



## *DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES*

### *Economic Development Division*

## **Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report February 4, 2015 – March 4, 2015**

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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 progress, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

### **Updates on Current Projects**

- **Urbana Arts Grants Program:** Forty-four applications total were received by the January 16 deadline, and two groups of jurors met on February 14 and 21 to review applications and make recommendations. Applicants have been notified of the jury's decisions, and in the next two weeks, selected recipients will sign their grant agreements and receive first payments. On March 27, there will be a grant celebration event at Pizza M, where staff will announce the 2015 recipients and highlight completed projects from the 2014 cycle.

Staff has asked all applicants to fill out an online survey, the results of which will be used to review and make changes to the grant program as necessary. So far, fourteen of the forty-four applicants have completed the survey and provided positive feedback.

- **Marketing:** Staff is regularly updating the Public Arts Program Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, which now have 779 fans, 1,338 followers, and 29 followers, respectively. A new template for the program's e-newsletter, which currently has 650 subscribers, is being created by design firm VE Websites, and will be ready before the April newsletter. Staff has also hired David Michael Moore, a local illustrator, to design a new sculpture map. In February, for Valentine's Day, the program placed ads in the News-Gazette, Accent, and [www.news-gazette.com](http://www.news-gazette.com).



- **Artist of the Corridor:** Artist of the Corridor has officially expanded to the Urbana Free Library. The current exhibition, which started on February 2 and will end on May 1, features costume design works by students from Wiley Elementary School. Instead of the usual opening reception, on February 27, the City hosted a fashion show in the Council Chambers for the students to showcase their creations. Staff has registered the City

building lobby as a Boneyard Arts Festival venue, and will invite visitors of the festival to visit this exhibition on April 11.

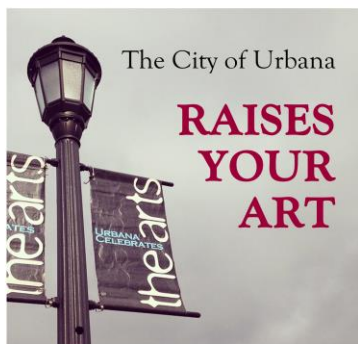


- **Art Now!:** The February episode of *Art Now!* featured Sandra Batzli, an Illinois Artisan and past president of Krannert Art Museum Council. In March, *Art Now!* features photographer Jorge Amaya. See episodes at: <http://www.urbanaininois.us/artnow>.

- **Urbana Celebrates the Boneyard:** The naming contest for the Boneyard Creek Improvements Project has closed. On February 12, five members of the community met to review all suggestions, and selected three finalists for a final public vote. Boneyard Riverwalk won with 46% of the votes. Boneyard Creek Walk and Boneyard Creek Park received 29% and 25% of the votes, respectively. Staff has presented the results to Council for further review and consideration.

Urbana Raises Your Art's deadline is March 6. A jury will select banner designs for the street poles around Boneyard Creek Improvements Project. Some street poles will have banners designed by local elementary school students. All works will be acknowledged at the commemoration event, which is titled Urbana Celebrates the Boneyard.

Staff has confirmed that a West African dance and drumming group, led by Djibril Camara, will perform at this event. The second performance will be by a group from Community Center for the Arts (C4A). Judy Lee, a local artist, will lead a family-friendly arts workshop. The event will also have a face painting station, food trucks, and more.



Calling all visual artists to submit their designs.

The winning work will be installed on a group of street pole banners at the Boneyard Creek Improvements Project.

Deadline: March 6, 2015

For more information, visit [www.urbanaininois.us/banner-call](http://www.urbanaininois.us/banner-call).



- **Artwork Donation:** 8 to Create, a local arts group, offered to donate a large drawing by artist Matthew Woodward to the City of Urbana. This offer has been approved by Mayor Laurel Prussing, and will be displayed at the Civic Center. The drawing has not yet been created, but it will draw inspiration from the Champaign County Courthouse.

