

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

URBANA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

APPROVED

DATE: June 8, 2010

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: City Council Chambers, Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois

MEMBERS PRESENT: Geoffrey Bant, Robin Hall, Cheryl Hayden, Sarah Ross, Patricia Sammann, Mary-Ann Winkelmes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Lewis, Ilona Matkovszki

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Carrino, Economic Development Division Manager; Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator; Tony Weck, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Karen Vaccaro, Robert Quinlan, Joe Dingee, Brian Hagy, May Xiong, Aaron Burch, Caleb Curtiss, Nikki Kopmann, Kate Kuper, Andrea del Moral

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The Urbana Public Arts Commission was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Chair Robin Hall. Anna Hochhalter took roll and a quorum was declared present.

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA

Ms. Hochhalter noted that Kathryn Fitzgerald and Godron Kay, both of whom were scheduled to give Arts Grant recipient reports at this meeting, were unable to attend. Kate Kuper, who was not originally scheduled, was present at this meeting and would be able to present her Arts Grant recipient report to the Commission. Additionally, Ms. Hochhalter requested that item h. under the agenda heading of Communications (2010 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Andrea del Moral, AQUATOWN) be moved such that it take place before item f. under the same agenda heading (2010 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: May Kao Xiong, Asian American Cultural Center). There was no objection and the aforementioned agenda items were so moved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the April 13, 2010 meeting were reviewed by the Commission. With no changes proposed, Ms. Hayden made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Sammann seconded the motion. All Commission members present were in favor of approval and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

• **2009 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Karen Vaccaro**

Ms. Hochhalter introduced Karen Vaccaro, whose project, entitled “And I Remember” was funded in part by a 2009 grant from the Urbana Arts Grant Program. Ms. Vaccaro thanked the Commission for its support of her project and gave a brief report on the same. During the course of her report, Ms. Vaccaro outlined for the Commission specific items for which grant funds were used. At the conclusion of the report questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

• **2009 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Prompting Theater**

Ms. Hochhalter introduced Brian Hagy, director of the Prompting Theater. One of the Theater’s performances was funded in part by a grant from the Urbana Arts Grant Program. Mr. Hagy thanked the Commission for its support and gave a report on the Theater’s activities that were funded by the aforementioned grant. At the conclusion of the report questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

• **2009 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Aaron Burch, HOBART**

Ms. Hochhalter introduced Aaron Burch. Mr. Burch gave a brief report to the Commission on his project, entitled “HOBART”, which had been funded in part by a grant from the Urbana Arts Grant Program. Mr. Burch was accompanied by Caleb Curtiss and together, they provided information to the Commission on their project. At the conclusion of the report questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

• **2009 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Champaign Urbana Symphony Orchestra**

Mr. Hall introduced Joe Dingee of the Champaign Urbana Symphony Orchestra (CUSO). The CUSO’s annual project entitled, “Kinder Konzerts”, was funded for 2009 in part by a grant from the Urbana Arts Grant Program. Mr. Dingee gave a brief report to the Commission on the Kinder Konzerts project. At the conclusion of the report questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **2010 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Andrea del Moral, AQUATOWN**

Ms. Hochhalter introduced Andrea del Moral. Ms. Del Moral's project, entitled "AQUATOWN" was funded in part by a grant from the Urbana Arts Grant Program. Ms. Del Moral gave a brief report to the Commission on her project. At the conclusion of the report questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **2009 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: May Kao Xiong, Asian American Cultural Center**

Ms. Hochhalter introduced May Kao Xiong, a representative of the Asian American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois. Programming of the Center for 2009 was funded in part by a grant from the Urbana Arts Grant Program. Ms. Xiong gave a brief report to the Commission regarding the mission and programs of the Asian American Cultural Center, explaining what the Arts Grant helped to fund. At the conclusion of the report questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **2009 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Kate Kuper**

Ms. Hochhalter introduced Kate Kuper. Ms. Kuper's project, entitled (name of project) was funded in part by a grant from the Urbana Arts Grant Program. Ms. Kuper gave a brief report to the Commission regarding her project. At the conclusion of the report questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by Staff: Monthly Progress Report**

Ms. Hochhalter presented the City staff's monthly progress report to the Commission, outlining projects in process, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

For an update on current projects, she reported the following:

- The Gallery District Incentive Program was receiving continuing inquiries and business participation. Ms. Hochhalter noted that Art Gallery Bike Tour on June 5 included many of the galleries in downtown Urbana. A flier regarding the event was presented to the Commission.
- With regards to the Urbana Arts Grant Program, most of the 2009 projects were completed. Final reports were being received and reviewed by staff. Reports from Karen Vaccaro, the Asian American Cultural Center, and Kathryn Fitzgerald were presented to the Commission for review. Ms. Hochhalter noted that 2010 projects were underway and some were complete. She also noted that agreements are being finalized with grantees.
- With regards to the Arts Lecture Series, Ms. Hochhalter reported that the event entitled "ART WORK: A National Conversation about Art, Labor, and Economics" was held on May 1 at the Urbana Free Library auditorium. She noted that approximately 40

members of the public participated in the discussion about the state of the arts in Urbana as well as in the United States.

- Ms. Hochhalter reported that she had presented the Annual Public Arts Program review and proposed the fiscal year 2010-11 Program Plan to the Mayor and City Council on May 10. She noted that the proposed FY 2010-11 Program Plan was approved by the City Council on May 17.
- With regards to the Urbana Sculpture Project, Ms. Hochhalter reported that three sculptures had been successfully installed in May and June. Included were the following works of art which will be on display for a two-year period:
 - *Prism Arc VI* by Carl Billingsley, placed at the corner of Philo Road and Colorado Avenue
 - *Bench 9* by Barry Hehemann, placed on Green Street at Cedar Street, adjacent to the Urbana Free Library
 - *Landing* by Cecilia Lueza, placed on the corner of Philo Road and Florida Avenue
- With regards to the Art at the Market program, Ms. Hochhalter reported that the City had launched its first such workshop at the Market at the Square on May 29. She noted that this was the first in a series of monthly workshops to take place on the last Saturday of each month during the Market at the Square season. She further noted that the 2010 season would focus on issues related to “art and the environment”, and that artists to lead the workshops had been scheduled. Additional information on the program, she said, could be found on the City’s website.
- With regards to the UPTV Arts Program, it was reported that this project was being handled by the appropriate Commission subcommittee and City staff.
- With regards to the City Building Exhibit Space program, Ms. Hochhalter reported that a new Artist of the Corridor exhibit by artist Betsen Benjamin was installed on June 3 and would be on display until August 2. She noted that seven artists had submitted letters of interest along with images of their work, which were reviewed by Mayor Prussing. Due to the level of interest, the exhibit periods were changed from three months (quarterly) to a duration of two months so that more artwork could be displayed throughout the year. Ms. Hochhalter further noted that City staff was planning an opening reception for the new exhibit in June.
- With regards to the UPTV Arts Program, Ms. Hochhalter reported that the Commission's subcommittee for this program was working with UPTV staff in launching the program in June. Commissioner Sammann had scheduled interviews with three artists, the first of which would take place June 9 with artist Roger Blakley. Commissioner Ross had provided video templates for the show.
- With regards to Arts Program Grants, Ms. Hochhalter reported that City staff had submitted a grant to the Illinois Arts Council Program Grant program for general operating support.
- With regards to marketing, Ms. Hochhalter reported that the City of Urbana had recently launched its new website: www.urbanaininois.us. She noted that the direct link to the Public Arts Program was to be found at www.urbanaininois.us/arts. Further, she noted that staff regularly updates the Facebook page for the Public Arts Program, which as of the time of this meeting had 272 fans. She reported also that staff is updating the Arts Guide and Public Arts Program brochures.

For projects with partners, there was nothing to report at this meeting.

For upcoming events, Ms. Hochhalter reported the following:

- That the date for the next Public Arts Commission meeting was set for July 13, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There was no motion or second to the same for adjournment. With no further business, Mr. Hall declared the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Submitted,

Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator