



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

*Economic Development Division*

### **m e m o r a n d u m**

**TO:** Urbana Public Arts Commission

**FROM:** Tom Carrino, Economic Development Manager

**DATE:** October 4, 2013

**SUBJECT:** **Art in the Schools – King School Arts Programming Pilot Program**

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### **Background**

The Urbana Public Arts Commission made supporting art in the schools a priority for FY11-12 and allocated \$3,000 in the budget for this type of programming for the first time. Since that time, staff and the Art in the Schools subcommittee have conducted research in this area, meeting with teachers from Urbana School District 116 to understand their needs. Subsequent discussion has followed to identify an appropriate pilot program that would take a school-wide approach and might even involve multiple age groups, such as high school students developing a play and performing it for elementary school students.

In August 2013, the Public Arts Commission approved a concept where King School staff would develop an agreeable proposal for Art in the Schools funds, present it to the Commission during the October 8, 2013 meeting for approval, and submit a written project report and do a brief oral presentation to the Commission upon the completion of the project.

This Art in the Schools proposal is closely tied to the completion of the King Park sculpture project which involves Illinois artist Preston Jackson, who has been commissioned by the Public Arts Commission to create a sculpture honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in King Park, located adjacent to King School. The sculpture is to be completed and installed by December 31, 2013.

### **Discussion**

In April, City staff met with then-principal of King School, Dr. Jennifer Ivory-Tatum, about possibilities for Art in the Schools programming related to the King Park Public Art Project to take advantage of the unique educational opportunity of having a major public art piece created so close to the school. Dr. Ivory-Tatum has served on the selection committee for the King Park Public Art project and has been instrumental in the process of identifying project goals and providing feedback to artist Preston Jackson in developing the project concept. Dr. Ivory-Tatum has requested two fine arts teachers, Cara Maurizi and Sarah Tavis, who had expressed interest in the programming, to work with King School in late January and early February, when King

School has historically had programming related to Martin Luther King, Jr. and Black History Month.

In July, City staff met with new King School principal Dionne Webster and Dr. Ivory-Tatum, who is now Deputy Superintendent of USD #116 to further plan the Art in the Schools pilot program. The plan that developed was for Cara Maurizi, who teaches dance and music, and Sarah Tavis, who teaches visual arts, to work together at the beginning of the semester to create a proposal for King School arts programming for possible funding by the Public Arts Commission. At the August 2013 meeting, the Public Arts Commission approved the overall concept pending the submission of a proposal (attached) and a presentation on October 8.

The original intent was to have the Art in the Schools event coincide with the dedication of the King Park sculpture and Martin Luther King Day in January 2014. However, Preston Jackson is traveling in January, and will be unable to attend an event in January. At this point, the consensus of those involved is to have an Art in the Schools King Park Sculpture educational event in January as part of the local Martin Luther King Day celebration. A formal dedication event for the sculpture will then take place when Preston Jackson is available in March 2014.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Commission authorize staff to work with representatives of Urbana School District 116 and Preston Jackson to finalize the attached proposal for a King Park Sculpture educational event.

Preston Jackson Sculpture dedication at King School  
Proposal for the dedication ceremony and celebration  
Cara Maurizi, Music Teacher and Sarah Tavis, Art Teacher  
King Elementary School

**Objective:** The purpose of this proposal is to create a meaningful dedication of the sculpture and provide the students with engaging lessons on the importance of Martin Luther King Jr., his work, and the civil rights movement. Lessons will include fine arts and classroom work.

**This proposal has two components:**

1. Teaching/pre-teaching
2. The assemblies

In planning for this dedication celebration, our goal was to use the funds provided in this grant for teaching materials and instruments that will enhance learning and can be used in the future.

Due to our Fine Arts Schedules, we each see half of the King School population over a 12-week period through the school year. This means that we are limited to teaching those students who are in our classes. Therefore, the proposal is based on our respective student populations.

For the music portion, I have chosen to make the fourth-graders the ambassadors to the school for this project because they are my largest grade level and will be representing the secondary students again next year at King school. However, all students at King school will be included in the dedication assembly through group singing and art projects. As part of King school, all students understand the importance of Dr. King's work.

The Art projects will be geared toward the students who will be enrolled in art during the January-February fine arts block. That includes all kindergarten, and half of the remaining population, except for fourth grade.

**Preteaching:**

First Six Weeks:

Introduction to civil rights and the importance of the arts and music during that time; including discussion of "I Have a Dream" speech, and Freedom riders.

Music study of protest songs, spirituals during the first music block.

History and music lessons with **Scott Schwartz**, Archivist for Music and Fine Arts and Associate Professor at University of Illinois, and **Marten Stromberg**, Curator of Rare Books for the Rare Book & Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois.

**Second Six Weeks:**

Guitar lessons during the second 4<sup>th</sup> grade music block to learn basic guitar and tie it to how the guitar was a popular instrument in protest music.

Guest teacher: Ryan Groff for first guitar lessons

## Preparation for assembly

Music lessons for current music students on protest songs and spirituals

Guest speaker Gladys Pope, former Leal teacher and storyteller will visit classrooms and lead activities about civil rights

All school trivia questions about civil rights facts during morning announcements

Art study of quilt squares and codes, footsteps for primary grades (K-2)

Collaging images/silhouettes with secondary grades (3-5)

## **Dedication Assembly**

The tentative date for the dedication at King School is Friday, January 24, at 1:30pm. During this assembly, students will give short monologues about civil rights events and sing songs from the time period.

All Students will sing the King School Song and “We Shall Overcome”.

Gladys Pope, former Leal teacher will speak on civil rights.

Preston Jackson will give a short talk on the sculpture and his inspiration for the work. (As of 10/4/13, this will be done at a later time due to scheduling conflicts)

Assembly will conclude with everyone walking out to the sculpture while singing “We Shall Overcome” to symbolize the marches that lead to freedom.

## **Tentative Order of Events**

All Sing:

“He Had a Dream”, as we are assembling

First grade sing: “This Little Light of Mine”

Third grade sing: “Down By the Riverside”

Introduction by a 4<sup>th</sup> grader

Gladys Pope speaks on civil rights

4<sup>th</sup> graders sing:

“Keep Your Eyes on the Prize, and “Halleluja, Im a Travelin””

4<sup>th</sup> grader introduces next song

5th grade sings: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

4<sup>th</sup> grader introduce song:

2nd to sing: “Everything is Beautiful?”

4<sup>th</sup> graders invite us to sing as we go to view the statue

All sing as we walk: “We Shall Overcome.”

## **Distribution of Funds:**

Cost of guitars for class set	\$49 per guitar/20 guitars Lyon classroom guitars Purchased through Musicians Friend.com	\$980
Ryan Groff guest visits	3 visits/2 hours each	\$100
Marten and Scott	3 visits/2 hours each	\$100
Printing lyrics for the students	warehouse	\$50
Gladys Pope	Classroom visits and speech at the dedication	\$100
Printshop materials	Copies of songs, materials from lessons	\$200
Art Supplies for projects	To be submitted	\$500
Books and Materials for classroom teachers to checkout	Library Video Company (3 DVDs) -- \$106.04 Follett Library Resources (17 books) -- \$276.46	\$382.50
		Subtotal \$2412.50