

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Public Arts Commission
FROM: Morgan White, Public Arts Intern
DATE: May 9th, 2017
SUBJECT: Final Grant Report by Guen Montgomery

Update

Guen Montgomery has completed the final report for “*National Mandate Exhibition*” which received a \$850 Individual grant in 2016.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Public Arts Commission review the attached final report, before Mrs. Montgomery’s presentation on May 9th, 2016.

Prepared by:

Morgan White

Attachment A. Grant Award Form and Cover Letter
Attachment B. Post-Project Evaluation
Attachment C. Project Documentation
Attachment D. Fiscal Report

GUEN MONTGOMERY

Guen Montgomery
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2204 South Lynn
Urbana, IL 61801

National Mandate Exhibition
Urbana Arts Grant Recipient 2016

I hereby certify that I am authorized to approve this report, which serves as a Request for Reimbursement, that I have reviewed the attached invoices in the amount of \$934.61; that all costs claimed have been incurred for the Project in accordance with the Agreement between Guen Montgomery and the City of Urbana; that all submitted invoices have been paid; and no costs included herein have been previously submitted.

Guen Montgomery

Revised Expenditures: National Mandate 2016

A: Personnel (Project Related)	<u>Original Estimate</u>	Expenditure (Actual)	Matching funds (non consumable)	Total	<u>Expenditure Notes</u>
Artistic					
Administrative					
Technical	\$375	\$375		\$375	Video editing assistance at \$25/hr.
Other	\$135	\$70		\$70	Installation assistance at 15/hr.
Total Personnel Expenditures					
B: Implementation					
Supplies/ Materials	\$190	\$200.66	\$57.94	\$258.60	Hanging system, Reenactor Powder, Gouge, Mallet
Promotion/Printing	\$100	\$48.08		48.08	Postcards
Postage					
Artistic Services					
Other Professional					
Space/Equipment Rental		\$87.10		\$87.10	Costume Rental
Travel ion					
Other	\$50	\$95.83		\$95.83	Opening night food/ drinks refreshments
Total Implementation					
Total Expenditures	\$850	\$876.67	\$57.94	\$934.61	

I received the Urbana Arts Grant to support the second half of a two-part project. Receiving the grant gave me the financial support to complete the project which has subsequently lead to the work being shown in multiple galleries in-state and nationally. *National Mandate* began in the fall of 2015 when I began carving the 4 x 6 foot woodblock in the Krannert Art Museum during the Faculty Exhibition. The block, which read RUN - HIDE - FIGHT was periodically carved in-gallery while wearing antebellum costume as a set of serial performances. Later, with the help of assistants, the completed woodblock was printed and flocked with reenactment grade gunpowder. Some of these prints were then ignited, leaving a residual burned image of the text. I applied for the Urbana Arts Grant with the intention of using the funding to purchase the hanging hardware for my large-scale prints, recruit personnel to help me complete the project and ultimately show the work locally at the Urbana Independent Media Center.

In moving towards this goal I first hired Clark Young, a local videographer who was willing to help with the technical aspects of video editing. Together we compiled and edited the footage of the carving performances, printing process and gunpowder burning. After making the video I ordered the installation materials I would need for the exhibition including the hanging hardware that would support the four large-scale paper prints. The hanging system I found would ultimately allow them to be displayed free-hanging like banners. Around this time I was contacted by Frogman's Print and Paper Workshops in Omaha, Nebraska who offered to show the work, in conjunction with other print exhibitions, in their Bancroft Street Market Gallery during the month of Frogman's annual workshop. In addition to exhibiting the prints and video, I also created an on-site art piece that used sifted gunpowder to form a monochromatic pride flag as a memorial response to the then-recent Orlando Florida nightclub shootings. After exhibiting the video and prints in Omaha I was then selected to show the same work in Peoria Illinois at Bradley University's campus gallery for the *I Witness*, an exhibition of socially conscience artwork, juried by Margaret LeJeune and Krista Wortendyke.

I received positive feedback from both exhibition opportunities but felt that the work needed a final performative gesture to culminate the project. In September of 2016 I began preparing for my exhibition at the UIMC. I hired Preetika Raj and Eric Pryor to help me install the four hanging prints in the UIMC gallery space. We also installed a wall-mounted video monitor for the looping video, wall vinyl and placed the block in the center of the space. I had postcards printed locally and distributed them in public places around town and campus to promote the event. I also reached out to Melissa Merli in the News Gazette to promote the event. Travis Hocutt, the resident-director of the UIMC gallery also created visually striking RUN HIDE FIGHT fliers which he posted around town. I attended meetings of the local Mom's Demand Action to End Gun Violence (MDA) group which advocates for sensible gun legislation and coordinated to have MDA representatives sit a table to pass out information during the exhibition opening.

Although the show formally opened to the public on Monday October 3rd 2016, the opening reception and performance took place on October 15th. In preparation for the opening reception I purchased refreshments and recruited UIUC undergraduate assistant performers Alethea Busch, Libby Pettett, Max Harrold, and Max Rolland. The reception was well attended, including new friends from the MDA, and members of the Urbana Arts Council who were there, serendipitously, in conjunction with another event. The first performative gesture was led by Libby Pettett. This performance consisted of milling about visiting with attendees in the gallery until an appointed time, at which point all four students and myself lay suddenly on the floor. We remained there, lying in silence for 26 seconds. The number 26 corresponds the number of campus shootings since the project began in the fall of 2015. We then resumed normal conversation with gallery visitors. Throughout the exhibition, the video of the carving and printing performances looped on the video screen next to a statement about the exhibition. At 7pm Max Rolland and Max Harrold joined me in Civil war-era military costume to complete the project by carving away the remaining text on the original woodblock. Using sharp gauges and mallets we cleared the text away bit by bit until only the blank board remained, removing any possibility that the text could be printed in the future. Travis Hocutt filmed the process which took less than half an hour.

After the exhibition I made a series of screen printed posters which I sold at the University of Illinois annual print sale. The proceeds of these posters were donated to the Mothers Demand Action group of Urbana. Mostly text-based the posters read "Neither a symbol of true freedom or power, the gun is both an instrument for and a symptom of fear".

Overall both the exhibition and performance were greatly successful. Thanks to the Urbana Arts Grant I was able to complete my project, call further attention to a national issue, and develop a relationship with other concerned activists in the CU community. I have also been able to continue to exhibit the prints and video piece, most recently in Kansas City's KCAI Crossroads gallery. I am appreciative of the funding which facilitated this project and proud to live in a city that values the arts in such a direct and important way.

FISCAL REPORT: Urbana Arts Grant
National Mandate by Guen Montgomery

Expense	Cost
Video editing assistance at \$25/hr.	\$375
Installation assistance at 15/hr.	\$70
Costume Rental	\$87
Supplies/ Materials	\$200.66
Promotion/ Printing	\$48.08
Opening Food/ Drinks	\$95.83

TOTAL: \$876.67



NATIONAL MANDATE

GUEN MONTGOMERY

October 7th – 31st 2016

The Urbana Independent Media Center

Reception/Performance:

October 15th 6–8pm

202 South Broadway Ave.

Urbana IL, 61801

Supported in part by the City of Urbana through an Urbana Arts Grant

SIGN
HIBITION



School of Art + Design faculty member Guen Montgomery carves out the text 'RUN, HIDE, FIGHT' into medium-density fibreboard during the opening of the 2015 Faculty Exhibition at Krannert Art Museum. She will pull prints of the text Friday outside the Art + Design building.

Melissa Merli/
The News-Gazette