



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report December 1st – December 31st, 2008

Prepared by Anna Hochhalter, 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 which are in process, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

On-going Projects in Process

- Art in Infrastructure Projects:
 - Philo Road Beautification Project—staff is beginning to meet with property owners
 - Cunningham Avenue Beautification Study
 - Boneyard Creek Master Plan
 - Downtown Newspaper Rack Design Project
- Projects with Partners:
 - Krannert Center District
 - Boneyard Arts Festival
 - Joseph W. Royer Arts and Architecture District
- Gallery District Incentive Program

Projects Pending Approval or in Development

- Art in Public Places Kickoff Project—pending NEA grant approval
- City Hall Art Exhibition Space Program—proposal in process
- UPArts Grant Program—proposal in process and pending
- UPTV bi-monthly programming featuring local artists—in development
- The Arts at the Market, monthly workshops and information focused on various art forms at the Market at the Square between May 2009 – November 2009.

Requests and Recommendations from the Public

- Ms. Anna Epelbaum requests help in promoting her books and CDs to local customers. Attached (Exhibit A) are a series of emails describing her request.
- Mr. Seth Fein, on behalf of the Pygmalion Music Festival, requests funding support for the 5th annual festival which will take place in Urbana in September 2009. Attached (Exhibit B) is a letter of request.
- Ms. Ellen Elrick, Instrumental Music Educator for the Urbana School District #116, introduced the Evelyn Burnett Underwood Instrumental Music Assistance Program (EBU) as a potential program to receive funding. Attached (Exhibit C) is a letter and information regarding the EBU.

Staff Activities

- Urbana Public Arts Commission meeting items research and preparation
- Facilitation and Coordination of the Boneyard Arts Festival Urbana Committee Meetings

Meetings Attended:

Goose Plaque discussion with George Boyd, December 3rd

Urbana 175th Celebration Planning Meeting, December 5th

Meeting with Urbana Park District, December 10th

40 North Board of Directors Meeting, December 10th

Boneyard Arts Festival Urbana Committee, December 15th

Boneyard Arts Festival Orientation and Mixer, December 17th

From: anna epelbaum [mailto:author0072002@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2008 4:33 PM
To: Hochhalter, Anna
Subject: Re: Urbana Public Arts Commission Agenda

Dear Ms. Hochhalter:

I would be very grateful , if your establishment help me to promote my books and CD-s to local customers. I have mentioned it a number of times already in our communications, but I can add to what has been already previously discussed that I can make a kind of official contract , giving up on behalf of Urbana council a percentage of proceedings from sales of my CD-s and books.

I need help with advertising, I can't afford to pay for regular advertising, and I think it would be a fair and possible for me way to reimburse Urbana local government , if they can help me with this issue and its derivatives. If interested, get back to me fast. Please, get back to me in any occasion to explain what the Urbana council opinion of my offer is.

Respectfully,

Anna V. Epelbaum

From: Hochhalter, Anna <alhochhalter@city.urbana.il.us>
Subject: RE: Urbana Public Arts Commission Agenda
To: author0072002@yahoo.com
Date: Monday, December 15, 2008, 1:21 PM

Dear Ms. Epelbaum,

I was out of the office on Thursday and Friday and am just now able to respond to your email.

I will communicate your request for help with advertising to the Public Arts Commission. Before they are able to make a decision, they will need to know specifically what kind of advertising you are seeking. Would you be able to provide more information in this regard?

The Commission will hold its next regular meeting on January 13th. I will include your request for their consideration in the packet for this meeting. I do not think that I will be able to provide an answer to you before this date.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Sincerely,

Anna

Anna Hochhalter

Public Arts Coordinator

City of Urbana

Community Development Services

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From: anna epelbaum [mailto:author0072002@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 2:02 PM
To: Hochhalter, Anna
Subject: RE: Urbana Public Arts Commission Agenda

Dear Anna:

I have a number of books and CD-s on the market, as I have informed you already before. I am interested to make them known locally. A number of my books are available in Urbana Free Library. But they refused to have my CD-s, though I even offered them to have a couple even free because they (CD-s) are illustration to my books there- It Is Very Hard to find Prophet on Earth and Declaration of Love. I have a number of CD-s recorded. They exhibit, I think, a beautiful music.

Unfortunately, I can use only computer accompaniment. It is very rich and highly elaborated in my case, but I still think that people are not accustomed to listen to live singers with accompaniment of computer(s). So, I would like to have my already recorded CD-s advertised.

If you enter my name Anna Epelbaum into the search engine of www.amazon.com, all my already on the market issues would come up. I think that CD-s, if advertised properly, could be sold widely. www.amazon.com does not have previews, but www.lulu.com does. If you enter the same way my name into the search engine of www.lulu.com, some latest CD-s would also come up. You, or anybody else, could listen there to previews of my CD-s. Once again, I think that they have potential to be widely sold.

Anna.

Pygmalion Music Festival 2009

September 16 – 19, 2009.

Dear Anna,

Pygmalion enters its fifth year in 2009, with expanded programming and promotion both locally and nationally. In the first four years, the festival has established itself as a destination for lovers of independent rock and hip-hop in the Midwest, and beyond, with festival attendees flying in from as far away as Japan and France.

Pygmalion has been recognized internationally by a multitude of press outlets from the NY Times, The Chicago Tribune, Rolling Stone, Pitchfork Media and more.

Major partnerships with Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Krannert Art Museum, Polyvinyl Records, Canopy Club and Urban Outfitters have helped furnish a good majority of funding, but the festival continues to be in need of more sponsorship and donations to sustain and grow.

