

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2026
TIME: 4:30 PM
PLACE: 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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
- E. Communications
 - 1. Staff Report
- F. Old Business
- G. New Business
 - 1. Review finalists for Downtown Urbana Parking Deck Mural
- 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.

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>.

Public Input will be taken in the following ways:

Email Input

In order to be incorporated into the record, emailed public comments must be received prior to 5:00pm on the day preceding the meeting and sent following email address: rachel.storm@urbanail.gov.

The subject line of the email should include “PUBLIC INPUT”, the board/commission name, and the meeting date. Emailed public comments labeled as such will be incorporated into the public meeting record, with personal identifying information redacted.

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
- Email: rachel.storm@urbanail.gov

Bio, Artist Statement, & Letter of Interest

BIO

Alixandra Jade is an international multidisciplinary artist specializing in hand painted murals to help enhance and personalize homes, businesses, and communities. Alixandra has worked with a range of clients from private homeowners to large scale developers to corporate and commercial companies. Creating art throughout Canada and the United States.

ARTIST STATEMENT

As a versatile artist, my joy is working one on one with clients to find visual solutions. My style can be described as a variety of things depending on the subject matter; bold, abstract, stylized realism, or 'street' with quality and sophistication. I believe art can be more than just visually and aesthetically pleasing. I strive to create artwork that is functional. Whether it relays a direct message to the viewers, enhances the atmosphere of a space, or even serves as a backdrop for pictures.

LETTER OF INTEREST

As a designer by trade I thrive to create art with purpose; public art is just that. Public art affects individuals, communities, and cities, consciously and subconsciously. It creates conversion, enhances spaces, and highlights a city's character. Creating a piece of art with these goals is what intrigues me about this project.

For me, this project combines my knowledge in design research, experience working with clients, and my artistic vision and skill. These key strengths will not only help me develop artistic concepts but will ensure I create a hand painted mural that both myself, the client, and the community is proud of.

I have years of experience working with a variety of clients from private homeowners to large scale developers to corporate and commercial companies. I am comfortable, capable, and confident to manage, create, and produce a mural of any size. Some large scale projects I have completed range from painting a 3000 sqf school mural (Garth Worthington School Mural) to creating murals for both the exterior and interior of a 4-storey boutique hotel in Kentucky USA (The Elwood Hotel). Creating art throughout Canada and places in the United States such as New York City, Utah, Kentucky, Texas, Indianapolis, and Los Angeles.

I take a unique approach to murals and believe that in order to create the most beneficial art for the client and space, one on one collaboration with the client is needed. I love guiding the creative process to help create a successful piece of art. I have worked on multiple projects where diverse communities were involved and needed to be included and represented in the artwork. I have worked with various stakeholders as well.

If selected, I look forward to learning more about the details of this project and embarking on this creative collaboration.

Urbana Parking Deck Mural Proposal For Your Consideration

Artist Name: EKAH / E. K. Anna Hennequet

Bio:

I am a visual artist born in South Korea who immigrated to the U.S. with my family as a young person and spent formative years in New York City. The Urbana-Champaign area has been my home for more than twenty years. I have worked as a professional artist in the commercial sector for many years until ten years ago when I became involved with the local art community through 40 North. Through the support of the local arts organizations such as Urbana Arts and Culture Program and 40 North, my featured works have led to opportunities for me to work on various public art projects - murals, animation, sculptural installation, and public school workshops.

Statement / Proposal:

For this project, I am proposing a collaboration with fellow artist, Lisa Kesler, who I admire as an artist and as a person. Although our visual styles are different, we believe that working together will allow us to draw from our own experiences, resulting in a mural that is unique and amplifies our individual strengths. We also believe our collective presence as female artists can be an inspiration and a powerful representation to aspiring young artists. Our collective portfolio should demonstrate the breadth of our capabilities as professional artists with creativity and experience to undertake such a project with professionalism.

Our collaboration is based on mutual trust, long professional experience, and a shared belief that public art should be welcoming, authentic, and respectful of its environment. We also plan to work with an experienced painting assistant, ensuring an efficient and well-organized installation process.

While the specific design for this mural would be developed in response to the site and input from the committee, we are interested in creating work that reflects Urbana's vibrant, creative energy and cultural diversity that would integrate well into the daily life of Downtown Urbana.

We are excited about the opportunity to contribute to a large-scale, collaborative artwork to Urbana's public landscape and to create something that reflects both the character and the collective spirit of its community.

(Please see the following pages for onsite photos of the parking deck wall.)

Location: 111 E Main St, Urbana, IL 61801

Mural Area Dimensions: 88 ft. width x 28 ft. length (approximate)

Total Surface: 2,464 sq. ft. (approximate)



Aerial View: Google Earth 3D



Image Source: Google Earth 3D

URBANA PARKING DECK MURAL PROPOSAL

Artist Name: Lisa Kesler Studio

BIO

I am a Champaign-Urbana painter, printmaker, muralist, and mixed media artist. I have a painting degree from the University of Illinois and an illustration degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Over the past several decades, my art has been collected locally and regionally, and commissioned for public spaces like healthcare environments, academic settings, and corporate collections around the country. Much of my inspiration comes from the natural world and the visual language of patterns. I grew up surrounded by farmland, quilts, and the rhythms of nature, which continue to shape my sense of order and repetition. I am especially interested in how art can shape shared public spaces by adding warmth, connection, and a sense of community.

STATEMENT/PROPOSAL

For this project, I am proposing a collaboration with fellow artist E. K. Anna (EKAH) Hennequet, whose work I have admired for many years. Our collaboration is based on mutual trust, long professional experience, and a shared belief that public art should feel welcoming, authentic, and respectful of its environment. Although our visual styles are different, we believe that working together will allow us to draw from our own experiences, resulting in a mural that is unique and amplifies our individual strengths. We also plan to work with an experienced painting assistant, ensuring an efficient and well-organized installation process.

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(images on following page)



EKAH & Lisa Kesler- Additional Information

Submitted budget includes compensation for both collaborating artists, E. K. Anna Hennequet and Lisa Kesler. The budget is approximate based on available info. Additional work related to the project that is not specified in the application may be negotiated at the contractual phase of the project.

Jose Vazquez

Jose a Mexican American artist has worked in the video game industry for 20 plus years and has worked with several game studios. Jose worked as a concept artist creating characters, environments, weapons, and graphics for several game title but most prominently the Saints Row Series.

Before working in the game industry, he was an accomplished street artist in Chicago working on Commissioned pieces for the CTA, Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Library and several private commissions. He was one of the original members of member of the DC5 crew, one of the well-known graffiti crews in Chicago.

Currently, he has become a well-established local muralist, working for various clients. He also still works as a Freelance concept artist/ illustrator in the game industry, as well as a visual development artist for UIUC Beckman Institute.

Artist Statement Langston Allston

My work is about presenting ordinary moments of daily beauty as mythic, monumental. That practice guides me in both public artworks and painting in the studio. I draw influence from a wide variety of sources, both historical and contemporary. When I am creating murals I take on the responsibility of representing the neighborhood that the work is placed in, and the people who live there, in an honest, compassionate, and reverent light. I believe it is critical to create public artworks that enrich the experiences of the people who live with them day after day. This process is based on research into local routines, histories, and myths. For me public work is about listening, about responding to feedback from the people passing the wall as I work, and about engaging the community directly around the sites of my projects.

My work has been featured in the Contemporary Art Center, in New Orleans, the Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Art, in Brooklyn, and is in the permanent collection of the City of New Orleans. I have also created public art throughout the country for community organizations like the Blocc, and the Mural Movement, as well as for major brands Red Bull, Modelo, the Chicago Bulls & Chicago White Sox.

Langston Allston- Additional Information

I am certified to operate a boom lift, and have a great deal of experience working at this scale. Beyond my own personal murals I have worked with artists unfamiliar with large scale murals to realize their vision. If I am selected to take on this project I would like to hire two artists from the community to work along side me, and to get certified as lift operators for future projects. Urbana is where I grew up and it is always an incredible honor to add new artworks to the city.

My name is Matthew Mederer, also known as Cool Disco Rich. I am an internationally active muralist with over eight years of experience creating large-scale public artworks that blend trompe l'oeil, symbolism, and community storytelling. I am particularly interested in this Urbana project because it occupies a highly visible civic space where art can shape how people experience and move through the city.

Much of my work centers on honoring local identity through symbolism, history, and lived experience. Urbana's artistic and cultural diversity, along with its role as a crossroads between academic, civic, and everyday life, aligns closely with how I approach murals. I paint not as surface decoration, but as visual narratives that reflect the character of a place and the people connected to it. A mural facing the downtown parking deck offers a unique opportunity to create a strong visual presence that feels rooted in Urbana while remaining accessible to a broad public audience.

Community engagement is foundational to my process. I regularly incorporate listening sessions, informal conversations, and collaborative feedback into my design development. These exchanges help ensure the final artwork reflects shared values and local perspectives rather than a single point of view. I am comfortable working closely with arts organizations, city partners, and stakeholders and value a clear, iterative design process built on dialogue and trust.

Technically, I have extensive experience executing murals in demanding environments, including large vertical surfaces and installations at extreme heights. I plan carefully for surface preparation, material durability, lift operation, and overall installation logistics. I maintain clear timelines and detailed budgets to ensure projects are completed safely, on schedule, and within fixed financial parameters.

I would be honored to contribute a mural that reflects Urbana's identity while enhancing this prominent downtown site as a lasting and engaging public artwork.

Regards,
Matthew

JURY SELECTION

City of Urbana Parking Deck Mural



Alixandra Jade |
Casey, IL

















EKAH | Mahomet, IL
Lisa Kesler |
Champaign, IL
(collaboration)























Lisa Kesler





Lisa Kesler



Lisa Kesler





Jose Vazquez |
Champaign, IL

























Langston Allston | New
Orleans, LA



ANCIPITON THESE CLUBS HELPED
 OUT OF SLAVERY & OUT OF POVERTY
 ALLIQUX WAS A PROMINENT
 OF ONE SUCH CLUB - THE FRIENDS OF ORDER
 IS RESPECTED & LOVED HERE.

