



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Public Arts Program Monthly Progress Report 2nd Tuesday of the Month– September 12th, 2017

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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

- **Staff Update:** UPA Intern, Lillian Meng, our intern through the Illinois Arts Council's Summer Youth Employment in the Arts Program, will complete her internship by the end of September. Lillian has already assisted with administration, marketing, and event planning. UPA Intern, Morgan White, will stay on until the end of September as well and will continue to provide valuable transition support for the Urbana Public Arts Program.
- **Arts in Schools** is a project-based education grant program aimed to advance art opportunities for students in Urbana schools, in which up to \$3,000 is available to support art projects. Applications are due October 6th, 2017. More info: www.urbanaininois.us/artsgrants.
- **Murals on Glass:** The City of Urbana Public Arts Commission and Urbana Business Association invite artists residing in Champaign County to participate in the fourth cycle of Murals on Glass, an initiative to feature local artworks on downtown Urbana windows. This cycle, two selected pieces will be reproduced in adhesive vinyl and adhered to the front windows of our very own City of Urbana building and the front windows of the Phillips Recreation Center. More info: www.urbanaininois.us/muralsonglass.
- **Urbana Art Expo:** Applications are now being accepted for exhibiting artists to display their work at the 2017 Urbana Arts Expo, a juried fine arts exhibition and sale that will take place on November 19th, 2017 from 10am-5pm at the Urbana Civic Center. Applications are due Monday, October 9th, 2017. More info and application information are available at: www.urbanaininois.us/artexpo. Additionally, the Urbana Arts Program is seeking volunteers to assist with the Urbana Art Expo on November 18th and 19th.
- **Art Now:** September's edition of Art Now features local artist Suzanne Keith Loechl. Episodes are aired on UPTV 6 every Monday at 6:30 pm, with reruns every Tuesday at 11:00 pm, and are available on YouTube. See more of Suzanne's work at <http://suzannekeithloechl.com/>. View her episode [here](#) on UPTV6's YouTube channel.

- **Art at the Market:** Our August 12th Art at the Market featured a paper circuits craft with Makerspace and two musical performances. The first performance was from local roots Americana group, Bones Jugs n Harmony, followed by a performance from Mackville, a bluegrass band out of Atwood, Illinois.

Our September 9th Art at the Market featured a dance craft led by the Urbana Fine Arts Academy. Workshops (from 8am to 12pm) and performances (from 9:30am to 11:30am) take place every second Saturday during the season.

Our last Art at the Market will take place on October 14th, featuring a performance from the Capoeira Angola Center and a pop-up print shop with UIUC Noble Print Club.

The full summer 2017 schedule with project descriptions can be found online at: www.urbanaininois.us/artworkshops.

We're also exploring a potential partnership with the Urbana Business Association to provide an "Art IN the Market" event or event series for the indoor market.

- **Midwest Living Magazine "Surprise and Delight:"** As a special treat during Midwest Living Magazine's visit to the Urbana Farmer's Market on September 9th, the Urbana Public Arts Program surprised the patrons of the farmer's market with a performance from the local Jazz Collective and swing dance flash mob from the Illini Swing Society. The coverage of Champaign Urbana's Best Midwest Food Town win will be featured in the January edition of Midwest Living magazine.
 - **The Jazz Collective**
"The Jazz Collective is a jazz combo based in East Central Illinois. TJC performs a mix of standards representing all genres of jazz. Collectively, the members of TJC have over 50 years of experience performing on stages across the Midwest and beyond. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Jazz-Collective-1575053262797383/>
 - **Illini Swing Society**
"The Illini Swing Society is a Registered Student Organization (RSO) with the purpose of promoting the education and enjoyment of the various swing dance styles within the community of Champaign-Urbana."
 Website: <http://www.illiniswing.org/>
- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current exhibition, *Nature Through a Lens*, features nature and travel photography by Fred Delcomyn and will continue to be on display through the end of September. You can view more of his photos on his website (www.delcomyn-photo.smugmug.com).

The next exhibit on display will feature textile work from Lara Orr and Jill Miller (joint exhibition) and will be on display from October through December.

- **Open Scene NEA Grant Final Report:** The City of Urbana’s Public Arts Program has been working together with the Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center to finalize our grant report to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for our Open Scene initiative, including producing a short video about the project to use in reporting and promotions.
- **Social Media Engagement:** Our Facebook page has increased in followers by 121 since our last monthly report, for a total of 1,585. Our Twitter page has increased by 13 for a total of 1,964 followers. Our Instagram page has increased by 28 for a total of 539 followers.

We have also invited partners to review the page and have received a total of 9 5-star reviews of the Public Arts Program on Facebook. We have also made an effort to organize our photo albums and events published on Facebook. UPAP intern, Lillian Meng, has provided substantial support with social media marketing.

The Urbana Public Arts Program produced 10, 20, and 30 second video and audio marketing for social media and radio spots. They are currently available on our social media, UPTV channel, and airing on WRFU 104.5.

- **#ArtinUrbana Campaign:** The Urbana Public Arts Program launched a campaign on Instagram under the hashtag #ArtinUrbana inviting followers to tag photos of local Urbana creativity. One of the tagged images will be selected for inclusion into our newsletter each month.
- **Development Efforts:** We continue to seek funding and in-kind support for the Urbana Public Arts Program. UPA staff are seeking recommendations for sponsorships and donor connections for the program. The following initiatives are underway:
 - **Round Up for Good:** Nominate the Public Arts Program for Common Ground Food Co-Op’s Round Up for Good program, where selected organizations can receive between \$3k-\$6k in funding through customers rounding-up at the register during a given month. Nominations are due by tomorrow, September 13th. Nominations can be made in person at the store or via email to sarah.buckman@commonground.coop. Vote for the Urbana Public Arts Program between September 14th and 21st!
 - **Art Expo Sponsorship Solicitation:** The Public Arts Program is seeking financial sponsorship from local organizations and businesses to support the 3rd Annual Urbana Art Expo. Common Ground Food Co-Op has agreed to supply food for exhibitors during the Expo on November 19th.

- **Volunteer Program Initiative:** The Public Arts Program is working to initiate a new volunteer program for local people eager to support the arts. The following steps are underway to support this effort:
 - To recruit volunteers, the Urbana Public Arts, UPTV, U-Cycle, and the Market at the Square are jointly tabling at the upcoming [Community Service & Volunteer Fair](#) sponsored by the Office of Volunteer Programs at the University of Illinois on Sept 19th from 10:30am–1:30pm at the Illini Union.
 - UPA is signed up to be paired with UIUC students participating in the [School of Social Work's Community Learning Lab \(CLL\)](#) for service placement.
- **Partnership Meetings:** The Public Arts Coordinator is in the process of having one-on-one meetings with each of the Public Arts Commissioners. In addition, meetings have been held with collaborating organizations including 40 North/88 West, Public Art League, Department of Dance, School of Art + Design, Urbana Business Association, and Urbana Free Library to further partnerships.

The Public Arts Coordinator also attended Visit Champaign County's *Tourism Summit* as well as the *Connections over Coffee* event sponsored by Urbana Business Association. Additionally, staff was featured on September's *It's All About U* program airing on UPTV discussing calls for entries and Public Arts Program.

- **Dennis H. May Conference:** Public Arts Coordinator, Rachel Storm, will be co-presenting with Open Scene artist and Director of Inner Voices Social Issues Theater, Lisa Fay, at the upcoming Dennis H. May Conference on Diversity at the University of Illinois on Sunday, September 24th, 2017 in a session titled "Arts in the Community: Arts Based Outreach as Avenue for Wellness."