



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report January 1st – January 31st, 2009

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:
 - Iron Post Sculpture Project, update attached (Exhibit A)
 - Philo Road Beautification Project
 - 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 in Development

- Art in Public Places Kickoff Project—pending NEA grant approval
- City Hall Art Exhibition Space Program—staff met with the City Public Facilities Manager and is developing guidelines for the program
- UPArts Grant Program—proposal in process, see Grant program MEMO
- UPTV bi-monthly programming featuring local artists—in development
- The Arts at the Market, workshops and information at the Market at the Square between May 2009 – November 2009, update attached (Exhibit B)
- Spring Lecture Series, update attached (Exhibit C)

Requests and Recommendations from the Public

- Blues, Brews, and BBQ Festival collaboration inquiry related to the participation of the Commission in coordinating an Arts Boulevard component of the Festival taking place downtown Urbana, June 26 – 27th, 2009.
- 40 North | 88 West Boneyard Arts Festival Sponsorship inquiry. The festival will take place in Champaign County, on April 16-19th, 2009. Downtown Urbana will be the focus area for Saturday, April 18th, 2009.

Iron Post Courtyard Sculpture Program Concept
February 4, 2009
-- DRAFT --

Sculptors will be invited to submit digital images of existing sculptural works to be considered for temporary placement (two years) in an open air setting in the recently renovated Iron Post Courtyard, downtown Urbana, on the corner of Race and Elm Street. An image of the location is shown below as Figure 1.



Figure 1. Proposed location for a two-year rotating sculpture installation in the Iron Post Courtyard. Sculpture will stand on a base in the area highlighted by a white box in the image.

This public art project will result in the installation and exhibition of a free-standing sculptural work of art for a period of two years at a highly visible outdoor courtyard in the heart of downtown, adjacent to the Iron Post Restaurant and Bar, a recognized venue for live music. The submitted artwork should touch upon the theme of music. Selected work will be exposed to the elements and must be able to withstand the normal wear and tear experienced by public art in an outdoor setting.

The work should explore or express a theme of music, for example the work could express the experience of music, history of music, and musical instruments in its design.

- The work should demonstrate high artistic quality;
- The work should be pedestrian-friendly with a streetscape orientation;
- The work should be of appropriate size and durability (e.g. a free-standing sculpture able to withstand elements and normal wear and tear). A concrete base will be provided. Size requirements will be determined with the Department of Public Works.

Fiscal Impact

The budget for this project is expected to be approximately \$3,000 (includes a \$2,000 24 month rental fee and up to \$1,000 for transportation, installation, decommissioning and removal. The 24 month rental will commence when the artist installs the sculptural work. The \$2,000 rental fee may be put toward the purchase of the sculpture, should the City decide to purchase the sculpture at the conclusion of the 24 month installation period. This cost will occur in the current fiscal year (FY 08-09).

Selection Process

A temporary selection panel will be created to review submissions and select the work for approval. The panel will be composed of professionals with experience and knowledge of the City of Urbana and the field of sculpture. A representative of the Iron Post will be invited to serve on the selection panel. The Urbana Public Arts Commission will review and approve the final recommendation from the Selection Panel.

Process Outline

1. Review by Streetscape Committee and other stakeholders
2. Distribute Call for Art
3. Create Temporary Selection Panel
4. Selection Panel review and recommend finalists
5. Public Arts Commission approve the selected piece
6. Finalize agreement between City and artist
7. Installation of Work of Art, June 2009
8. Event to publicly recognize the installation

Arts at the Market Program Concept Update
February 4, 2009

The Arts at the Market Program provides monthly workshops and informational opportunities free of charge and open to the public at the City of Urbana Market at the Square running every Saturday from May through November 2009.

Creative and educational programs will be offered at the City of Urbana tent at the Market at the Square between 8:00 AM and Noon, during the following dates in 2009:

- May 30th, 2009
- June 13th, 2009
- July 11th, 2009
- August 15th, 2009
- September 12th, 2009
- October 10th, 2009

Programming will include opportunities to explore a variety of media and themes. This Program is part of the Urbana Public Arts Program, providing opportunities for all residents to engage with the arts in its many forms. City staff will provide oversight of the events and tent. When possible, artists will be contracted to provide workshops.

Fiscal Impact

When the services of an artist are secured to facilitate a workshop, the estimated cost is between \$300 - \$400. When the City is providing educational information through the services of the Public Arts Coordinator and Public Arts Commission Members, the costs associated with staff time will be used for the program. Specific programming has not yet been established, however it can be expected that for the duration of the full season, the program expenses could range between \$900 - \$2,400, depending upon how many hands-on workshops are provided.

It should be noted that the Market season straddles both the current fiscal year and the upcoming fiscal year. The Arts at the Market programs in May and June will occur in FY 08-09. The programs in July, August, September, and October will be in FY 09-10.

Spring Lecture Series Update
February 4, 2009

The Spring Lecture Series of the Urbana Public Arts Program will provide an opportunity for artists and “non-artists” to engage in dialogue with professionals in the arts related to the cultural vibrancy of Urbana.

Panel discussions will be offered to the public at the Urbana Civic Center and will address a variety of areas in the arts and the role the arts play in people’s lives. Program dates have not yet been established. Program areas are under consideration and include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *From Urbana to the World:* a discussion with artists from Urbana who perform and displayed their work throughout the world
- *The Role of Arts Advocacy:* a discussion with leaders who advocate for the arts on local, state and national levels
- *Art and the Environment:* a discussion with artists relating to how they respond to the national sustainability movement
- *The Arts in Troubled Economic Times:* a discussion on the ways arts organizations and artists are influenced by current economic troubles and ways to respond
- *Churches and Arts:* a discussion on the role churches play in fostering the arts in people’s lives

Additional Areas to Consider

- Dates and times of events
- Range of topics
- Payment for speakers
- Refreshments
- Televising