

The Process



The traced mandala paintings canvases and blank canvases were placed on tables in front of Amara.

Setting Up



Paint, brushes, glitter and other supplies were provided for use, as well as sidewalk chalk for both little and very big kids to draw mandalas on the sidewalk.

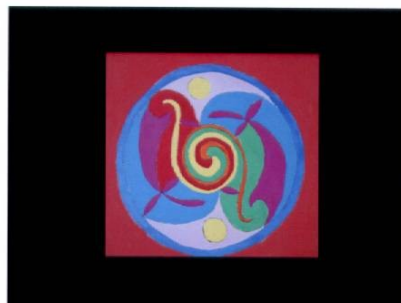
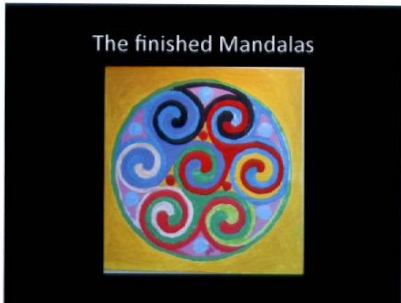
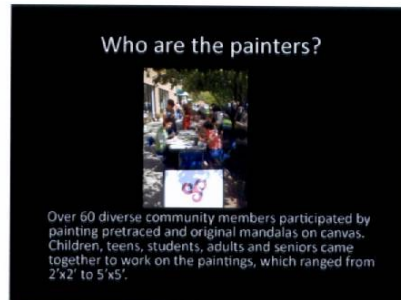
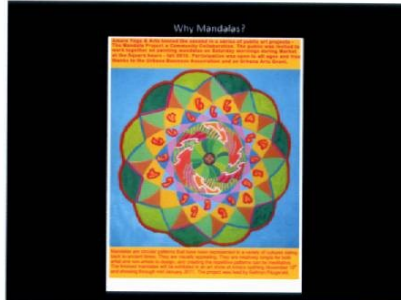


Many of the painters planned on participating, while many more simply happened upon the event and were invited to help paint.

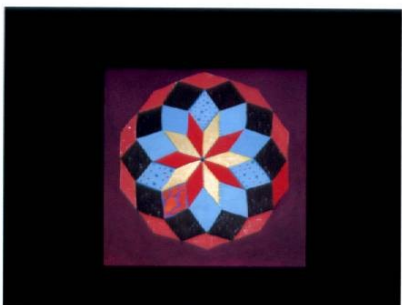


The atmosphere was informal, friendly and inviting – people of all ages and walks of life sat around tables painting and talking – making new friends while making art.









8/26/10

URBANA

Public arts program urges participation in 4 projects

By The News-Gazette

URBANA — The public is invited to participate in four projects funded by the city of Urbana Public Arts Program:

— A free workshop on painting with natural homemade paints, taught by Justine Bursoni, from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at the city of Urbana tent at the Market at the Square at Vine and Illinois streets, Urbana. The paints are made from materials such as tea, berries and cabbage. Participants do not need to register.

— The Mandala Project: A Community Collaboration, from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday and Sept. 4 and 11 on the sidewalk in front of Amara Yoga and Arts on the east side of Lincoln Square Village. Participation is open to all ages and is free.

— "BAG: a photographic installation," Sept. 1-29 at the Independent Media Center, 202 S. Broadway Ave., U. Photographer Ellie Brown's "BAG" explores the duality between the way people characterize themselves in public and the

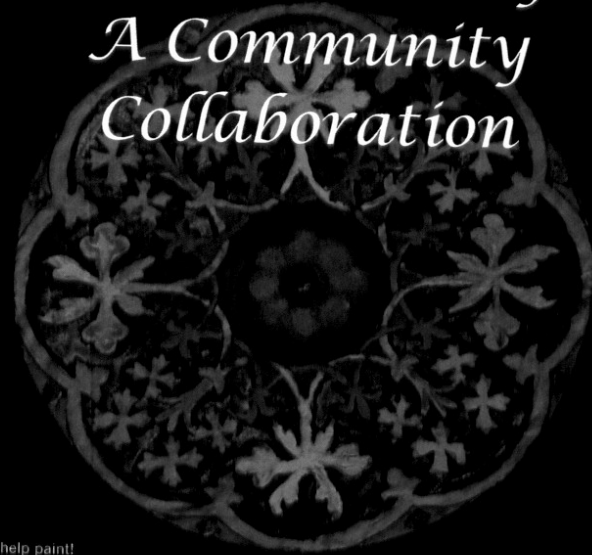
private contents of their handbags. Additional information is at <http://shows.ucimc.org/node/2454> and www.elliebrown.com.

— Celebrate Urbana People's History Poster Project illuminates the unsung stories of the community. The organizers want people to tell them what they think has made Urbana a better place by sending an e-mail to urbanapeopleshistory@gmail.com or visiting urbanapeopleshistory.wordpress.com.

The Celebrate Urbana People's History Project is a collective effort spearheaded by elizaBeth Simpson to identify overlooked citizens, groups and events that have made a significant contribution to the social well-being of the Urbana community. The project will publicize their impact via the design and distribution of artistic posters.

Organizers seek professional or informal artists and graphic designers to help design the posters. Small stipends are available for them.

