



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report

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

Prepared by Rachel Lauren Storm, M.Ed., Arts and Culture Coordinator

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.

Staffing Update

- **SOCW 461: Professional Practice Seminar:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Coordinator will be a site supervisor for SOCW461 students from the University of Illinois for the fall 2019 semester. A group of 2-4 senior-level social work students will work 2 hours per week at the City, coordinating a project on arts and culture. Their office hours, a group project, and writing assignment will be supervised by the Arts and Culture Coordinator who will assign each student a grade at the end of the semester. The students will work from Sept 9th and end on Dec. 9th and receive class credit through the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The interns will present at the Dec. 10th meeting to the Commission on their internship activities this semester.
- **YWCA Women in Leadership Program:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Coordinator will be a site supervisor for the YWCA's Women in Leadership Program and as a result, will have a small group of students working on a projects developed in collaboration with staff. The students will work with the Urbana Arts and Culture Program through May of 2020 and are undertaking a project of developing a media kit for the program.
- **Community Learning Lab (CLL) at the University of Illinois:** Urbana Arts and Culture Program will soon receive a new intern through the CLL program. The student will be interviewed next week.

Updates on Current Projects

- **Urbana Arts Grants:** The City of Urbana supports opportunities for all residents to engage with the arts in its many forms. The arts are essential to the vitality and development of the city and enhance the quality of life while encouraging economic development, academic performance, and celebrating diversity. The Urbana Arts and Culture Commission, through the Urbana Arts Grants Program, supports projects in the arts that are accessible to the public. This program fosters an environment for established

and emerging artists to thrive in Urbana, promotes life-long participation and learning in the arts, and integrates art into the urban environment.

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.

This grant program is open to all disciplines in the arts on public display within spaces open to the public, including but not limited to creative writing, dance, film, video, music, theatre, visual arts, crafts, performing arts, spoken word, environmental arts, multimedia arts, architectural arts, landscape architecture, and emerging media. Grants will be 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

The 2020 Urbana Arts Grants workshop schedule includes:

Wednesday November 13th, 2019 12 – 1pm

Giertz Gallery @ Parkland College, 2400 W Bradley Ave, Campaign, IL 61821

Wednesday November 13th, 2019 630pm – 730pm

The Urbana Free Library, Lewis Aud. 210 W Green St, Urbana

Thursday November 14th, 2019 12 – 1pm

Salt and Light, 1819 Philo Rd, Urbana, IL 61802

Thursday November 21st, 2019 1230pm – 130pm

Art and Design, University of Illinois 408 E Peabody Dr, Champaign, IL 61820

Thursday November 21st, 2019 5pm – 6pm

Common Ground Food Co-Op 300 S Broadway Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

- **Immigrant Welcoming Week:** Created by YMCA of the USA's national partner Welcoming America, Welcoming Week, which takes place each year in September, celebrates the growing movement of communities that fully embrace new Americans and their contributions to the social fabric of our country. It's a chance for neighbors—both immigrants and U.S.-born residents—to get to know one another and celebrate what unites us as a community!

Locally, there are over 30 Welcoming Week events happening throughout Urbana-Champaign—from concerts to advocacy trainings, celebrations and educational events. The Urbana Arts and Culture Program is joining dozens of local organizations and the Mayors of Urbana and Champaign for the kick-off event outdoors Sept. 13th from 4pm-

7pm at Orpheum Theater in Downtown Champaign. Commissioners are encouraged to sign-up to volunteer at our booth. Welcoming Week 2019 takes place September 13-22.

- **Artist of the Corridor Belonging(s) Exhibition:** In celebration of Welcoming Week, the Urbana Arts and Culture Program, The Urbana Free Library, and Spurlock Museum of World Cultures are proud to present the latest installment of the City of Urbana's Artist of the Corridor exhibition series. BELONGING(S) is a collection of photography and short stories from local immigrants exploring identity, artifact, memory, and the meaning of home. Participants in the project identified an object from their home and through storytelling, illustrated its relationship to their personal experience with immigration. For the first year ever, the exhibition includes a display of the objects themselves at Spurlock Museum.

The opening reception will be in conjunction with the Immigrant Welcome Awards Ceremony and Celebration at The Urbana Free Library. Join us for live music, awards, and a chance to view the exhibit on display. The exhibition will be on display from September through November, with a closing reception and story slam on November 20th at Spurlock Museum.

