



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report

March 1-31, 2011

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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.

Update on Current Projects

- The City of Urbana wish to thank Robin Hall for his service on the Public Arts Commission. We also wish to congratulate Commissioner Pat Samman on her new role as chair.
- **Urbana Arts Grants Program:** 2009 and 2010 projects are being completed and reported. Agreements are being signed for the 2011 projects.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** Cheri Manrique is the current Artist of the Corridor. Her work will be on display from April 4– May 31, with a reception from 4-5 PM on Tuesday, April 26.
- **Marketing:** Staff is regularly updating the Facebook page which has 349 fans and the @urbanapublicart Twitter which has 37 followers. The e-mail newsletter has 288 subscribers, with 5 new subscribers this month. The graphic design class of University of Illinois professors Jimmy Luu and Jennifer Gunji-Ballsrud will be finishing their Urbana Public Arts projects on April 8.
- **Grants:** Unfortunately, the submitted Statement of Interest for a National Endowment for the Arts Our Town grant to fund a mosaic or pathway project for the Boneyard Creek Beautification Project was not selected to move on to the next phase of the grants process. However, the research completed in writing this statement will be very helpful as the Boneyard Beautification subcommittee moves forward on public art components in this project.
- **Conferences:** Staff has submitted an application for an Emerging Leader scholarship to attend the 2011 Americans for the Arts Annual Convention in San Diego, CA from June 16-18. Awards will be announced on April 15, 2011. Staff also attended the 2011 Creative Chicago Expo on March 12, going to workshops on e-mail marketing, pitching stories to the media, and storefront art exhibitions.
- **Partnerships:** Staff met with Tim Bartlett, Superintendent of Operations and Planning for the Urbana Park District. The UPD is interested in collaborating with the Urbana Public Art Program and Commission to identify potential sites for public art in parks in Urbana.

Upcoming Events

- Public Arts Commission Meeting date: Tuesday, April 12, 4:30 PM in City Chambers.
- The 2011 One State Together in the Arts Conference, put on by the Illinois Arts Council and Arts Alliance Illinois, will be held in Bloomington-Normal on May 23 and 24. More information can be found at <http://onestateillinois.com/>.