



URBANA ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM 2021 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The following applicants have been approved for funding in the thirteenth cycle of the Urbana Arts Grants Program. The list below provides preliminary information submitted by the applicants to the Program and is subject to change. Urbana Arts Grants Program is an initiative by the City of Urbana Arts & Culture Program. Questions about the Urbana Arts Grants Program should be directed to the Arts and Culture Coordinator at rlstorm@urbanaininois.us.

TIER I

- 1. *Writers of Oya Phase III* by Ashanti Files, City Sponsorship of \$1,400**
The Writers of Oya Phase III will invite middle school girls of color participating in the Writers of Oya program to develop works that pair spoken word and music, culminating in a collaboratively produced audiobook and several public performances.
- 2. *Enacting Hope and Togetherness Mural* by Patricia Leon Quecan, City Sponsorship of \$1,500**
The Enacting Hope and Togetherness Mural Project will invite students at Leal Elementary School to engage in a variety of classroom workshops and activities led by artist, Patricia Leon Quecan, resulting in a collaboratively-designed mural reflecting the values of diversity, equity, and cooperation.
- 3. *See Who at the Show* by C-U at the Show, City Sponsorship of \$1,500**
See Who at the Show is an initiative from C-U at the Show amplifying the work of Black writers, actors, directors, and producers through a series of sponsored performances as part of a broader effort to center Black voices in the theater community.
- 4. *Developing Our Storytelling Skills, A Cornerstone Skill in the Time of a Pandemic* by Karen Medina City Sponsorship of \$1,000**
Developing Our Storytelling Skills is a series of workshops designed to offer skills-building centered upon the power of storytelling through art, music, journalism, radio production, creative writing, and other methods of expression. The initiative will help gather and share stories in the pandemic.
- 5. *All Score Urbana Community of Song Project* by All Score Urbana, City Sponsorship of \$1,200**
The All Score Urbana Community of Song Project seeks to connect local songwriters, singers, poets, composers, and related artists to share their current work and develop new works for the teaching artists to perform as part of a concert with Sounds Like Community.
- 6. *Urbana Satellite Reef* by Urbana-Champaign Crochet Coral Reef, City Sponsorship of \$905**
The Crochet Coral Reef is a participatory community art project incorporating craft, geometry, and environmentalism. As part of the project, workshops and two mini-satellite exhibitions of an Urbana Crochet Coral Reef will take place incorporating submissions from participating community members.

7. ***Red Herring Poetry and Arts Community Celebration* by Will Reger, City Sponsorship of \$1,000**
The *Red Herring Poetry and Arts Community Celebration* is an initiative to celebrate the local poetry history of the Red Herring Poetry Group. Through poetry workshops, exhibits, performances, and a retrospective, the creative community will build upon this local history. The culminating showcase invites artists of a diversity of mediums to interpret local poems within their unique artistic practice.
8. ***Juxtapositioned: The Art and Words of Durango Mendoza* by Jean Mendoza, City Sponsorship of \$1,000**
Juxtapositioned is a multi-week family-friendly exhibition of sculpture, assemblage, and photographic works by Durango Mendoza featuring live or pre-recorded readings, spoken word, and video. Together with workshops provided in assemblage and writing, this retrospective will serve as both a celebration of his work and share Durango's unique perspective on meaning individuals make of the world around them.
9. ***Urbana Flamenco-Jazz Reunion (UFJR)* by Brian Stark, City Sponsorship of \$1,000**
Urbana Flamenco-Jazz Reunion (UFJR) is a collaborative project featuring Chicago-based flamenco guitarist, David Chiriboga, and local Urbana musicians offering flamenco music education in local schools and a downtown concert open to the public and livestreamed.
10. ***In Between, The Places We Meet* by Sarah Cofield and Alice Sinzato, City Sponsorship of \$1,495**
In Between, The Places We Meet is a pop-up gallery and exhibition of works by contemporary artists, Sarah Cofield and Alice Sinzato, and includes workshops and community engagement with schools and downtown venues on contemporary art and creative expression.

