



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report December 4, 2014 – January 8, 2015

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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 process, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

Updates on Current Projects

- **Urbana Arts Grants Program:** Three grant workshops were conducted in December with good attendance levels. Furthermore, the grant program is promoted through print and online advertising, social media posts, and e-mail blasts. The application deadline is January 16, after which staff will invite qualified professionals in the community to serve as members of the jury. They will meet on February 14 and 21, 2015 to review applications, and winners will be notified in March. Staff is planning an event in April to celebrate the cycle's grantees.
- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** Staff is working with city planners and a designer to create a marketing brochure highlighting sculptures in Urbana. This brochure will be distributed in early March.
- **Marketing:** Staff is regularly updating the Facebook and Twitter accounts, which keep growing with 766 fans and 1,261 followers now, respectively. The Program's Instagram account has 15 followers.
- **Fundraising:** Staff invited subscribers of the e-newsletter to donate to the program but has not yet received responses.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current exhibition, which ends on February 1, 2015, features the watercolors of Carol Diss Farnum. February 2 is the start date of the next exhibition, which will feature works by students from Wiley Elementary School. Staff is waiting for the Urbana Free Library to approve the loan agreement, and is expecting the February exhibition to include the new space at the library.
- **Art Now!:** The December episode premiered on December 1, and introduced viewers to Christiane T. Martens and her sculptures. This January, Art Now! features Harry Breen, painter and sculptor. See episodes at: <http://www.urbanailinois.us/artnow>.

- **Art in the Schools:** Rusty Clevenger from Prairie Elementary School presented his proposal at the December 9 meeting, and was awarded the \$3,000 grant. The project, *Generations of Traditions and Stories*, starts this Spring semester.
- **Boneyard Commemoration Event:** Staff is currently planning an event at Boneyard, which will be on April 11, 2015. This event will have performances, activities for kids, an arts exhibition by Boneyard Arts Festival, and food trucks. Staff is creating guidelines for two calls for artists. One is to find a street artist who will fill a blank wall under the bridge with a mural, and the other is to select artworks to be displayed on banners surrounding the site. Staff is also organizing a naming contest for the public, which will be juried by a small group of leaders in the community, and then opened to the public for a final vote.