



Urbana Arts Grantees 2025

Tier I

Music

Get to Know Chinese Musical Instruments **\$2,000**

Chinese American Association of Central Illinois Bringing traditional Chinese folk music to Urbana through a live, educational performance by the Jasmine Field Orchestra. Featuring student musicians, the event will explore the history and cultural significance of Chinese instruments in an engaging, family-friendly setting for children and community members.

People's Chorus Community Performances **\$3,496**

CU Sings Pop-up performances beyond regular concert season, bringing uplifting choral music to local events that celebrate diversity, foster cross-cultural connections, and strengthen community bonds.

All Score Urbana + Turnaround Music Present: Postal Pieces **\$2,383.50**

All Score Urbana An invitation to engage with the legacy of composer James Tenney through two interactive concerts at the historic IMC post office building. Participants will explore, create, and hear performances of Tenney's postcard compositions, with their own postcard scores exhibited in the IMC gallery following the events.

Rhythms of the Diaspora **\$3,000**

Afro-Caribbean Jazz Collective, Jose Guzman A three-day workshop on Latin jazz grooves, harmonies, and improvisation for musicians of all levels in the Urbana community. It includes an evening performance by The Afro-Caribbean Jazz Collective and culminates with an afternoon student concert showcasing participants' new skills.

Visual Art

Black Light Box **\$3,499**

Guen Montgomery A neighborhood micro art gallery in Urbana that brings community and art together by showcasing neon artworks illuminated by blacklight. Designed to brighten dark times, the gallery activates vibrant colors at night and hosts monthly openings to celebrate local artists and engage neighbors and visitors in a unique, glowing experience.

Fiber February **\$3,200**

High in Fibers & Brittany Heyen A month-long collective exhibition celebrating fiber arts through skill-sharing workshops and weekly bring-your-own-project nights. The event fosters community and creativity among local fiber artists through hands-on engagement and collaborative crafting.

Saturday Lunch Explorations with Uni High Arts! **\$3,448**

University Laboratory High School Uni High's arts-focused clubs will host monthly workshops for K-8 students and their caregivers, offering hands-on projects, demonstrations, and performances. These sessions aim to mentor young learners and inspire families by showcasing the creative opportunities available through the arts in high school and beyond.

School Mural at Urbana Early Childhood School **\$3,499**

Monica Andino "All Together" is a mural project celebrating the rich multicultural backgrounds of children at Urbana Early Childhood School. Installed on an interior entrance wall, the artwork will create a welcoming and vibrant space, with the artist leading the design, production, and installation of the 120" by 104" mural.

UHS Community Life and Agricultural Sciences Mural **\$2,150**

UHS, Joan Jach A mural celebrating important food and natural resources from Illinois and the diverse countries of the students' families, highlighting life and agricultural sciences taught nearby. Created by high school students, the mural will be completed in spring and followed by a public viewing and celebration honoring the artists and their work.

Literature

Sangamon Anthology of Poetry **\$3,310**

Will Reger A celebration of local poetry through the creation of a community anthology, a public reading, and an educational workshop for high school students. In addition to highlighting regional voices, the initiative includes a food drive in support of the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, combining creative expression with community engagement.

Dance

The Essence In-between Movement & Sound Project **\$3,495**

Dance at Illinois, Ty Lewis An immersive dance project led by choreographer and dancer Ty Lewis, featuring one movement workshop and two site-specific experimental performances. In collaboration with four musicians and a vocalist, the project will explore the nuanced “in-between” moments of movement, sound, and space through original sound scores and embodied performance.

Theatre

The Turn Away Play **\$3,499**

Urbana-Champaign Reproductive Justice (UCRJ) will present public readings of *The Turnaway Play* by Lesley Lisa Greene, directed by local artist and advocate Latrelle Bright. Performances will take place at The Station Theatre in Urbana and a campus venue, with at least one reading recorded and streamed to expand accessibility and reach.

Multimedia

Art/Tech Hack Night Workshop Series **\$3,499**

Jake Metz, Multimodal Productions A series of hands-on workshops in interactive media arts, led by the chief technology engineer of Gallery Art Bar. Aimed at expanding the local pool of artists skilled in immersive video systems, the project will also produce and share new software tools and workflow tutorials to support ongoing creative exploration.

Tier II

Music Events & Workshops

She Spins Urbana **\$3,500**

Ja'Naea Modest A two-week summer camp focused on teaching girls the basics of DJing. The first week will engage returning participants to refine their skills and prepare them to mentor new beginners during the second week, fostering both artistic growth and peer mentorship in a supportive, creative environment.

Fiddle & Jam Weekend **\$4,999**

Community Center for the Arts Workshops, jams, and concerts for all ages, with a focus on the repertoire of Black Midwestern fiddlers. Featuring master fiddlers Charlie Walden and Aaron Albrecht, the event includes a lecture-demo and a free evening concert showcasing both traditional and contemporary interpretations of fiddle music.

The Rose Bowl Tavern - Sunday Funday! **\$4,999**

Rose Bowl Mama Tried LLC, Charlie Harris

A weekly Sunday event series featuring live music and diverse artistic expressions. Focused on community engagement and accessibility, the free events will collaborate with local artists and organizations to create an inclusive space for celebration and creativity every Sunday.

Dance

Spanish iLanding Dance Workshop **\$4,999**

Landing in Motion

A series of intergenerational Spanish-language workshops that use dance, art, and music to explore themes of belonging and connection between Latin America and the Urbana-Champaign community. The series will culminate in a public celebration, honoring shared experiences and cultural ties through creative expression.

Literature

Champaign Urbana Black Author Book Fair **\$3,500**

Urbana Park District No More Bound LLC, Airlie Sadler

A Book Fair fostering a safe and empowering space for Black authors and artists to share their voices and talents. Dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, the project provides a platform for Black creators to showcase their work, engage with the community, and inspire others to embrace their creative potential.

Multimedia

Reimagining Urban Landscapes through Sound **\$4,975**

Liquid Dreams CU, Lucas Borges Dos Santos A series of three immersive electronic music events in Urbana throughout 2025. Each event will transform a unique urban space into a vibrant hub for sound, visual art, and community, featuring high-quality audio, visual installations, and DJ performances that encourage self-expression through music, fashion, and movement.

Visual Art

Creativity on Wheels **\$4,999**

Family Service of Champaign County

A meaningful art experience for older adults through home-delivered creativity boxes and in-person expressive arts groups. Designed to foster social connection, self-expression, and mental wellness, these programs use the arts to promote resilience, engagement, and a sense of community among seniors.

Art Lab: Creating a Conversation Between Art and Science **\$4,487**

Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology A creative space to explore various artistic mediums through the lens of scientific research. Inspired by work at the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, each session includes hands-on art-making and open dialogue with IGB scientists, fostering connections between art and science.

Makerspace Create! Classes **\$4,999**

Urbana Makerspace A year-long series of free community art classes designed to spark creativity, build connections, and support artistic expression. Through hands-on workshops—such as stained glass, acrylic painting, and memory-making activities—the project invites participants of all skill levels to learn, create, and grow together in a welcoming environment.

Film

Arthouse 217 Film Series **\$4,999**

Rachel Storm Revitalizing independent and arthouse cinema in Urbana-Champaign by presenting thoughtfully curated films that explore creativity and the human experience. Drawing inspiration from local traditions, the series offers screenings in both indoor and outdoor venues downtown, welcoming cinephiles and new audiences alike.

