



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

### Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month– October 13th, 2020

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#### 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.

#### COVID-19 Crisis Impact

- **Suspension of Programs/Events:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program is continuing to suspend the majority of in-person events and programs in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Staff are following guidelines set forth in the Illinois Five-Phase Reopening Plan and consulting public health guidance. Some events are being held virtually and Urbana Arts and Culture staff are working to share relief program information, resources for local artists, and continue various initiatives.
- **Staffing Changes & Accommodations:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program staff continue to work from home with minor visits to the office as needed. Arts & Culture. One college student is completing a James Scholar Project with the Urbana Arts and Culture Program focusing on building programs for artists and audiences with disabilities and/or neurodivergence. Staff were recently made aware of the cessation of the CARE4U Program and will not receive future students until alternative funding can be secured. The office will receive additional interns through the CLL program and a high school student through the USD #116 Executive Internship come spring.

#### Updates on Current Projects

- **Urbana Arts Grants:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program awarded \$88,000 to artists, arts organizations, and festival presenters for 38 creative projects that enrich the lives of Urbana residents and visitors in the 2020 cycle. Grantees continue to work with the Urbana Arts and Culture Coordinator to address planning issues arising from COVID-19. The 2021 Urbana Arts Grant cycle is now accepting applications and up to \$90,000 is available in grant funding to artists and art organizations.
- **Deadlines:**
  - Applications for Tier III Grants are due Friday, November 6th, 2020 @ 5pm CST
  - Applications for Tier I, II, and Arts in the Schools Grants are due Wednesday, January 13th, 2021 @ 5pm CST

- City staff of the Urbana Arts and Culture Program continue to offer informational workshops to those interested in learning about this funding opportunity. Workshops are designed to give applicants opportunities to explore the grant application, best practices for grant writing, and an overview of the application process. Staff will also share information about other opportunities within the City of Urbana's Arts and Culture Program. All workshops are free and open to the public. Please note: the same information will be given at each workshop.

### **Urbana Arts Grant Workshop Schedule**

#### **Tier III Grants**

Thurs. Oct. 22nd, 2020 1pm - 2pm\* (Updated 10/12/2020)

ZOOM Webinar (ID: 930 8271 1606)

\*Please RSVP for this webinar by emailing [artsgrant@urbanaillinois.us](mailto:artsgrant@urbanaillinois.us)

#### **Tier I & II Grants**

Thurs. Nov. 12th, 2020 12pm - 1pm

Salt and Light, 1819 Philo Rd. Urbana

\*You must pre-register to attend this event here, if there are no pre-registered attendees, the workshop will be canceled.

A video of the Arts Grants Workshop, hosted by the Arts and Culture Coordinator, will be available for viewing after November 12th, 2020.

In addition, staff will be offering "Drop-in Grant Hours" where applicants are invited to ask individual questions and get feedback on their grant applications.

### **Drop-in Grant Hours**

Dec. 3rd and 4th via ZOOM, 10am - 12pm and 1pm - 3pm\*

Jan. 7th and 9th via ZOOM, 10am - 12pm and 1pm - 3pm\*

\*Grant applicants can sign up for a 15 minute time-slot to clarify individual grant questions.

- **The Great ARTdoors:** The Great ARTdoors, a new collaboration between the Spurlock Museum, the Urbana Park District, the Champaign Park District, the Urbana Arts and Culture Program, and 40 North, awarded 10 selected local artists stipends to create outdoor art installations in several Champaign and Urbana parks and community gardens. The full list of selected artists and installed works are as follows:

Barry Abrams | *Tensegrity* | MLK Trail | Champaign

EKAH | *Points of View* | Lierman Neighborhood Community Garden | Urbana

Greg Stallmeyer | *Rainbow Connection* | Kaufman Lake | Champaign

Ja Nelle Pleasure | *Seeds of Injustice* | Randolph Street Community Gardens | Champaign

Keenan Dailey | *Unchained* | Douglass Park | Champaign

Kinsey Fitzgerald | *Mother & Child* | Chief Shemauger Park | Urbana

Lisa Kelser | *Prairie Dance* | Sunset Ridge Park | Champaign

Michael Darin | *Catapult Earth* | Anita Purves Nature Center | Urbana

Nathan Westerman | *Transfiguration* | Victory Park | Urbana

Sierra Murphy | *Bread and Roses* | South Ridge Park | Urbana

Another element of the Great ARTdoors is the outdoor community gallery. Community members are encouraged to be creative by transforming their windows, balconies, porches, yards, and neighborhoods into art. This outdoor gallery inspires neighbors to further explore their neighborhoods while maintaining social distancing guidelines. Share images on all social media platforms using hashtag #cuARTdoors

- **Art Inspired in Urbana Highlights:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program and The Urbana Free Library are collaborating to produce weekly highlights of local artists on social media. Each post includes a digital image of their artwork, a portrait, a comment from the artist, and weblinks to purchasing the artist's work. Posts appear Mondays on social media.
- **Urbana's Inaugural Poet Laureate, Will Reger:** The City of Urbana's inaugural Poet Laureate, Will Reger, will complete his tenure as Poet Laureate at the end of October. The search for the next Urbana Poet Laureate is currently underway. Our inaugural Poet Laureate has had a long and notable list of laureate accomplishments, including:
  - Listening Session & Survey
  - Various Civic Engagements
    - Led poetry workshops & events at Urbana School District #116, Urbana Free Library, Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center, Teen Open Lab, Young Artist's Studio, and Analog Wine Library, among others
    - Completed school & student engagements at Urbana High School, Urbana Middle School, Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center, St. Joseph Elementary School, and Tuscola High School
    - Serves as a featured poet or invited presenter at Spurlock Museum of World Cultures, Pygmalion Poetry Marathon (2019) & Pygmalion Virtual Literary Festival (2020), Poetry Out Loud (guest judge), HER Creative Collective's Poetic Art, & Allerton Retreat Center's Virtual Poetree Hike & Literary Open Mic, Writers of Oya, Common Ground Food Co-Op *Crows on a Line* Book Release, Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center's Sounds Like Community, Urbana's Downtown Get Down, Normal Public Library, Krannert Uncorked at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana Jazz Festival, Urbana Pops Orchestra, and Poets at the Post.
    - Developed curriculum for teen poetry workshop, youth poetry workshop, and poetry workshop for veterans
  - *The Poet Laureate's Showcase of Local Poets*
  - *Laureate Likes* Digital Poem Display
  - *Book Release and Reading for Petroglyphs*
  - *Poets on a Park Bench/Poets in a Pandemic Video Series*
  - *Haiku from Home*
  - *Urbana Poetry Pros(e) Summer Initiative*
  - *Postcard Poetry Project*
  - *Poems on Glass* (companion to Murals on Glass)
  - *Request-A-Poem* from Poet Laureate, Will Reger
  - *Writing Urbana* Poem and Presentation to Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin

Will Reger also published his first full-length book of poetry, *Petroglyphs*, during his time as Poet Laureate and will publish his second, *Kaleidoscope*, before the year is over.

- **Young Artist's Studio:** In collaboration with The Urbana Free Library, the Urbana Arts and Culture Program will now be offering Young Artist's Studio workshops virtually using Zoom. Participants are asked to register on The Urbana Free Library's website to obtain the link and password. The next workshop features Kids Learn to DJ! with Janaea Modest/DJ Silkee, on Sunday, October 18th, 2020. All upcoming Young Artist's Studio workshops will take place virtually until further notice.
- **Artists Reimagine the World Youth Exhibition:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program collaborated with Chabnamoms, Krannert Art Museum, KOOP Adventure Play, and Museum of the Grand Prairie are joining together with community groups and youth organizations to organize another youth exhibition, inviting teen artists to lend their creative work towards visualizing a world without systemic racism and other 'isms that centers peace, justice, and unity. While this initiative is still in development, exhibition opportunities will include digital display, public access TV, and in-person gallery/museum exhibitions. Planning is still underway and dates are forthcoming.
- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** The City of Urbana Arts & Culture Program collaborates with Public Art League to select sculptures for placement in the City of Urbana. Public Art League unveiled their Class of 2020 Sculptures approved by the jury for placement and Urbana Arts and Culture Commissioners voted for their favorites. The 2020 selection will be confirmed and placed within Downtown Urbana.
- **Art for Nourishment Program:** Urbana Arts and Culture Program is partnering with local food distribution programs to present Art for Nourishment, a program to share the creative work of local artists in the spirit of cultivating community and connection. The artworks of 10 selected local artists will be featured on a 5x7 prints distributed in meal kits for 30 local families each served by volunteer food distribution programs in Urbana. A total of 300 local families will receive an art print. Art for Nourishment is organized by the Urbana Arts and Culture Program in collaboration with the following local mutual aid food distribution efforts: Bucket Brigade, Silver Hearts, and The Tiger Market of Urbana School District #116.
- **Mural Unveiling for 123 Main St.:** Urbana Arts Grant-sponsored Vibrant Public Mural by Carlie Upchurch was recently unveiled at 123 W. Main St. in Downtown Urbana. The small ribbon-cutting and unveiling was attended by members of the Urbana Arts and Culture Commission, City of Urbana staff, Urbana Business Association staff, property owner Mike Hosier, Urbana Public Television, and artist Carlie Upchurch and her family. A video of the unveiling is airing on UPTV6 and online.
- **Recent Presentations & Community Engagements:**
  - **CU Theatre Community Town Hall on Anti-racism, Diversity, & Inclusion,** Sun. Sept. 27th, 2020, 7pm-9pm, Hosted by Station Theater
  - **Artist Seitu Jones Community Town Hall,** Mon. Oct. 26th, 2020, 5:30pm-7:30pm, Hosted by the Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois
- **COVID-19 Relief for Individual Artists & Arts and Cultural Organizations:** The City of Urbana Arts & Culture Coordinator has been in close communication with the local arts and culture community to promote various relief programs and upcoming grant deadlines. There is a comprehensive listing of individual artist grants nationwide on the Americans for the Arts website here: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-topic/disaster-preparedness/coronavirus-covid-19-resource-and-response-center> The Americans for the Arts Relief Guide is an excellent resource detailing COVID-19 resources here: [shorturl.at/iwCDP](http://shorturl.at/iwCDP).