



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report

2nd Tuesday of the Month– March 12th, 2019

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Introduction

The following Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report describes activities of the Arts & Culture Program for the Urbana Arts & Culture Commission. The report includes information regarding projects that are in progress, recent requests and recommendations from the public, staff activities, and upcoming events.

Updates on Current Projects

- **Urbana Arts Grants:** The 2019 cycle of its Urbana Arts Grants Program is approaching the awarding of grants. Up to \$80,000 will be awarded to artists, arts organizations, and festival presenters for creative projects that enrich the lives of Urbana residents and visitors. Grants were made available in five categories listed below:
 - **Tier I Grants** ranging between \$500-\$1,500 for individual artists and initiatives
 - **Tier II Grants** ranging between \$2,000-\$4,500 for mid-sized initiatives
 - **Tier III Grants** ranging between \$5,000-\$10,000 for large-scale special events
 - **Arts in the Schools Grants** for arts education initiatives in USD #116 schools
 - **Poet Laureate Program** Honorary award for Champaign County resident poet

Pending the commission's final approval of the Tier III grants, notifications to awardees will be sent out by the end of the week Friday, March 15th. Grantees will be required to attend an orientation prior to signing grant contracts and engaging in grant activities.

- **SNEEK PEEK Celebration:** The Urbana Public Arts Program is celebrating the announcement of this year's 2019 Urbana Arts Grantees and Arts in the Schools recipients with *SNEEK PEEK*, a public reception held at Blackbird (exact date TBD) featuring live music, hors d'oeuvres, and a presentation of the 2019 grant recipients.
- **Open Scene Open Mic:** The Urbana Arts & Culture Program and Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center collaborate to offer Open Scene Open Mic, a multi-generational open mic series that aims to center the voices of artists of color and draw in a wide-array of participants in Downtown Urbana. The series welcomes music, spoken word, storytelling, comedy, beat-making, and dance with performers of all ages.

The most recent Open Scene Open Mic took place on **Friday, March 8th from 6:30pm-8:30pm at Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant/Channing Murray Foundation hosted by Edgar Cuevas and Flor Poetry**. Future Open Scene Open Mic events are being planned.

- **Art Now:** March's edition of [Art Now](#) features The Eric Show's 10th Anniversary, a reflection on the past 10 years of The Eric Show, a high school exhibition of work by area students. A joint production by the [Urbana Arts & Culture Program](#) and [Urbana Public Television](#), Art Now airs at 6:15pm every Monday on UPTV6, re-runs at 11pm on Tuesdays, and online on the [UPTV6 Youtube Channel](#).
- **Artist of the Corridor:** The current Artist of the Corridor exhibition on display is *HARD TO PLACE*, by Natalie Pivoney and features oil paintings of buildings in the City of Urbana and other unique places. The exhibit will be on display through the middle of March at The Urbana Free Library and City of Urbana Building as part of the Artist of the Corridor Series.

The next Artist of the Corridor Exhibition will feature works by staff of the City of Urbana and The Urbana Free Library, entitled *After Hours*. *After Hours* will be in conjunction with Boneyard Arts Festival 2019. *After Hours* is a special exhibition of art created by staff artists at the City of Urbana and The Urbana Free Library. A Mayoral initiative, this group exhibition showcases a wide variety of artistic mediums--from woodworking to photography, textiles to painting. The collection of work invites the public to view the creative talent of our local public service professionals and will feature performances at the opening reception. For many, this is creativity harnessed after hours, when one clocks-out only to clock-in to another passion: art.

- **Art IN the Square:** Art IN the Square, a collaboration with the Urbana Business Association, continues to offer mid-morning concerts at Market IN the Square every 2nd Saturday of the month. This past Saturday, February 9th featured music by Melvin Knight. Inspired by the sounds of the 60s, Melvin Knight is a soul/R&B singer from Champaign-Urbana backed by Elijah Harris, Kurt Shelby, and James Russel Simms. There are two concerts remaining in the series: March 16th, 2019 features **Port Mor Traditional Irish Music** in honor of St. Patrick's Day celebrations and April 13th features **Hobnob String Band**, each performing at 10am at the Market IN the Square.
- **Art at the Market:** In partnership with Urbana's Market at the Square, the Urbana Arts & Culture Program, continues to offer mid-morning concerts and arts workshops led by local artists at Market IN the Square every 2nd Saturday of the month.

This year, the Urbana Arts & Culture Program is proud to announce a new initiative, the North Row Arts Market, an effort to garner more artists and artisans at the outdoor farmers market. The North Row Arts Market will feature 10 booths at the northern part of the market adjacent to the concert and arts workshop spotlighting the artwork of local and regional artists and artisans featuring handmade, original fine art, and crafts. North Row Arts Market will take place on 4 dates in 2019 on the 2nd Saturday of the month in May, June, July, and September.