The Mandala Project A Community Collaboration



Come help paint!
Mandalas are circular patterns that have been represented in a variety of cultures dating back to ancient times. They are visually appealing. They are relatively simple for both artist and non-artists to design, and creating the repetitive patterns can be meditative. The finished mandalas will be exhibited in an art show at Amara in November. These workshops will be lead by Kathryn Fitzgerald.

Saturdays - August 21st & 28th and September 4th & 11th
From 10am - 12 noon on the sidewalk in front of Amara

Free to the public thanks to the Urbana Business Association and an Urbana Arts Grant!

Amara Yoga & Arts, Urbana - Our outside entrance is on the Vine Street side of Lincoln Square, next to the Great Impasta. Parking is always FREE
Find us on facebook and online at www.amarayoga.com



AMARA
YOGA
&
ARTS

COMMUNITY CIRCLE

by Dan Korenevsky

Few things bring a community together like working toward a common goal. This Saturday, The Mandala Project invites the people of CU to come together and do something beautiful. Artists and non-artists — kids, adults and anyone in between — are welcome to help design and paint Mandalas this Saturday during Market at the Square in downtown Urbana. Even better, thanks to the Urbana Business Association and an Urbana Arts Grant, this opportunity is also completely free.

"The circle is just a simple, beautiful symbol that lends itself to many interpretations," said Kathryn Fitzgerald, Art Director at Amara Yoga and Arts.

Fitzgerald is organizer for this year's Community Art Collaboration. The Mandala Project. Sanskrit for "circle," mandalas are sacred to the Hindu and Buddhist religious traditions and have been created for thousands of years across the globe by people of all different ethnicities and beliefs.

"They are used in decorating, but also in religious things," said Shiv Kapoor, president of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Society in Champaign. "People use different symbols to represent different things." The meaning of a symbol can change depending on its place of origin, each symbol having its "own identity with the region it comes from."

Mandalas can also tell stories. Some believe the colors and shapes you choose to use in your own mandala can be a good indicator of your mood. Spiritually, they can express the beliefs of a culture.

"It's more like a meditative thing that you can just focus on," said Kapoor's wife Rashmi Kapoor. "[When creating them,] Buddhist monks follow a very religious, elaborate process, symbolizing the [creation] of the world."

Mandala Project brings artists new and old together

These popular and expressive symbols can be found in other cultures as well. Aztec calendars, Celtic spirals, stained glass windows found in European churches and even crop circles are all essentially different manifestations of the mandala.

"They are meditative to make and to view," said Fitzgerald when explaining the reason the mandalas were chosen as this year's project.

Though circular in shape and varied in design, mandalas are generally adorned with a repeating pattern and color scheme. The intricate and repetitive patterns are relatively simple for a participant of any skill level to design. Over 30 participants arrived to help paint six mandalas on the first Saturday gathering of the project.

"There were little kids, lots of students and artists from the community," said Fitzgerald when commenting on the diverse crowd.

The final goal of the project will be to create 10 large-scale mandalas; three of which are three to five square feet, six to eight of which will be on a small-

er scale. The completed pieces will be displayed at Amara in November and then in Lincoln Square Mall "as a celebration of community and creativity."

Make sure to stop by Amara Yoga and Arts this Saturday to make your mark in Urbana's latest symbol of community.



With smooth, patterned strokes, mandalas bring a feeling of peace and comfort.

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for adults and \$5 for children ages 6 to 10. Strollers are welcome.

streets was straight.

So, acting recommendation members voted regular meetings to remove the foot curved and replace it piece.

Water Director noted that 10 percent and 10 percent underground is not documented existing in 45 percent of the maintains below

"The new stuff documented," Superintendent 1 By new stuff from the 1950s with construction

AMARA YOGA & ARTS

Public invited to take part in art project

By The News-Gazette

URBANA — Amara Yoga & Arts invites the public to work together on murals on Saturday mornings, starting this Saturday, in its public art project, the "Mandala Project: A Community Collaboration."

Participation, during the nearby Market at the Square farmers' market, is open to all ages and is free; all art supplies are provided. People may drop by to paint at any time between 10 a.m. and noon, on the sidewalk in front of Amara, on Aug. 21, 28 and Sept. 4 and 11.

The project is funded by the Urbana Business Association and an Urbana Arts Grant.

Mandalas are circular patterns that have been represented in a variety of cultures dating back to ancient times. The finished community mandalas will be exhibited in an

art show at Amara in November. The project will be led by Kathryn Fitzgerald, art director of Amara Yoga & Arts, which is located on the east side of Lincoln Square Village.

More than 90 community members participated in the Puzzle Painting Project last year at Amara. Some of the 10 large-scale paintings, based on famous ones in art history, that they created collaboratively are now on display at Lincoln Square.

"I hope the Mandala Project is as successful as the Puzzle project," Fitzgerald said. "The work that emerges from the collaborative process is always surprisingly beautiful. These projects are an example of how when we work together as a creative community, we can make remarkable art — art that would not be possible to make alone."

PENELOPE BURK

Acclaim

By The News-Gazette

CHAMPAIGN — known modern-day author, researcher Penelope Burk will be in Champaign on Sept.

The East Central chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals