



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report 2nd Tuesday of the Month– May 8th, 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

- **SNEEK PEEK:** The Urbana Public Arts Program celebrated the announcement of this year's 2018 Urbana Arts Grantees with *SNEEK PEEK*, a public reception held at Broadway Food Hall on Thursday, April 26th from 5:30pm-7:30pm featuring live music, hors d'oeuvres, and a presentation of the 2018 grant recipients. Urbana Arts Grant projects are already underway.
- **Art Now:** May's edition of Art Now features Preetika Rajgariah, a mixed media visual artist, whose work explores complexities and contradictions that arise when cultures intersect and collide. 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 Preetika's work, visit: <http://prajgariah.com>. The next Art Now episodes will feature Cynthia Oliver (June) and Jim O'Brien (July).
- **Boneyard Arts Festival:** The Boneyard Arts Festival Urbana Planning Committee wrapped up this year's festival with a debriefing meeting on Tuesday, April 24th. This year's Boneyard Arts Festival broke a record with 42 registered venues in the City of Urbana (Champaign had 48.)
- **Urbana Celebrates the Boneyard:** On Saturday, April 14th from 1pm-5pm, the Urbana Public Arts Program offered *Urbana Celebrates the Boneyard*, a family-friendly arts event for the Boneyard Arts Festival. The event was a great success with over 300 people in attendance. The event featured live music from Dance Music Therapy; as well as magic and flow arts from Michael Moxie and Satina; puppetry from Puppetfolk Productions/Anne Newman, face painting from Whimsy Pixie Paint, and bubble display from Joyfulbubbles. The event also included art stations offering paper crafts from Urbana Park District, zine-making from the IMC Zine Librarians, and fish printing from the Urbana Public Arts Program. Dragonfire Pizza and Nitro Cup made fresh pizza and cold brewed coffee available.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current Artist of the Corridor exhibition on display, *THE STORY OF MY LIFE* by Doddee Buzzard, will be in display until Thursday, May

10th. The next Artist of the Corridor exhibition 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 will take place on Tuesday, May 15th from 4:30pm-6pm at the City of Urbana Main Lobby. As part of his exhibition, Durango will also offer a sculpture workshop for community members 12 and up (or younger with an adult helper) at the Urbana Free Library on June 30th 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 30th 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 Square:** In partnership with the Urbana Business Association, the Public Arts Program offered the last "Art IN the Square" as part of the indoor farmer's market on April 14th in conjunction with Boneyard Arts Festival. The event featured a musical performance from Los Guapos, an instrumental quartet performing cumbia, salsa, and son montuno styles from Central and South America, and demonstrations from Hybrid Performance Arts and Capoeira Angola Center, as two arts-based organizations in the Lincoln Square Mall.

Art in the Market, in partnership with Urbana's Market at the Square, will occur every 2nd Saturday of the month beginning on May 12th with a performance from Timbalú, a local salsa band featuring percussion, horns, keys, bass, and vocals. The market will also feature KOOP Adventure Play offering raw materials for youth to use to guide their own play. KOOP offers an open and untamed environment with raw materials for children to build their own kind of playground. A trained adult playworker would be on hand to assist and keep things safe, but the children are encouraged to lead and create.

- **The Young Artist's Studio:** The April 15th event featured Navajo artist Beverly Smith who led 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. The next Young Artist Studio workshop will take place on May 20th and feature local artist Nika Lucks with a bookbinding workshop called "The Imagination Station." 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 5th, 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!

- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** The Urbana Public Arts Program partners with the Public Art League (PAL) to seek artists to display sculptures in our community. Interested artists can find application information on the Public Art League website: <http://publicartleague.org/artists.html>. The deadline for submission is June 1, 2018 5:00pm CST. For questions and additional information, please contact the Public Art League at (217) 898-8263 or by e-mail to publicartleague@gmail.com.
- **What's in Your Square?:** The 9-square block area in Downtown Urbana known as Lincoln Square includes publicly-owned parking lots, the Lincoln Square Mall, and the Landmark Hotel, which is currently closed. Mayor Diane Marlin is inviting public input asking what the community would like to see in this area through an online survey and various visioning processes. The Public Arts Commission will have its own visioning process next month as part of the monthly meeting. Fill out the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UrbanaSquare>.
- **Urbana Art Expo:** The Urbana Art Expo is scheduled for September 14th-16th, 2018. The Urbana Public Arts Program staff will begin to meet together with a working group to begin planning this year's Expo. 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 45 since the last report, for a total of 1,748 followers. Twitter has not experienced an increase and remains at a total of 1,989. The Instagram page has increased by 103 followers for a total of 768 followers.
- **Speaking Engagements:**
 - **Grant-A-Thon:** The Public Arts Coordinator was a featured speaker during the Annual Grant-a-Thon sponsored by the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois. The panel discussed what makes a strong grant application and featured Joan Dixon of Community Foundation of Illinois, Mark Driscoll of Champaign County Mental Health Board, and Barlow Levold of the U of I Foundation.
 - **9th Annual Feminist Film Festival:** The Public Arts Coordinator was a selected judge for the 9th Annual Feminist Film Festival on campus and participated in a judges screening that selected 8 locally-made short films for screening during the festival. During the festival, which took place on April 25th, the Public Arts Coordinator was a featured speaker on a panel about art and civic engagement.
- **Volunteer/Internship Update:** The Urbana Public Arts Program has enjoyed a regular partnership with the University of Illinois' Community Learning Lab (CLL) to support our programs with short-term internships with University of Illinois students for class credit. This semester's intern, Maddy Talbert, completed her internship on Friday, May 4th.

The Urbana Public Arts Program is seeking a summer intern through CLL during summer session I and II to assist with social media marketing and event coordination. Additionally, the program continues to seek new volunteers.

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.

- **#ArtinUrbana Campaign:** The Urbana Public Arts Program #ArtinUrbana continues to seek submissions. Instagram users are invited to tag photos of local Urbana creativity.