On the 2nd Saturday of August, Art at the Market will join Urbana's Market at the Square to celebrate *National Farmer's Market Week*, featuring creative family-focused farmer's

market activities in addition to Art at the Market's regularly scheduled programming. In years past, this has included a kale eating contest, arts activities, and games.

On the 2nd Saturday of October, Art at the Market will join Urbana's Market at the Square to host *Market at the Scare*, a fall-themed fest featuring creative family-focused fall and Halloween activities in addition to Art at the Market's regularly scheduled programming. Last year's event featured ghost stories with The Urbana Free Library, a haunted concert from Urbana Pops Orchestra, and Make-a-Monster with Melissa's Monsters; all in addition to activity booths provided by a wide variety of local organizations, face painting, and fall-themed games.

- **The Young Artist's Studio:** The Young Artist's Studio series presented by the Urbana Public Arts Program and the Urbana Free Library features youth arts workshops every one a month on Sundays at 3pm. The March 17th workshop features *Finger-Knitting with Ashley Price* and the next workshop will feature *Madhubani Art with Shraddha Tiwari* on April 28th, 2019. All workshops are held 3pm-3:45pm in the Urbana Free Library's Children's Library.
- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** The Urbana Arts & Culture Program staff have been in communication with organizers of the Illinois Marathon regarding how *Races* by Bobby Joe Scribner can be incorporated into the marathon's activities in 2019. The recent Illinois Marathon newsletter featured the sculpture as a point of interest on the route map.
- **Downtown Get Down Series:** The Urbana Arts & Culture Program is working in partnership with the Urbana Park District, 40 North Champaign County Arts Council, and the Urbana Business Association to sponsor the *Downtown Get Down*, a downtown events series for Downtown Urbana that will take place on the 4th Saturday of the month May-August. The series will feature live concerts, DJs, an artist's street market, kids zone, inflatables, games, live arts demos, and performing artists. Partners are currently seeking sponsorships, booking artists, and finalizing planning details for the series.
- **Boneyard Arts Festival 2019:** Urbana Arts & Culture Program staff serves on the Urbana Planning Committee for *Boneyard Arts Festival* sponsored by 40 North Champaign County Arts Council. The primary function of the committee is identifying venues and participating artists, to connect them for art exhibition and performance opportunities. *Boneyard Arts Festival 2019* is shaping up to be an excellent year with a wide variety of Urbana businesses and organizations seeking to participate. Those interested in seeking a collaborating artist or listing their venue should seek support through the committee and the Boneyard Arts Festival Facebook group. The deadline to register a venue and get on the map is March 15th. The registration link and information for those interested in participating is [available on 40 North's website](#).
- **Urbana Celebrates the Boneyard:** On Saturday, April 6th from 12pm-4pm, the Urbana Arts & Culture Program will continue its annual tradition of offering family-friendly arts programming for the Boneyard Arts Festival activities in Urbana. *Urbana Celebrates the Boneyard* will offer musical and dance performances from Dance Music Therapy, puppetry from Puppetfolk Productions, a bubble display from Joyful Bubbles, as well as

magic and flow arts from Michael Moxie and Satina. The event will include food trucks, face painting, and art stations offering arts and crafts for the whole family.

- **Murals on Glass:** Murals on Glass, an initiative to feature local artworks on downtown Urbana windows, will soon open an application period. Now the 5th cycle, Murals on Glass selects artwork from a resident artist from Champaign County to have their work reproduced in adhesive vinyl and adhered to the front windows of a municipal building.
- **Outreach and Partner Presentations:** Public Arts Coordinator, Rachel Storm, was a featured judge for the *Poetry Out Loud* regional competition hosted by 40 North Champaign County Arts Council, selecting a winner and runner-up high school performing poet for competition at the state level. As per the organization's description, "Poetry Out Loud encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life. Since 2005, Poetry Out Loud has grown to reach more than 3.6 million students and 55,000 teachers from 14,000 schools in every state, Washington, DC, the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico."
- **Volunteer Support:** The Urbana Arts & Culture Program is collaborating with the Office of Volunteer Programs at the University of Illinois to identify University students to volunteer with the *Urbana Celebrates the Boneyard* event, as well as other upcoming programs.

Staff are also in communication with the Community Development Lab at the University of Illinois' School of Social Work and have identified a classroom that will be sending students to collaborate with the Urbana Arts & Culture Program.

Arts & Culture Commissioners and the public are encouraged to get involved with the Urbana Arts & Culture Program's ongoing events and initiatives. Those interested in volunteering with the Urbana Arts & Culture Program can join planning efforts or sign up to volunteer at: https://www.urbanaininois.us/arts_support.