

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

**URBANA PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION**

**APPROVED**

**DATE:** June 12, 2012

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.

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

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gregory Chew, Barbara Hedlund, Ilona Matkovszki, Patricia Sammann, Virginia Waaler,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Lewis

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Mary-Ann Winkelmes

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Carrino, Economic Development Division Manager; Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator; Sukiya J. Robinson, Recording Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Glassman, Philip Hartigan, Brenda Koenig, Sheri Langendorf, Erik Lund, Kelly White

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

The Urbana Public Arts Commission was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Ms. Sammann. Christina McClelland took roll and there were initially not enough Commissioners to make a quorum. However, as the meeting progressed, two more Commissioners arrived and a quorum was met.

**2. CHANGES TO AGENDA**

There were none.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was no quorum at the time of this agenda item, so the minutes of the April 10, 2012 meeting will be presented for approval at the next scheduled meeting.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

There was none.

## 5. COMMUNICATIONS

- **Presentation by 2011 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Philip Hartigan**

Ms. Sammann introduced Artist Philip Hartigan who joined the meeting via Skype. Mr. Hartigan gave a brief report on his project titled, "In Urbana, I..." in which he asked people in the community to complete the phrase on a white board as he took their photograph. He compiled over 100 pictures and put them in a public presentation that formed a collage of the community's response. Mr. Hartigan then put the collage of pictures on the sides of a 7 ft. box which was installed for display in the Urbana Free Library and is still there. He also created books with the photographs. Mr. Hartigan thanked the Commission for the grant received. At the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by 2011 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Read Across America**

Ms. Sammann introduced Sheri Langendorf, Co-chair of Read Across America Planning Committee along with another Committee member. Ms. Langendorf gave a slide-show presentation of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Education Association Read Across America Day, held at Lincoln Square Mall that featured 30 hands-on literacy related activities. Celebrity greeters, rotary members, and professional storytellers participated in the event in which over 1000 children and families attended. They thanked the Commission for the grant received. At the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by 2011 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: CU Folk & Roots Festival**

Ms. Sammann introduced Brenda Koenig and Jeff Salvatore, members of the CU Folk & Roots Festival Board of Directors. Ms. Koenig expressed her gratitude for the grant received. They gave a slide-show presentation on this event that took place in downtown Urbana over 3 days, and included over 39 free workshops and hands-on activities related to folk music, dance, and spoken word. At the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by 2011 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient Report: Compost Q**

Ms. Sammann introduced Erik Lund, University of Illinois Professor and Musician. Mr. Lund provided background and a slide-show presentation on his 7 member music and dance group called Compost Q. For this project, the group performed concerts for a total of 550-600 people at Yankee Ridge School, Leal School, Urbana High School, Urbana Free Library, and the IMC. At the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

- **Presentation by 2011 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient: 40 North | 88 West**

Ms. Sammann introduced Kelly White, Executive Director of 40 North | 88 West. Ms. White gave a brief slideshow presentation on the Boneyard Arts Festival, an annual arts event that links businesses with artists for exhibitions and takes place over 4 days. This was the festival's 10<sup>th</sup> year. She thanked the Commission for the grant received.

- **Presentation by 2012 Urbana Arts Grant Recipient: Lisa Fay & Jeff Glassman**

Ms. Sammann introduced performance artist, Jeff Glassman. Lisa Fay was unable to attend. Mr. Glassman gave a report on their project, which can be categorized as experimental forms of theatre work. Their work consists of finding ways to take apart the normal range of human behavior, and then putting them back together in ways that have never been seen. For this particular project, 17 people worked together for 18 hours over one weekend to create a performance event. He thanked the Commission for the grant received. At the conclusion of the report, questions and comments from the Commission were heard.

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

Ms. McClelland 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:

- Ms. McClelland announced that Commissioner Geoff Bant's Commission term was ending and he was not seeking re-appointment. She then sent around a card for Commission members to sign to thank him for his service.
- With regards to the Martin Luther King Jr. Park Project Subcommittee, Ms. McClelland reported that the selection process and recommended artist for this project was described in the memo included in that month's packet.
- With regards to the Urbana Arts Grant Program, Ms. McClelland reported that the 2012 Urbana Arts Grants projects were currently in progress. She stated that the subcommittee had been in the process of evaluating the 2012 grant cycle and planning for the 2013 cycle.
- With regards to the Boneyard Creek Public Art, Ms. McClelland reported that Jack Mackie had completed the final public art design for the project in April and that general construction for the project was now in the bidding phase.
- With regards to Downtown Arts Planning, Ms. McClelland reported that the Murals on Glass Call for Entries, which will feature the work of local artists reproduced as vinyl panels on the windows of the parking desk and UBA office in downtown Urbana was released on May 14<sup>th</sup>. She stated that submissions were due on June 18<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 p.m.
- With regards to the Urbana Sculpture Project, Ms. McClelland reported that the Tree-themed Sculpture Competition held in partnership with the Public Art League was released on April 10<sup>th</sup> and submissions were due by June 15<sup>th</sup>. She stated that an additional sculpture would be chosen for Philo Road from PAL's general Call for