TIER II

1. ***CU Black and African Arts Festival 2021*, by CU Black and African Arts, City Sponsorship of \$2,750**
CU Black & African Arts Festival is a two-day celebratory festival highlighting a diversity of Black and African cultures through arts, music, fashion, entertainment, vendors, food, and the performing arts. The event will offer unique opportunities for supporting Black and African art, business, and cultural work.
2. ***Magic of Reading Mural* by The Urbana Free Library, City Sponsorship of \$2,500**
Local artist, Langston Allston will work with community members to design and paint a mural that depicts Urbana's strong cultural diversity, local library culture, and community imagination.
3. ***Kwanzaa 365*, by DREAAM Opportunity Center, City Sponsorship of \$4,500**
Kwanzaa 365 is a multigenerational community arts-based initiative that promotes Black pride, cultural understanding, and social well-being among local residents. The project features monthly arts gatherings and a Kwanzaa candle lighting and banquet celebration in Downtown Urbana.
4. ***Teen Spotlight: A Summer Theatre Workshop for Teen Artists of Color*, by Station Theatre, City Sponsorship of \$4,500**
Teen Spotlight is a 3-week theatre workshop series for teens of color, produced in collaboration between Station Theatre, Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company, and Black Voices Theater Production offering workshops in performance skills-building, theatrical design, and the creation of original works.
5. ***ARTMade*, by Lori Fuller, City Sponsorship of \$4,000**
ARTMade is an initiative led by local artist Lori Fuller in collaboration with PACE, Inc. Center for Independent Living and the Senior Resources Center, offering virtual, interactive arts instruction to elders and adults with disabilities to promote creativity, self-esteem, and togetherness.

- 6. *Sending Love: Transcending the Distance through Art*, by Champaign County Bailout Coalition, City Sponsorship of \$4,500**
Sending Love: Transcending the Distance through Art a project of Champaign County Bailout Coalition will display the artwork of incarcerated artists and their families on pop-up gallery walls featuring weatherproof tiles to promote connection and offer another method of expressive communication.
- 7. *Boneyard Arts Festival Mobile Kids Art Project*, by 40 North | 88 West Inc., City Sponsorship of \$2,750**
The *Boneyard Arts Festival Mobile Kids Art Project* is a collaborative project between 40 North and Urbana Park District offering a distribution of free arts materials to underserved neighborhoods in Urbana and the invitation to share works through social media display.
- 8. *Thriving Together Community Art Installation*, by University YMCA, City Sponsorship of \$2,400**
The New American Welcome Center and I.D.E.A. Store are joining together for *the Thriving Together Community Art Installation* which invites local community members to create butterfly artwork through free recycled art materials kits. Butterflies will be collected and displayed in a public installation during National Immigrant Welcoming Week.
- 9. *Small Press Fest!* by University Library, City Sponsorship of \$1,000**
Small Press Fest! is a celebration of regional small press and independent publishers that aims to showcase DIY media, foster community, and create a space for self-published authors and artists. The festival and events leading up to it include educational workshops on independent publishing, guest speakers, performances, artist's talks, author's roundtables, and an exhibit hall.
- 10. *The Number Story Project*, by Debra Domal, City Sponsorship of \$2,250**
Fighting the script of COVID'S "number numbness," *The Number Story Project* gathers stories from local community members on their experiences in the pandemic through arts-based workshops where numbers serve as the backdrop for healing and storytelling.
- 11. *Moveable Feast: Augmented-Reality Mural*, by EKAH, City Sponsorship of \$4,500**
Moveable Feast is an Augment Reality project which will bring to life a mural designed and painted by artist EKAH, and allow passersby to experience and interact with it via their phones. This mural will be located on the eastern wall of Broadway Food Hall. The project's goal is to promote diverse cultures around a common table through the imaginary worlds by the artist.
- 12. *Picturing the City One Portrait a Day Mural*, by Rafael Blanco, City Sponsorship of \$4,500**
Picturing the City One Portrait a Day is a mural project that will depict the diversity of Urbana's population through ethnicity, culture, and other unique identifiers of our city. Residents will see themselves represented and, in some cases, some citizens will actually be portrayed in the mural, showcasing Urbana's diversity through portraiture.
- 13. *Cunningham Township Building Mural at Solidarity Gardens*, by Lisa Kesler, City Sponsorship of \$3,520**
Artist Lisa Kesler will paint a mural on the east side of Cunningham Township by the Township's Solidarity Gardens project. This mural will provide an inviting backdrop for those who garden there, as well as raise awareness of the Township's seed lending program, garden produce redistribution program, and their educational resources.
- 14. *Bridging the Art Divide*, by Urbana Park District, City Sponsorship of \$1,550**
Bridging the Art Divide invites artists to submit their art to be display on two bridges in Crystal Lake Park. Art will be submitted by category and selected to be printed on corrugated vinyl which will then be mounted to the bridges for viewing.
- 15. *OTZ – The Broken Suite*, by Andrey Junca Goncalves, City Sponsorship of \$2,150**

