



To: Central Illinois Artists
From: Urbana Park District
Re: Call for Art: Bridging the Art Divide
Date: April 1, 2021

Background

If you've visited Crystal Lake Park recently, you've noticed the great strides we've made in the rehabilitation project. There are improved views and new landscaping, but the bridges have stayed the same. We have been awarded an Urbana Arts & Culture Program grant to turn the Sanitary District Bridge over Crystal Lake into a temporary art gallery. After the success of last summer's Great ARTdoors program in other Urbana parks, we know we can bring the same vibrancy to Crystal Lake Park. Chosen artwork will be reproduced on large corrugated plastic boards affixed directly onto the bridge.

We are calling for art submissions from Illinois artists in the following 12 categories. Our panel will select one piece for each category:

- 1) Work by an artist that identifies as Black, Indigenous, and Person of Color – any theme
- 2) Work by a youth artist (age 17 and under or 18 if currently enrolled in high school) – any theme
- 3) Work by an Age-Friendly artist (age 50 and Better) – any theme

Work centered on the following themes:

- 4) Social Justice
- 5) Urbana/You Belong Here
- 6) Nature
- 7) Connections
- 8) Wellness
- 9) Play
- 10) Family
- 11) Past & Present
- 12) The Elements & Climate

Several of these themes come directly from our current strategic plan. Visit the plan here:

<https://www.urbanaparks.org/get-involved/strategic-planning/>.

It is the mission of the Urbana Park District to:

- Improve the quality of life of its citizens through a responsive, efficient, and creative park and recreation system;
- Pursue excellence in a variety of programs, parks and special facilities that contribute to the attractiveness of neighborhoods, conservation of the environment and overall health of the community

Rules

1. Submission Deadline is June 1, 2021 at 6pm CST.
2. Conditions of entry: All artists based in Illinois are invited to apply. Artists residing or working in Champaign County and its neighboring counties may receive preference from the selection panel.
3. Digital images may be of any medium (photography, sculpture, watercolor, textiles, collage, etc.)
4. Submissions can be existing artwork and details of existing or new artwork.
5. There is no entry fee to apply. Limit 3 entries per artist, across any number of categories.
6. Artwork must be suitable for a general park audience.
7. Digital submissions should be sent to:
 - a. Community Program Manager Janet Soesbe, jsoesbe@urbanaparks.org
 - b. File size for each submission should be no larger than 10MB
8. Each entry should include:
 - a. Artist's contact information, including birth date
 - b. Short artist statement
 - c. Title of piece and brief narrative (less than 200 words) addressing how entry best fits the theme
 - d. Category in which the piece is entered
 - e. Proposed image - panels will be 4 ft by 4 ft and images must be square
9. The selection panel will include members of the district's Arts and Culture Matrix Team and members of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee.
10. The corrugated plastic panels will be installed on the bridge by Urbana Park District staff.
11. Selected work: once the jury makes a final decision, artist and district will sign an exhibition agreement, which will include allowing the artwork's use in promotion materials. Artists will be able to keep their panel after the exhibition ends.
12. Project Timeline:
 - Call Open: April 1, 2021
 - Call Closed: June 1, 2021 at 6pm CST
 - Selection panel meets: week of June 7, 2021
 - Announcement of winners: June 18, 2021
 - Production: June 20-July 30, 2021
 - Installation: The week of August 2, 2021
 - Tentative removal of panels: after Thanksgiving, 2021
13. The Urbana Park District and selection panel reserve the right to reject any entries, to waive any proposal technicalities, or to terminate the selection process at any time for any project.

Placement on both sides of the bridge in Crystal Lake Park, near the historic stone steps:

Looking NW, side one (first square is project information and QR code linked to website):



Looking SE, side two:



Location of Sanitary District bridge within park:

