



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

### Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month– December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

#### 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. The students recently completed their work with the Urbana Arts and Culture Program and will present the final presentation to the Commission.
- **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.

#### 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 Urbana Arts and Culture Program offered six workshops in the community emphasizing best practices for grant writing. The program is offering two Drop-In Grants Support opportunities—all-day drop-in hours for applicants, scheduled for Monday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at Caffe Paradiso and Monday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> at Starbucks on Vine from 9am-4pm.

- **Artist of the Corridor:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program, The Urbana Free Library, and Spurlock Museum of World Cultures recently closed the *BELONGING(S)* Exhibition, a collection of photography and short stories from local immigrants exploring identity, artifact, memory, and the meaning of home. The closing reception and Open Scene Immigrant StorySlam on November 20<sup>th</sup> at Spurlock Museum welcomed over 50 attendees and featured performances from Ballet Folklorico (traditional Mexican folk dancing), Jean Rene Balekita and Bomoyi (Congolese rumba music), and a special reading by Urbana Poet Laureate, Will Reger.

The Urbana Arts and Culture Program and Urbana Free Library are proud to be collaborating with Clark Lindsey Village Inc. to present the next exhibition in the Artist of the Corridor Series: *The Passions Project*. The Passions Project is an exhibition of portraits of residents of Urbana's Clark Lindsey Village.

These striking black and white portraits capture older adults at Clark-Lindsey engaged in their passions. National photographer, Heidi Wagner, created this project in hopes of redefining how we perceive age by allowing viewers to forge a connection with subjects that challenges traditional views of aging. Clark Lindsey strives to create an environment that empowers all older adults to thrive, making this partnership a natural fit.

The exhibition will be on display from December 2019 through January 2020. The opening reception will be held Friday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 12pm at the City of Urbana (400 S. Vine St.), followed by a closing reception late January (TBA) at The Urbana Free Library.

- **Urbana's Inaugural Poet Laureate, Will Reger:** The City of Urbana's 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. Upcoming activities include:

- Poets at the Post featuring Poet Laureate Will Reger, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Iron Post
  - Krannert Uncorked presents Urbana Poet Laureate Will Reger & Petroglyphs Book Release, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, Krannert Center Main Lobby
  - Poems on Glass Deadline for Submissions, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- **Art Now:** December's edition of [Art Now](#) features local painter, Atef Ayadi. 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](#).
  - **Art IN the Square:** Art IN the Market, a collaboration with Urbana Business Association, begins on December 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, Urbana Arts and Culture interns presented "Bilingual Yoga" with at 3pm in the Lewis Auditorium of The Urbana Free Library. The next workshop, scheduled for Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> will feature Gina Johnson of Goodthingz Urbana with a "Paint Your Goodthingz" workshop, inviting young people to paint a mini canvas depicting their favorite people, places, and experiences in Urbana. The canvases will also be displayed in a display case on the first floor of The Urbana Free Library in conjunction with Urbana Arts and Culture Program exhibition efforts.
  - **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 have installed new solar lights for the sculpture, visible at night.
  - **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Staff are proud to announce that *In the Sunshine* by BLACKMAU (Kamau Grantham and Stacey Robinson) has been selected to be displayed on the Cunningham Township's front windows.

Additionally, the jury selected 8 approved artworks for utility boxes. 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 Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Urbana Rotary Club meeting about emerging and sustained initiatives from the Urbana Arts and Culture Program.

In addition, staff 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.urbanainllinois.us/arts\\_support](https://www.urbanainllinois.us/arts_support).