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**DATE:** Tuesday, May 12, 2026  
**TIME:** 4:30 PM  
**PLACE:** 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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## AGENDA

- A. Call to order, roll call, and declaration of quorum
- B. Changes to the Agenda
- C. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting
- D. Public Input
- 5. Communications
  - [1.](#) Staff Report
- F. Old Business
- G. New Business
- H. Announcements
- I. Adjournment

## PUBLIC INPUT

The City of Urbana welcomes Public Input during open meetings of the City Council, the City Council's Committee of the Whole, City Boards and Commissions, and other City-sponsored meetings. Our goal is to foster respect for the meeting process, and respect for all people participating as members of the public body, city staff, and the general public. The City is required to conduct all business during public meetings. The presiding officer is responsible for conducting those meetings in an orderly and efficient manner.

Public Input will be taken in the following ways:

### Email Input

Public comments must be received prior to the closing of the meeting record (at the time of adjournment unless otherwise noted) at the following: **Rachel.Storm@UrbanaIL.gov**. The subject line of the email must include the words "ARTS - PUBLIC INPUT" and the meeting date (05/12).

Your email will be sent to all Commission members. Emailed public comments labeled as such will be incorporated into the public meeting record, with personal identifying information redacted. Copies of

All City meetings are broadcast on Urbana Public Television and live-streamed on the web. Details on how to watch are found on the UPTV webpage located at <https://www.urbanail.gov/executive-department/page/urbana-public-television>.

emails will be posted after the meeting minutes have been approved.

### **Written Input**

Any member of the public may submit their comments addressed to the members of the public body in writing. If a person wishes their written comments to be included in the record of Public Input for the meeting, the writing should so state. Written comments must be received prior to the closing of the meeting record (at the time of adjournment unless otherwise noted).

### **Verbal Input**

Protocol for Public Input is one of respect for the process of addressing the business of the City. Obscene or profane language, or other conduct that threatens to impede the orderly progress of the business conducted at the meeting is unacceptable.

Public comment shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes per person. The Public Input portion of the meeting shall total no more than two (2) hours, unless otherwise shortened or extended by majority vote of the public body members present. The presiding officer or the city clerk or their designee, shall monitor each speaker's use of time and shall notify the speaker when the allotted time has expired. A person may participate and provide Public Input once during a meeting and may not cede time to another person, or split their time if Public Input is held at two (2) or more different times during a meeting. The presiding officer may give priority to those persons who indicate they wish to speak on an agenda item upon which a vote will be taken.

The presiding officer or public body members shall not enter into a dialogue with citizens. Questions from the public body members shall be for clarification purposes only. Public Input shall not be used as a time for problem solving or reacting to comments made but, rather, for hearing citizens for informational purposes only.

In order to maintain the efficient and orderly conduct and progress of the public meeting, the presiding officer of the meeting shall have the authority to raise a point of order and provide a verbal warning to a speaker who engages in the conduct or behavior proscribed under "Verbal Input". Any member of the public body participating in the meeting may also raise a point of order with the presiding officer and request that they provide a verbal warning to a speaker. If the speaker refuses to cease such conduct or behavior after being warned by the presiding officer, the presiding officer shall have the authority to mute the speaker's microphone and/or video presence at the meeting. The presiding officer will inform the speaker that they may send the remainder of their remarks via e-mail to the public body for inclusion in the meeting record.

### **Accommodation**

If an accommodation is needed to participate in a City meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at least 48 hours in advance so that special arrangements can be made using one of the following methods:

- Phone: (217) 384-2366 City Clerk's Office
- Email: Rachel.Storm@UrbanaIL.gov



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

### Urbana Arts & Culture Program Monthly Progress Report

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month– March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Prepared by Rachel Lauren Storm, Interim 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

- **Part-time Interim Arts and Culture Coordinator, Rachel Storm**

Dr. Rachel Lauren Storm is currently serving as the part-time Interim Arts & Culture Coordinator for the City of Urbana's Arts & Culture Program. This role builds on her previous leadership within the City of Urbana's arts initiatives, where she developed and implemented programs that expanded access to the arts and supported local artists and organizations. In this part-time interim capacity, she is supporting key programs including the Urbana Arts Grants, the Poet Laureate Program, and other community-based arts initiatives. Dr. Storm serves as the Assistant Director of Community Engagement and Learning at Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she leads public engagement strategy and oversees programs, partnerships, and initiatives that connect exhibitions to the diverse lived experiences of local communities. With nearly 20 years of experience across nonprofit, higher education, and municipal contexts, her work centers on equity, access, and community-centered arts engagement. Storm serves as Affiliate Faculty in the School of Art + Design and the Center for the Global Study of Gender Equity, and is President of the Champaign County Museum Network.