- Sculpture, for which submissions were due by June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- With regards to Cunningham Ave Ms. McClelland reported that Staff had been working to identify possible sites for public art on Cunningham to coincide with City beautification efforts for this corridor.
  - With regards to *Art Now!*, Ms. McClelland reported that the May episode featured an interview with Michael Galloway, managing director of CUTC, and Jeff Dare, director of CUTC's recent production of Avenue Q. She stated that jeweler Melissa Huff would be interviewed for June's episode.
  - With regards to Arts Programming at the Market, Ms. McClelland reported that the first Art and Performance at the Market events took place on May 26<sup>th</sup> and featured a Self-Portrait Workshop led by Kathryn Fitzgerald and a performance by the Community Center for the Arts Faculty & Friends. She stated that the next events would be on June 30<sup>th</sup>, with Soybean Press leading a Letterpress Workshop and Ryan Groff of Elsinore performing. The whole schedule can be found at:  
<http://www.urbanaininois.us/artworkshops>
  - With regards to the Artist of the Corridor, Ms. McClelland reported that the current show featured paintings by Judy Jones and would be on display until June 31<sup>st</sup>. She stated that the August-October show would feature photographs by Chris Carl.
  - With regards to Marketing, Ms. McClelland reported that City staff had been regularly updating the Public Arts Program's Facebook page, which as of this meeting had 462 fans. She also stated that the Urbana Public Arts Twitter account, which could be followed @urbanapublicart, as of this meeting had 281 followers. Ms. McClelland reported that a monthly e-mail newsletter had been sent to 451 subscribers on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - Ms. McClelland reported that she did an interview on Smile Politely radio on June 8<sup>th</sup> regarding the Urbana Public Arts Program in general. She stated that the interview would be available as a podcast and that she would send it out to the Commission members.
  - Ms. McClelland gave a friendly reminder to the Commission members regarding completion of the Open Meetings Act training required of all Commission members.
  - Ms. McClelland announced that there would be some subcommittee openings due to Commissioner Geoff Bant's departure. She went over the ones with openings and stated that Mr. Chew had expressed interest in being on the Arts in the Schools Subcommittee so she would add him to that. Ms. McClelland asked for anyone interested in any of the openings to contact her.
  - For upcoming events, Ms. McClelland reported that the date for the next Public Arts Commission meeting was set for July 10, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

- **Discussion and Approval of King Park Public Art Project Selected Artist**

Ms. Sammann introduced this agenda item. Ms. McClelland gave a report on the selection process for the project. She then showed slides of the work of Douglas Kornfeld, the artist selected by the panel. A brief discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and

Staff ensued. Following discussion, Mr. Chew moved to approve Douglas Kornfeld as the artist for this project. Ms. Waaler seconded the motion. With no further comments or questions from the Commission, Ms. Sammann called for a voice vote. All Commission members were in favor of approval and the motion carried unanimously.

- **Discussion of Royer Signage for Urbana High School Auditorium**

Ms. Sammann introduced this agenda item. Ms. McClelland asked for Mr. Chew to give an update on the progress since the last meeting. Mr. Chew reported that they had been given permission to order the Royer signage plaques for Urbana High School and the Urbana Landmark Hotel. He stated that the sign for the high school would be attached to a brick gateway pillar as opposed to mounting it on the building. The text for the sign had been submitted to Mayor Prussing and Superintendent Preston Williams for approval. Mr. Chew stated that he and Councilman Dennis Roberts would be attending the school board meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> to answer any questions and that the actual ceremony is scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup>. He stated that there was no date set yet for the Urbana Landmark Hotel ceremony. A discussion of the matter by members of the Commission and Staff ensued.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Chew wanted to thank Urbana candy artisan, Audra Martin, for providing toffee to all the artists interviewed on *Art Now!* He also wanted to thank Jason Liggett and Dan Pano for their help in taping and editing the interviews.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Hedlund made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Chew seconded the motion. With no further business, Ms. Sammann declared the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Submitted,

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Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator