



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report

August 5 – September 8, 2016

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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

- **Artist of the Corridor:** Judy Lee's exhibition, "Mini Masterpainters" is on view in the lobby of the City Building and The Urbana Free Library until September 12th.

The next show will feature Rachel Storm's photography work, which will be installed on September 13th. These photographs were taken during her time working with women in Ecuador.

- **Art at the Market:** The August Art at the Market featured music by Los Guapos; and "T-shirts into Totebags", a workshop by Makerspace. On September 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., elizaBeth Simpson & Friends will perform a variety of genres, from jazz to indie-folk to Irish ballads. From 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Judy Lee will lead a button-making workshop.
- **Art Now:** For the August episode, Commissioner Sara Jones interviewed Michael Owen Thomas. The September episode highlights Mahomet-based abstract painter Judith Adanma Johnson. All Art Now episodes can be found online on the Art Now YouTube channel or <http://www.urbanaininois.us/artnow>.
- **Urbana Art Expo:** Staff and commissioners are working with 40 North to plan the next Urbana Art Expo, which will be on Sunday, September 18, from 10am to 5pm, at the Urbana Civic Center. Nineteen artists have been selected to participate. More information can be found at www.urbaanaartexpo.com.



- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** Five sculptures will be installed in Urbana in fall 2016. Three of them are sponsored by the City, while two are sponsored by members of the community.
- **Marketing:** The program's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts now have 1,248 page likes (an increase of 30 likes), 1,790 followers (an increase of 24 followers); and 290 followers (an increase of 31 followers), respectively. There are three Urbana Public Arts Program ads featured on SmilePolitely.com, which promote the Urbana Art Expo, Artist of the Corridor, and Judith Adanma Johnson's Art Now episode. Urbana Art Expo is also promoted through ciLiving on WCIA, radio ads, and community calendars.
- **Arts in the Schools:** The guideline for this grant program was published on August 12. Up to \$3,000 is available to fund art education projects in Urbana School District #116. The deadline to submit a proposal is September 23. A selection panel will then select finalists, who will be invited to submit their complete applications by October 28.
- **Fundraising:** The Urbana Public Arts Program applied to the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA) Program Grant in April 2015. IACA recently notified the Program that it has been awarded \$6,800 in unrestricted program support. This is the sixth time that the Urbana Public Arts Program has been the recipient of an IACA grant since 2011, with past grant amount ranging between \$1,750 and \$4,250. The award will be used to fund arts programs and events, and to increase hours for the Public Arts Intern position.

Common Ground Food Co-Op will accept nominations for their "Round Up for Good" initiative in mid-September. Staff encourages commissioners and friends of the Urbana Public Arts Program who are also members of the Co-Op to nominate the Urbana Public Arts Program.