

LEWISTON PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
Monday, January 05, 2026, at 6:00 pm
Lewiston City Hall, First Floor Administrative Conference Room
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Committee members in attendance: Deanna Ehrhardt, Chairperson; Darby Ray; Courtney Schlachter; and James Lysen.

Committee members absent: Gerald Walsh (excused) and Scott Harriman, Council Liaison (excused).

Others present: Kathryn Ruth, Community Development Manager

1) Call Meeting to Order:

Chairperson Ehrhardt called the meeting to order at 6:24 pm.

Ms. Schlachter dropped off copies of her rankings for the Call for Artists. She had been ill when the rankings were to have been turned in. Mr. Lysen had experienced significant e-mail and internet issues; therefore, he had not ranked the applications. He reviewed the application copies prior to the meeting while the group was socializing, completed scoring and turned in his scores. The Committee excused Ms. Ruth so she could update the rankings for the proposals received as all the members who were going to rank the applications had now done so.

2) Approve Meeting Minutes for December 08, 2025:

Ms. Ray moved and Mr. Lysen seconded the motion to approve the committee meeting minutes of December 08, 2025. All voted in favor. The motion passed (4-0).

3) Available Budget Funding as of January 05, 2026:

Ms. Ruth noted that the budget was on schedule with all funds encumbered with the exception of the funds that were returned from the last budget of \$7,701 and the funds that will not be utilized in the current budget of \$17,298, all from the bridge lighting project totaling \$24,999. Therefore, everything is the same as last month.

4) Update on projects approved by the City Council:

There were very minor updates as comprehensive updates were provided several meetings ago. Updates should be provided at the next Committee meeting in order to prepare for Spring.

Ms. Schlachter advised that due to the paint coming off the sidewalks so quickly and the concern with whether there is a slipping hazard, that she is interested in moving the Sidewalk Art to another location. Ideas were a parking lot or a nearby building with an interested owner.

5) Decide on how to review the results of the Committee's ranking of the Submittals from the Call for Artists for the FY27 Budget (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)

Ms. Ruth passed out the updated Public Art Committee Scores Prior to Overall Budget Considerations for the Call for Artists. This update now has rankings from 5 of the 6 Committee members.

At the last meeting, it had been decided by consensus that all Committee members, with the exception of Mr. Walsh, will rank the applications. LA Arts is assisting one of the artists who

submitted a proposal and Mr. Walsh requested to abstain from voting. By consensus, the Committee agreed with his request.

It had been requested by the Committee Chair that staff send out a reminder e-mail the week of Christmas and Ms. Ruth agreed to remind the members. She noted a deadline of 12/29/2025 would allow her to put the packages together and get them to the Committee members with plenty of time for their review. Unfortunately, all Committee members were unable to provide their materials at that time due to illness, and significant e-mail/internet issues. Therefore, the scores sent out by Ms. Ruth to the Committee prior to the meeting were replaced by the new scores and tally of 5 members which were completed prior to the start of the meeting.

The Committee members thoroughly reviewed the proposals and had a lot of good comments to note on all of them. It was commented by more than one Committee member that it would be great if they could approve all of them. However, the Committee spoke of the need to keep close to the amount of the current budget for the proposals and make sure to have a small budget for maintenance.

Ms. Ray made a motion that with the scores and conversation, the Committee affirm the following proposals are selected to move forward in the proposed budget:

1. Wabanaki on the Androscoggin at \$15,000;
2. The Lew Mural at \$15,000;
3. Uneeda Biscuit and J. Dul & Sons painted ad at \$20,000; and
4. Bus Stop Public Art at \$1,500.

The motion was seconded by Jim Lysen. All voted in favor. The motion passed (4 – 0).

The public art chosen totaled \$51,500 and the Committee's past budget was \$52,000.

The Committee recommended that formal letters be sent to those whose projects were not selected in order to provide feedback. All Committee members thought that applicants should be encouraged to apply for the next Call for Artists, which will be for the 2027-2028 budget, likely to be this fall. All applicants should be thanked for submitting their proposal and commended for their time and energies to put together the proposals. Specific items were noted by Committee members for each of these proposals:

The City of Stars: The Committee was very interested in this concept and wanted to see it flushed out more. The location specifically mentioned in the application is The Colisee which is privately owned. It was noted it could be another location, however, as of the date of the application submittal, another location was not listed. The Committee members thought it was a very creative proposal. The samples of the past landscape work were very nice.

The (ILY) Gardens: The Committee was captivated by the concept and thought the proposal was very interesting. It was noted by Committee members that the City needs to address maintenance of the current public art, therefore, maintenance was a concern with several Committee members especially with the plants. Other items discussed were that this was a large project and as this is the first year of the Call for Artists, members noted that it may be too complicated to begin with this during this initial phase. It was mentioned that if any issues developed beyond everyone's control, the Committee could have little public art in this particular year due to the size of their budget.

"I Love You" Public Benches: The Committee liked the concept and thought this was a nice project. It was mentioned that it would be nice if we had funds left over from the budget if we

could obtain one bench to see how people liked it. We need to see if in the future, the applicant would create just one bench and what the cost would be for one bench.

- 6) Decide on the Committee's Budget submittal for FY27 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)
After discussion, Ms. Darby made a motion that a budget of \$58,000 be submitted as follows:

Four Art Proposals: \$51,500.00 (4 art proposals in public locations)

Community outreach: \$ 3,000.00 (small projects and/or sponsorships with schools,
community groups and/or Senior organizations)

Maintenance of Art: \$ 3,500.00 (there has been minor maintenance by Public Works,
however, a plan needs to be developed and materials acquired)

Mr. Lysen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed (4 – 0).

- 7) Other business, if any, to come before the Committee – None, as items were discussed above.

- 8) Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on February 09, 2026, at 6:00 pm at City Hall in the First Floor
Administrative Conference Room (2nd Monday of the month):

- 9) Motion to adjourn:

Ms. Ray made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lysen. All voted in favor. The motion
passed (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Minutes submitted by:
Kathryn Ruth, Secretary Pro-Tem