DURING THE CIVIL WAR HE ENLISTED IN THE UNION ARMY
 & BECAME ONE OF THE FIRST BLACK OFFICERS TO SERVE
 CAPT. CHIVOUX WAS KILLED AT THE BATTLE OF FORT HUDSON
 LEADING A CHARGE AGAINST THE FORT. HIS SACRIFICE WAS
 CELEBRATED HERE WITH ONE OF THE LARGEST FUNERAL
 PROCESSIONS NEW ORLEANS HAD EVER SEEN



BAYOU ROAD HAS CHANGED A LOT SINCE
 THEN - BUT THE CORE VALUES REMAIN -
 COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS, COMMUNITY CARE,
 CELEBRATION OF HISTORY & CULTURAL
 EXCHANGE.

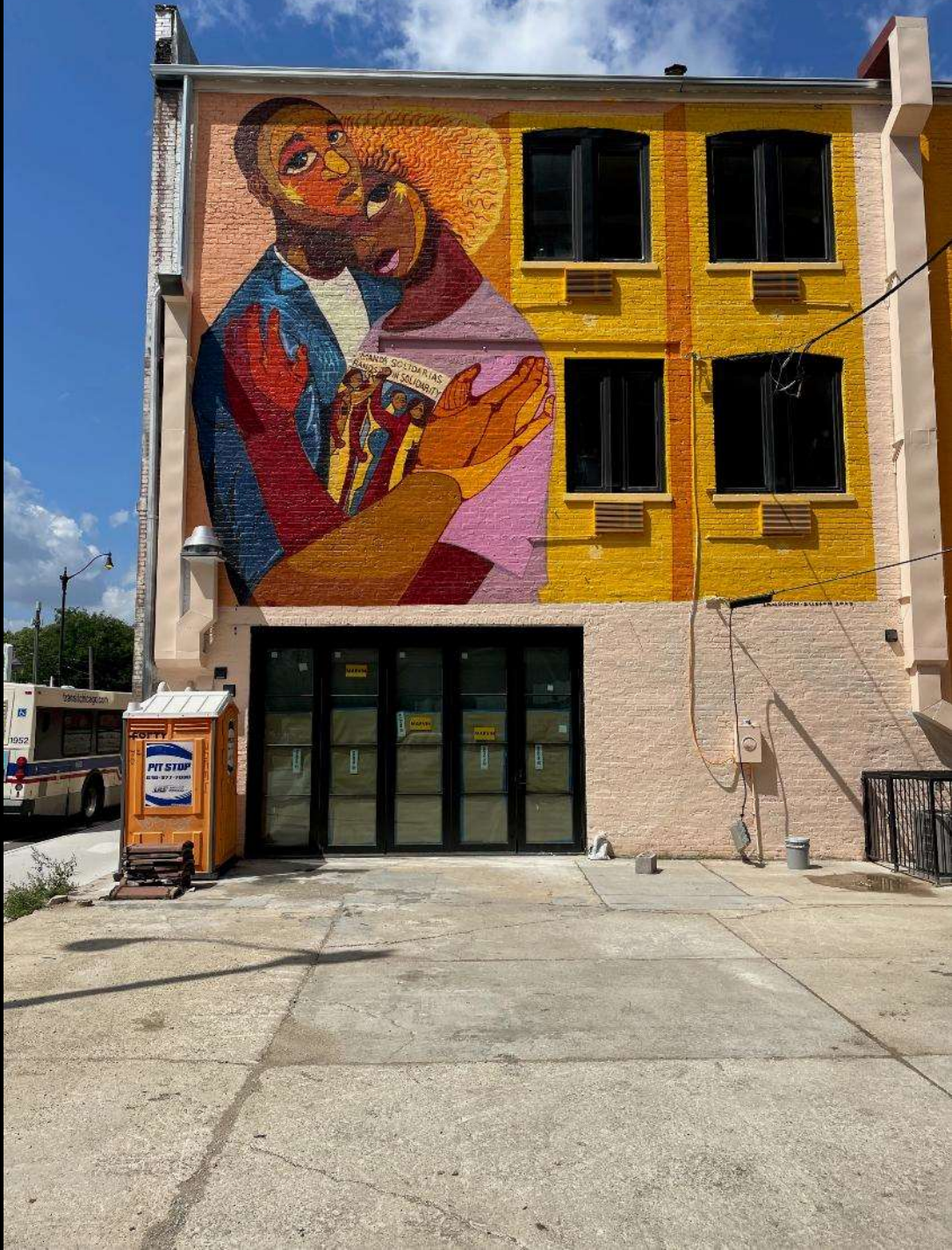
LNOSTON-ALLSTON 2018















Matthew Mederer |
Chicago, IL









