Nova, and MPB (Musica Popular Brasileira). Art at the Market also featured a screen-printing workshop from Weiskamp Screen Printing.
- **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. The May 20<sup>th</sup> event featured local artist Nika Lucks with a bookbinding workshop called "The Imagination Station" and the June 17<sup>th</sup> will feature the "Petite Painters Workshop" offering a chance for youth to create their own masterpiece, led by UPAP staff. The July 15<sup>th</sup> workshop will feature local artist Kamila Glowacki and a workshop on "Watercolor Resist Painting." All workshops are held 3pm-3:45pm in the Urbana Free Library's Children's Library (lower level).
- **Performance in the Park:** The Urbana Public Arts Program is partnering with Illinois Shakespeare Festival to offer a Theater for Young Audiences production of *Double, Double*, a new play by local author Nancy Steele Brokaw that reveals and celebrates the connections between young Abraham Lincoln and William Shakespeare. The performance will take place on Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10am-11am in Carle Park in Urbana. Attendees are encouraged to pack a picnic, blankets or camping chairs, and enjoy a performance in the park! This event is free and open to the public.
- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** The Urbana Public Arts Program partners with the Public Art League (PAL) to seek artists to display sculptures in our community. The deadline for submission closed June 1, 2018 5:00pm CST. Staff will serve on the selection jury. The jury will meet on June 14<sup>th</sup>. For questions and additional information, please contact the Public Art League at (217) 898-8263 or by e-mail to [publicartleague@gmail.com](mailto:publicartleague@gmail.com).
- **Urbana Art Expo:** The Urbana Art Expo is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Staff will convene a working group to begin planning this year's Expo in the coming weeks. Those interested in volunteering to be part of the working group are encouraged to get in touch with the Public Arts Coordinator.
- **Social Media Engagement:** The Facebook page has increased in followers by 11 since the last report, for a total of 1,759 followers. Twitter experiences an increase of 7 followers for a total of 1,996. The Instagram page has increased by 47 followers for a total of 815 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](https://www.urbanaininois.us/arts_support).