



## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### *Economic Development Division*

## **Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report April 1-30, 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**

- **Urbana Arts Grants Program:** 2009 and 2010 projects are being completed and reported. All 2011 agreements have been signed and grant projects are beginning.
- **Boneyard Creek Public Art:** Staff has drafted an RFQ which is currently under review by City staff, consultants, and the Boneyard Public Art subcommittee.
- **Downtown/Royer:** The Downtown/Royer subcommittee met on April 26 to discuss Councilman Dennis Roberts' April presentation to PAC about Royer district signage. City staff is following through consulting with Public Works on right-of-way locations and obtaining ballpark estimates from Selbert Perkins on several signage options.
- **Art at the Market:** Staff is currently scheduling artists to give six workshops during the 2011 Market at the Square Season. The 2011 theme is "Nontraditional Materials," to encourage the public to engage with unexpected materials in artistic ways.
- **Art Now!:** May's new episode is an interview with sculptor and UIUC professor Tammie Rubin.
- **Artist of the Corridor:** Cheri Manrique is the current Artist of the Corridor. Her work will be on display from April 4– May 31. The June-July Artist of the Corridor is Kathryn Fitzgerald..
- **Fundraising:** The Fundraising subcommittee met on April 13 to discuss next steps for Fundraising. City staff and the subcommittee recommend setting up a Friends of the Arts group, led by a dynamic, experienced individual who is involved in the arts and has fundraising contacts, and identifying specific projects for fundraising.
- **Marketing:** Staff is regularly updating the Facebook page which has 350 fans and the @urbanapublicart Twitter which has 45 followers. A monthly e-mail newsletter was sent to 288 subscribers on April 19. Staff attended the presentation of the UIUC graphic design class on strategic marketing of the Urbana Public Arts Program. Overall, the class' suggestions did not seem to be a good fit for the program's needs and staff is following City policies to explore hiring a graphic designer to produce much needed print materials.
- **Grants:** Staff has submitted an application for a Program Grant for General Operating Support from the Illinois Arts Council.
- **Conferences:** Staff has been awarded a registration fee scholarship to attend the 2011 Americans for the Arts Annual Convention in San Diego, CA from June 16-18. For more about the conference, visit: <http://convention.artsusa.org/>. Staff will also be attending the 2011 One State Together in the Arts Conference in Bloomington-Normal on May 23 and 24.
- **Partnerships:** After consulting with Public Works, staff is moving forward with a collaborative project with Urbana Park District interns to identify potential sites for public art in parks in Urbana.

**Upcoming Events**

- Public Arts Commission Meeting: Tuesday, May 10, 4:30 PM in the City Chambers.
- Next month's meeting: June 14, 4:30 PM in the City Chambers.