



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report 2nd Tuesday of the Month– October 10th, 2017

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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 which are in progress, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

Updates on Current Projects

- **Staff Update:** UPA Interns, Lillian Meng and Morgan White, completed their internships on September 29th, 2017. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our Intern Celebration honoring their work. The Public Arts Program welcomed Samantha Schrage, who will be completing an internship with us through the Community Learning Lab (CLL) through the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois. Through the CLL, the internship is of no cost to the City and Samantha receives class credit for her work. She is a sophomore majoring in Journalism and minoring in Public Relations and Business. She will assist us with marketing and events support.
- **Arts in Schools** applications closed on October 6th, 2017. Arts in the Schools is a project-based education grant program aimed to advance art opportunities for students in Urbana schools, in which up to \$3,000 is available to support art projects. The jury will meet soon to determine this year's awardees.
- **Murals on Glass:** Applications closed on September 29th, 2017. We received a total of 21 submissions. The jury met on October 9th, 2017 to make selections. We will soon release the names of those selected. The City of Urbana Public Arts Commission and Urbana Business Association invite artists residing in Champaign County to participate in the fourth cycle of Murals on Glass, an initiative to feature local artworks on downtown Urbana windows. This cycle, two selected pieces will be reproduced in adhesive vinyl and adhered to the front windows of our very own City of Urbana building and the front windows of the Phillips Recreation Center.
- **Urbana Art Expo:** Applications are now being accepted for exhibiting artists to display their work at the 2017 Urbana Arts Expo, a juried fine arts exhibition and sale that will take place on November 19th, 2017 from 10am-5pm at the Urbana Civic Center. Applications were due Monday, October 9th, 2017. We have extended the deadline to October 16th, 2017.
- **Art Now:** October's edition of Art Now features local artist Paula McCarty. Episodes are aired on UPTV 6 every Monday at 6:30 pm, with reruns every Tuesday at 11:00 pm,

and are available on YouTube. See more of Paula's work at www.paulamccarty.com. View her episode [here](#) on UPTV6's YouTube channel.

- **Art at the Market:** Our October 14th Art at the Market will feature a performance from the Capoeira Angola Center and a pop-up print shop with UIUC Noble Print Club.

We are also developing a potential partnership with the Urbana Business Association to provide an "Art IN the Market" event or event series for the indoor market.

- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current exhibition, *TEXTILES*, features textile work from Lara Orr and Jill Miller (joint exhibition) and will be on display from October through December. The Opening Reception was well-attended and the artists were interviewed for UPTV. There will be an *Artist's Talk* in the Urbana Free Library's Auditorium on December 6th, 2017 from 7pm-8pm. The event will feature a short talk, Q & A, refreshments, and concurrent arts activities for families in attendance.
- **Social Media Engagement:** The Facebook page has increased in followers by 17 since our last monthly report, for a total of 1,602. The Twitter page has increased by 14 for a total of 1,978 followers. The Instagram page has increased by 13 for a total of 552 followers.
- **#ArtinUrbana Campaign:** The Urbana Public Arts Program launched a campaign on Instagram under the hashtag #ArtinUrbana inviting followers to tag photos of local Urbana creativity. We've included two images in the September and October newsletters.
- **Development Efforts:** We continue to seek funding and in-kind support for the Urbana Public Arts Program. UPA staff are seeking recommendations for sponsorships and donor connections for the program. The Public Arts Program is seeking financial sponsorship from local organizations and businesses to support the 3rd Annual Urbana Art Expo. Common Ground Food Co-Op has agreed to supply food as an in-kind sponsor for exhibitors during the Expo on November 19th, 2017.
- **Volunteer Program Initiative:** The Public Arts Program is working to initiate a new volunteer program for local people eager to support the arts. UPA, UPTV, U-Cycle, and the Market at the Square recruited volunteers at the [Community Service & Volunteer Fair](#) sponsored by the Office of Volunteer Programs at the University of Illinois on September 19th from 10:30am-1:30pm at the Illini Union. Staff recruited 13 new volunteers through that effort.
- **Dennis H. May Conference:** Public Arts Coordinator, Rachel Storm, co-presented with Open Scene artist and Director of Inner Voices Social Issues Theater, Lisa Fay, at the Dennis H. May Conference on Diversity at the University of Illinois on September 24th, 2017 in a session titled "Arts in the Community: Arts Based Outreach as Avenue for Wellness." In addition to offering insights into the value of public art, Rachel and Lisa discussed resources available to people in Urbana-Champaign, including Urbana Public Arts programs, grants, and services.