- **Welcome new UAC Commissioner, Ty Lewis**

The Urbana Arts and Culture Commission welcomes new commissioner Ty Lewis, a multidisciplinary dancer, choreographer, educator, and arts administrator whose work centers community-based arts programming, cultural accessibility, and creative engagement. Lewis currently serves as Program Manager at the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, where they oversee arts and culture programming, youth initiatives, workshops, and community events, and also teaches movement and dance courses at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Their appointment brings additional experience in performance, interdisciplinary arts practice, and grassroots community engagement to the Commission.

- **Urbana Arts and Culture Commission Vacancies**

The Urbana Arts and Culture Commission currently has vacancies and encourages community members with interests in the arts, cultural programming, education, event planning, neighborhood organizing, business, or related fields to apply for service. More information about the Commission and the City's Board and Commission application process is available through the City of Urbana website.

## Updates on Current Projects

- **Urbana Arts Grants:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program received nearly 80 applications in this 2026 cycle. The program will complete its jury process later this month for Tier I, II, and Arts in the Schools grants. A total of \$90,000 is available to award to artists, arts organizations, and festival presenters for creative projects that enrich the lives of Urbana residents and visitors in the 2026 cycle.
- **SNEAK PEEK Celebration:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program will hold its annual grant awardee celebration at Gallery Art Bar mid-June from 6pm-8pm featuring a recognition of the 2026 Urbana Arts Grantees and a showcase what's in store in the coming year for the Urbana arts and culture scene. All 2026 Urbana Arts Grants applicants will be notified of their grant status prior to the event. The event will feature complimentary hors d'oeuvres and live music.
- **Urbana Poet Laureate Program:** The City's Poet Laureate Program celebrates poetry by recognizing a resident poet who honors and serves our diverse community. Applications for the 2026 Poet Laureate closed on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026 and the jury will convene later this month to select the next awardee.
- **Poet Laureate Inauguration Celebration:** Planning is underway for the Poet Laureate Inauguration Celebration, which will be held on June 16, 2026, from 6–8 p.m. at Analog Wine Library. The event will celebrate the newly appointed Poet Laureate and recognize poetry's role in fostering civic dialogue, creativity, and community connection in Urbana.
- **Boneyard Arts Festival:** Sponsored by 40 North, Boneyard Arts Festival is a unique 3-day exhibition of performance, literary and visual art hosted in a wide variety of venues— from private businesses to public spaces— all around Champaign County, Illinois. The festival (held April 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) transformed Urbana into a hub of creativity this year, with roughly 40–50 venues hosting exhibitions, performances, open studios, pop-ups, and community arts programming across downtown, campus, and neighborhood spaces.
- **115 Main Mural Project:** Staff continue to advance planning for the proposed mural project at 115 W. Main Street, including refinement of the project timeline, review process, and community engagement approach. Due to the scale and visibility of the project, development is anticipated to extend into late summer/early fall to allow for

thoughtful collaboration with the selected artist, review committee input, and coordination with the property owner and project partners.

- **Urbana Sculpture Project:** Staff are coordinating the planned June 2026 transition of sculptures at Boneyard Creek Crossing, including the de-installation of *Ice Pops* and installation of Nicole Beck’s *Heal Us*. Coordination is underway with the artist and Public Works staff to finalize a mutually feasible installation date mid-June and ensure logistical support for transport and installation.
- **PostMark Urbana:** 40 North and Urbana Arts and Culture presented PostMark Urbana “DANCE!” outside The Urbana Free Library on May 2, featuring dance performances, participatory activities, music, a dance-themed scavenger hunt, and a make-and-take craft activity that helped activate downtown Urbana through free, family-friendly arts programming and collaboration with local artists, businesses, and community partners.
- **Pop-up Concerts with Urbana Pops Orchestra:** The Urbana Arts and Culture Program partnered with the Urbana Pops Orchestra to present the final Pop-Up mini-concert of the spring on April 25 at The Urbana Free Library, featuring professional musicians and longtime Urbana music educators Karen DeBauche, Deb Sutter, and Ellen Elrick alongside student performers in a free, intergenerational community music program.
- **Murals on Glass:** Two newly selected works from the Urbana Arts and Culture Program’s Murals on Glass initiative have been installed at Lincoln Square Mall, featuring John Odum’s *Terraqueous* at the south entrance and Ruth Lantz’s *Ferranti* at the east entrance, further activating the downtown corridor through rotating public art installations by local artists. Support and guidance for this program is made possible through our partnership with 40 North.
- **Candelight Serenade: Jazz Edition:** Staff continue promotional outreach for the upcoming Jazz Edition of Candlelight Serenade, which will take place on May 22, 2026, from 8:30–10 p.m. at the Lake House in Crystal Lake Park. Presented in partnership with 40 North 88 West and the Urbana Park District, the after-hours event will feature live jazz performances and immersive candlelit atmosphere programming designed to encourage community engagement with Urbana’s cultural spaces.

*Arts & Culture Commissioners and the public are encouraged to get involved with the Urbana Arts & Culture Program’s ongoing events and initiatives.*