The music festival takes place almost exclusively in Urbana in the newly formed Krannert Center District at Goodwin and Oregon.

I will be out of town on medical leave until January 12, 2009 and would like to attend the second meeting on January 13, 2009. Please submit this to the board for consideration.

Thanks very much for your attention to this Anna.

Best,

Seth Fein

President

The Nicodemus Agency

To: Urbana Public Arts Commission
Re: Evelyn Burnett Underwood Instrumental Music Assistance Program
"EBU" Program
January 5, 2009

To the Commission:

It has come to my attention that the commission is interested in providing funding for programs and projects in the Arts in Urbana. I would like to introduce the Urbana School District's Evelyn Burnett Underwood Instrumental Music Assistance Program ("EBU" Program) both for your information, and for your consideration for funding.

The EBU program began in 1994 and has assisted nearly 500 low-income and minority students in grades 5-12 to date. The program provides musical instruments to low income and minority students who desire to participate in the instrumental music programs in the Urbana schools. It exists so that all students have access to instrumental music classes regardless of socioeconomic status.

The requests for assistance continue to grow in number. At the same time, the costs for repair and replacement of instruments grow. Additional educational needs for continuing students grow. Funding from USD 116 is, of necessity, limited. The community's children and the community's schools would benefit from a UPAC contribution to the EBU program.

I am including some background information regarding the program as well as itemizing continuing needs for effective implementation. In addition, I would be available to meet with you to further describe the goals and directions of the program as well as possible ways to help.

Thank you for considering this program for UPAC funding.

Sincerely,

Ellen Elrick

EBU Program Coordinator
Instrumental Music Educator
Urbana School District #116
eelrick@usd116.org

Tel. 217-384-3685 (school), 217-359-8098 (h)

Evelyn Burnett Underwood Instrumental Music Assistance Program Background

The Evelyn Burnett Underwood (EBU) program provides instruments to low income and minority students so they can participate in band and orchestra in the Urbana schools. Since 1994 the program has assisted nearly 500 students.

As a result of this program the students are part of music organizations in which they are able to:

- experience the benefits of advancing skills and understanding in music.
- show positive leadership in band and orchestra settings
- experience the accomplishment that gives confidence in one's ability to achieve goals
- feel a sense of belonging to a group as a valued member
- continue to choose to enroll in music classes through high school in order to gain the benefits of an arts education

This year 103 EBU students are using the full inventory of school instruments. In addition, Junior League of C-U is providing instruments for another 25.

Nearly 40% of our instrumental music students are low income. Of these, just over half are receiving assistance from the EBU program.

District funding specifically for EBU program: \$1500 This amount is no longer a sufficient amount for the size of the program. EBU funds have been used to repair instruments from the EBU instrument inventory, make limited additional purchases as well as to provide some supplies.

Systematic replacement program. A replacement program for instruments is a real necessity. Maintaining an inventory of usable instruments is a major concern. Some become unusable and unfixable and must be removed from service. Others are donated but need considerable repair for initial use.

Instrument life. Newly acquired instruments have a long life with the Urbana schools. They will be used from 15 to 20 years at minimum. Each investment is long lasting.

Collaboration:

Junior League scholarship program. Junior League is paying for 25 students' instruments and supplies. This is the 8th year of this extremely helpful program.

Urbana Alumni Association. From 2007-2009, we received \$3000 in grants to pay for a new instrument and many instrument repairs.

Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation. Financial support for educational goals:

- \$4000 Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation grant awarded for 2008-2009 to implement an achievement program within instrumental classes for our low-income and minority students at the middle school.
- \$800 In Kind grant from Mo' Betta' Music to include jazz instruction for those involved in the jazz program.

(This grant is a collaboration between Urbana School District 116, the EBU Program, and the U. of I. African American Cultural Center's outreach program, "Mo' Betta' Music".)

Request for Support from the Urbana Public Arts Commission

I. Instrument replacement/repair

Description of project: Replace aging, worn instruments; repair constantly used instruments to support our increasing numbers of low income students participating in instrumental music. We have a continuing and constant need for replacement and repair to give access to all students.

Budget: \$9310 or any portion thereof, to help maintain an inventory for over 100 students

\$ 1180	4 flutes @ \$ 295 (discounted from \$885 per instrument at The Music Shoppe)
1050	3 trombones @ 350 (discounted from \$830 per instrument at The Music Shoppe)
1400	4 trumpets @ 350 (discounted from \$830 per instrument at The Music Shoppe)
1000	4 violins @ 250 (Music Shoppe price)
1180	4 violas @ 295 (Music Shoppe price)
1500	2 cellos @ 750 (Music Shoppe price)
2000	Repairs to 15-20 instruments
\$9310	Total.

I have no idea of the level of funding provided by UPAC. Any amount would be deeply appreciated and well used.

II. Educational support (small group lessons + performance workshops)

For year 2009-2010 we will be looking for ways to continue the achievement program initiated this year with a CUSF \$4000 grant. The educational structure of the grant provides selected low- income students weekly small group lessons with a specialist as well as guest performance workshops for the entire music ensemble. If this is of interest to UPAC, we can provide more details. The CUSF grant will end in June.

Thank you again for considering being a funding partner for the Evelyn Burnett Underwood Instrumental Music Assistance Program.

Ellen Elrick, EBU Program Coordinator
Instrumental Music Educator Urbana School District #116
eelrick@usd116.org
Tel. 217-384-3685 (school), 217-359-8098 (h)