OTZ – *The Broken Suite*, is a contemporary Brazilian Jazz concert that will be presented at the Rose Bowl during the Champaign Urbana Jazz Festival 2021. Andrey Junca Goncalves will also arrange and record a CD of their Brazilian Jazz music, connecting Urbana with the C-U Brazilian community.

16. *Local Food for All Mural*, by Common Ground Food Co-op, City Sponsorship of \$3,130

The *Local Food for All Mural* project will bring together Urbana’s vibrant art community and food system through a series of 6 murals celebrating Urbana’s diversity, culture, and community, storying our local food system. The murals will be painted by local artist Madelyn Witruk, on the large flowerboxes in front of Common Ground Food Co-Op.

ARTS IN THE SCHOOLS

1. *Capoeira Angola 4 the Community* by Capoeira Angola Center II, City Sponsorship of \$1,500

Capoeira Angola 4 the Community is a series of workshops held in Urbana School District #116 schools designed to introduce K-5th grade students to capoeira, the Afro-Brazilian art form that combines elements of dance and music into movement. A public performance showcase with students will be offered at the conclusion of this multi-session program.

2. *Glass Art* by Jason Mack, City Sponsorship of \$1,500

Through the *Glass Art* project, local artist Jason Mack and the DREAM Program will provide hands-on instruction to the art of glass sculpting, along with motivational career training to Urbana High School art students helping visualize employment in the creative sector.

3. *Urbana Mixed Arts Student Showcase* by Urbana High School Film and Media Arts Club, City Sponsorship of \$1,000

The *Urbana Mixed Arts Student Showcase* is a 10-hour multimedia arts exhibition spanning music, film, visual art, and performance for a diversity of teen artists sponsored by the Urbana High School Film and Media Arts Club and held at the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center.

TIER III

1. *2021 Champaign-Urbana Folk and Roots Festival* by C-U Folk and Roots, City Sponsorship of \$10,000

This all-volunteer-run festival will bring together many different organizations to present over 70 free/low-cost, all ages/abilities participatory activities and high-quality folk performances. By using a variety of downtown venues including the library, restaurants, hotels, bars, the mall and arts organizations spaces, the festival continually integrates the arts into the distinctive urban environment.

2. *PYGMALION* by Fein-Bursoni, Inc., City Sponsorship of \$10,000

PYGMALION is a multi-faceted event entering its 17th year in 2021, comprised of live music, technology, literature, live comedy, podcasts, and more. This progressive program brings together a diverse array of musicians, authors, innovators, and creators to provide the community with the best the world has to offer in the arenas of arts, culture, and technology.