



DATE: July 19, 2022
TIME: 4:30 P.M.
PLACE: City Council Chambers, 400 S Vine St., Urbana, IL 61801

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Hedlund, Dr. Alicia Rodriguez, Howard Schein, Marc-Anthony Macon, Frank Modica (retired)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Heather Rose, Sarah Buckman, Gonzalo Pinilla, Lori Fuller, Dr. Bianca Bailey

MEMBERS ABSENT: There were none.

STAFF PRESENT: Rachel Storm, Arts & Culture Coordinator; Bourema Ouedraogo, UPTV Station Manager; Stepheny McMahon, Economic Development Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The Urbana Arts and Culture Commission was called to order at 4:30 P.M by Hedlund. Storm took roll and a quorum was declared present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Rachel Storm noted to move the minutes from the previous meeting to the next meeting for better Quorum, and give the board some more time to review them.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Recognition of Dr. Rachel Storm for her success and contributions to the Urbana Arts and Culture Commission and The City of Urbana prior to her acceptance of another job. Also recognition of Frank Modica for the many years of his service on the Urbana Arts and Culture Commission due to his retirement.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Mariam Larson of the Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center vocalized her support of the Urbana Arts and Culture Program and impressed upon the Commission the paramount importance of Dr. Rachel Storm's position being filled with her leaving. Ms. Larson greatly emphasized the need for the position to be filled promptly and with continuity for the program and new staff coming in. Ms. Larson vocalized the stressors she had rebuilding her program as a new hire and encouraged the Commission not to have to deal with the same issues by hiring the next qualified candidate by suggested date of September 16th, 2022. She did also question the other part time positions that are still vacant and inquired about the decision to have them still available. Ms. Larson stated that some support would better help the Commission and the other organizations that work so closely with the Urbana Arts and Culture Program. Ms. Larson offered her support during this time of transition and greatly appreciates the Urbana Arts Commission.

5. PRESENTATIONS

a. Staff Report

The Urbana Arts Commission is proudly welcoming two new Commissioners, Dr. Bianca Bailey and Dr. Alicia Rodriguez. Staffing changes that are occurring for the Urbana Arts and Culture Program include the resignation of Dr. Rachel Storm after five years of serving as the Urbana Arts and Culture Coordinator. Dr. Storm's last day of work is August 9th, 2022. A great amount of applications have been received pertaining to the part-time Program Specialist position. To date, the hiring process continues but will be delayed until further notice with no interviews to be scheduled. The Urbana Arts and Culture Program did receive and \$4,500.00 grant to be used for the Summer Youth Employment grant. However with the current staffing changes, the grant money will be returned. In terms of Covid-19, the Urbana Arts and Culture Program will continue to follow the local health guidelines pertaining to in person events and programming.

The Arts and Culture Coordinator detailed updates on various projects including *Urbana Arts Grants*, *The Urbana Sculpture Project*, *Utility Box Mural Program*, *Art in Transit*, *Young Artist's Studio*, *Art Now!*, *Artist of the Corridor*, *The Great ArtDoors*, and the activities of Youth Poet Laureate, Danyla Nash. Moreover, the search for the next Poet Laureate for the City of Urbana is underway. The Arts and Culture Coordinator detailed the activities for new murals being installed on Urbana-area buildings through private sponsorships and by way of Urbana Arts Grant sponsorships. These murals include the *Reading is Magic* Mural by artist Langston Allston on Cunningham Township, *Prairie Roses* by Kinsey Fitzgerald on Rose Bowl Tavern; *Urbana Enlightened* by Rafael Blanco on the new Urbana Adult Education Center; and *Summer Rhythm* by Lisa Kesler on the north façade of 25 O'Clock Brewing Company.

The Cinema and Sound outdoor movies and music series have returned to Boneyard Creek Crossing.

b. Grant Presentations

- i. Kelsey Langley of KOOP Adventure Play presented the final report for the 2020 Urbana Arts Grant, *Art. Play. Urbana.*
- ii. Lauren Chambers of The Urbana Free Library presented the final report for the 2021 Urbana Arts Grant, *Magic of Reading Mural*
- iii. Sarah Christensen of the University Library presented the final report for the 2021 Urbana Arts Grant, *Small Press Fest*
- iv. Rafael Blanco presented the final report for the 2021 Urbana Arts Grant, *Picturing the City One Portrait a Day*
- v. Lisa Kesler 2021 presented the 2021 Grant, Urbana Arts Program Summer Mural.
- vi. Members of the Champaign County Bailout Coalition presented the 2021 grant, *Transcending Distance through Art*

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Hedlund declared the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Wilder-Scaff, Administrative Support Specialist: Friday, August 5th, 2022

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