- **The 6th Annual Immigrant Welcome Awards:** Saturday, September 21 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm at The Urbana Free Library, come celebrate the diversity of cultures that make up our community with an afternoon of food, music, and special guests. The Immigrant Welcome Awards Ceremony recognizes the contributions of individuals and organizations that have created a welcoming atmosphere for immigrants in the Champaign-Urbana community. The event will also feature the opening of BELONGING(S), the latest installment of the City of Urbana's Artist of the Corridor exhibition series. BELONGING(S), which has been curated by Urbana Arts and Culture Program, is a collection of photography and short stories from local immigrants exploring identity, artifact, memory, and the meaning of home. The Welcome Awards are sponsored by C-U Immigration Forum with cosponsors The Urbana Free Library, Urbana Arts and Culture Program, University YMCA New American Welcome Center, the Channing Murray Foundation, the City of Champaign, and the City of Urbana.
- **Urbana's Inaugural Poet Laureate, Will Reger:** The City of Urbana's Mayor's Office and the Urbana Arts & Culture Program honored inaugural Poet Laureate, Will Reger, continues to present numerous projects with the help of Urbana Arts and Culture Program staff, including Poets on a Park Bench, Poems on Glass, and a now weekly poetry prompt released to the public. The Urbana Poet Laureate has made guest appearances in news media, open mics, public readings, and will soon partner with Urbana School District #116 staff to present writers workshops in area schools.
- **Art Now:** November's edition of [Art Now](#) features CU Jazz Festival. 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](#).

- **Urbanalove Movie Nights:** The City of Urbana's Arts & Culture Program wrapped up the summer partnership with The Urbana Free Library, Kanopy, and Urbanalove to offer the Urbanalove Summer Movie Nights. The planning team extended the series to feature Hocus Pocus this past Oct. 30th, 2019 featuring artists, face-painters, pumpkin decorating, and games for the whole family. Over 100 families were in attendance.
- **Art IN the Market:** In partnership with Urbana's Market at the Square, the Urbana Arts & Culture Program, Urbana Arts and Culture Program was proud to offer Market at the Scare, our fall-themed spectacular as part of the last outdoor market of the season on Oct. 26th, 2019. While weather was a challenge, the event maintained strong participation from vendors and community groups including the IDEA Store, Allen Hall Zombie Flash Mob, Illinois State University's Spread the Magic, CU Community Fab Lab, Weiskamp Screenprinting, and more! Market vendors participated in trick-or-treating by providing Halloween candy at their booths and patrons dressed in costumes.

Art IN the Market, a collaboration with Urbana Business Association, begins on December 14th with The Merry Travelers, performing folksy seasonal tunes. Market IN the Square Concerts, musical performances at the indoor farmer's market in Lincoln Square! Concerts occur on the 2nd Saturday of the month and feature live musical performances at 10am in Lincoln Square Mall's food court.

- **The Young Artist's Studio:** The Young Artist's Studio series presented by the Urbana Arts & Culture Program and the Urbana Free Library features youth arts workshops every once a month on Sundays at 3pm. This past Sunday Nov. 10th, Urbana Arts and Culture interns presented "Make Your Own Masterpiece," encouraging arts creation for kids 5 and up! The next workshop is "Bilingual Yoga" with Citlaly Stanton scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8th at 3pm in the Lewis Auditorium of The Urbana Free Library.
- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** Local group MCDJ (Mike and Connie Hosier, David and Janet Peshkin) have pledged to sponsor a new sculpture this cycle as part of the Urbana Sculpture Project, *Tumble Arch*, by Jim Gallucci from Greensboro, NC. Urbana Arts and Culture staff arranged the installation of solar lighting to illuminate *Races* by Bobby Joe Scribner. Library staff are experimenting with an assortment of lights.
- **Murals on Glass/Urbana Utility Wrap Program:** 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. The selected location this year will be the Cunningham Township Office's front windows.

A jury met on Tuesday, Oct. 29th and selected 8 approved artworks for utility boxes and 3 artworks for consideration for Cunningham Township's front windows. Township staff will select from the recommended artworks and installation of both Murals on Glass and

the Utility Box Murals will take place come spring. In the meantime, Urbana Arts and Culture Program continues to seek sponsors for utility box murals.

- **Outreach and Partner Presentations:** Arts and Culture Coordinator, Rachel Storm, will present at the 2020 Grant-A-Thon at the University of Illinois, representing a local granting organization alongside the Mental Health Foundation and Community Foundation. The forum, sponsored by the University of Illinois School of Social Work, invites students and the public to learn about grant writing, evaluation, and support.
- **Volunteer Support:** The Urbana Arts & Culture Program is seeking volunteers through new listings with CU Volunteer and the University of Illinois' Office of Volunteer Programs.

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.urbanainillinois.us/arts_support.