



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

### Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month– March 13<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:** Juries met to select grantees in all four categories: group and festival application (March 3<sup>rd</sup>), followed by individual and nonprofit applications (March 10<sup>th</sup>). Pending the commission's discussion of the program and final approval of the juries recommendations, awardees will be sent notifications by the end of the day Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **SNEEK PEEK:** The Urbana Public Arts Program is celebrating the announcement of this year's 2018 Urbana Arts Grantees and Arts in the Schools recipients with *SNEEK PEEK*, a public reception held at Broadway Food Hall on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-7:30pm featuring live music, hors d'oeuvres, and a presentation of the 2018 grant recipients.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current Artist of the Corridor exhibition on display at the City of Urbana building and Urbana Free Library, *HAUNTED HAMS* by Lydia Puddicombe, will have a closing reception scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, will be a family-friendly celebration featuring art stations and a brief presentation from the artist and her muses. *HAUNTED HAMS* is a collection of wood-carved illustrations exploring the whimsical, domestic lives (and afterlives) of plants & animals. To view more of Lydia Puddicombe's work, visit: [www.lydiapuddicombe.com](http://www.lydiapuddicombe.com). Our next exhibit, part of Boneyard Arts Festival, will feature watercolorist Dodee Buzzard. The opening reception will take place at 12pm on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and will be a public celebration of Dodee's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday in addition to her exhibition.
- **Art Now:** March's edition of Art Now features DJ trio Dance Music Therapy. 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 Dance Music Therapy work, visit: <http://bit.ly/2y8DJKq>. View their episode on UPTV6's YouTube channel at <http://bit.ly/2y8DJKq>. The next Art Now episodes will feature Dodee Buzzard (April), Preetika Rajgariah (May), and Cynthia Oliver (June).
- **Art at the Market/Art IN the Square:** In partnership with the Urbana Business Association, the Public Arts Program continues to offer "Art IN the Square" as part of the indoor farmer's market. Our March 10<sup>th</sup> program featured poetry and mic from Shaya Robinson and Mike Ingram. Shaya is the director of SPEAK Café, an expressive open mic held monthly at the Krannert Art Museum. The event also featured a performance from the Capoeira Angola Center in conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual International Capoeira Angola Festival held in Urbana. On April 14<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with Boneyard Arts Festival, the program will include a musical performance followed by demonstrations by local performance groups.

- **Urbana Celebrates the Boneyard:** On Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 1pm-5pm, the Urbana Public Arts Program will continue its annual tradition of offering family-friendly arts programming for the Boneyard Arts Festival activities in Urbana. “Urbana Celebrates the Boneyard” will offer musical and dance performances from Dance Music Therapy and the Department of Dance at the University of Illinois, as well as magic and flow arts from Hybrid Performance Arts. The event will include a bubble display, face painting, puppet performance, and art stations offering arts and crafts for the whole family.
- **The Young Artist’s Studio:** Urbana Public Arts Program continues to with the Urbana Free Library for the Young Artist’s Studio series, featuring arts workshops for area youth. The March 11<sup>th</sup> workshop featured local artist Kari Anderson leading a “Perler Bead Art” workshop. The April 15<sup>th</sup> workshop features Navajo artist Beverly Smith leading a “Navajo Storytelling through Art” workshop inviting youth to hear a story (Baje Whitethorne’s *Sunpainters*) followed by guided art-making with their own stories. All workshops are held 3pm-3:45pm in the Urbana Free Library’s Children’s Library (lower level).
- **Artist Spotlight:** The Urbana Public Arts Program intern staff has assisted with the creation of a new column in the Public i newspaper, a publication produced through the Independent Media Center. The column, entitled “Artist Spotlight” features an in-depth interview with a local artist each month. March’s newspaper, which will have a release later this month, will feature local performance artist, Mark Enslin.
- **Boneyard Arts Festival Urbana Committee:** The Boneyard Arts Festival Urbana Planning Committee continues to solicit festival participation from local venues, businesses, and artists. Urbana days are April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Interested artists or business owners can register their venue or activities at: <http://40north.org/programs/boneyard>.
- **Social Media Engagement:** The Facebook page has increased in followers by seventeen (17) since the last monthly report, for a total of 1,703 followers. Twitter has not experienced an increase and remains at a total of 1,989. The Instagram page has increased by 49 followers for a total of 665 followers.
- **#ArtinUrbana Campaign:** The Urbana Public Arts Program #ArtinUrbana continues to seek submissions. Instagram users are invited to tag photos of local Urbana creativity.
- **Volunteer Program Initiative:** The Public Arts Program continues to seek new volunteers. Those interested in volunteering with the Urbana Public Arts Program can sign up at: [https://www.urbanainllinois.us/arts\\_support](https://www.urbanainllinois.us/arts_support).