

LEWISTON PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
Monday, March 09, 2026, at 6:00 pm
Lewiston City Hall, First Floor Administrative Conference Room
Meeting Minutes - Approved

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

Committee members absent: Courtney Schlachter (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 6:00 pm.

2) Approve Meeting Minutes for February 09, 2026

Ms. Ray moved and Mr. Lysen seconded the motion to approve the committee meeting minutes of February 09, 2026. All voted in favor. The motion passed (4-0).

3) Available Budget Funding as of March 09, 2026

Ms. Ruth noted that the budget was on schedule with all funds encumbered with the exception of the funds 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. This is the same position as last month and the item to re-allocate the \$24,999 is to be discussed later on the agenda.

4) Update on projects approved by the City Council on August 12, 2025 from the FY25-26 Budget:

a. L/A Arts Welcome Immigrants Mural \$10,000

An invoice has been received from L/A Arts. The project is waiting on the final design and options. It is anticipated to begin in May 2026. A lot of work has gone into the project to date.

b. Window Wrap projects to be designed by local artists \$ 7,500

An invoice has been received from L/A Arts. The designs are being worked on for this project. An intern is scoping out the projects. An addendum will be created for the original or first project contract as this is Phase II. This phase will focus on the bus stops given their deteriorated appearance.

c. Lewiston Farmers' Market Association (LFMA) Mural \$ 8,000

An additional request has been received from the Lewiston Farmers' Market through a letter from the Treasurer with a budget proposal detailing the project by LA Arts. Originally the Farmers Market had requested \$11,000 but due to the amount of funds available and the number of proposals received, LFMA was approved for \$8,000 in order for several projects to be approved. This request of \$4,000 will be very helpful in propelling the project

forward due to the constraints on manpower with the resignation of their Executive Director and the need to secure their food source due to federal budget cuts. If the City wants this project to move forward to help clean up the area by the parks being re-developed, assistance will be required. The Committee does not want to lose the momentum that has taken place for the Farmers' Market to get to their new location. There are a number of steps that need to take place to move this project forward. The proposal from LA Arts will do this.

- d. Sidewalk Murals in the downtown (projected for May 2026) \$ 2,000

A revision is proposed by Ms. Schlachter to move the project from the sidewalk to the wall/s in an alleyway in the vicinity of the annual sidewalk art mural. Ms. Schlachter spoke with her landlord, Richard Avery, and he is interested in having murals painted on his building at the corner of Lisbon and Ash Streets. She is planning for early to mid-May for the alley paintings and will work on a call to artists to be reviewed.

- e. Community initiatives \$ 7,202

These are smaller projects which include activities with the schools, youth groups, community organizations and grassroots efforts. The Committee members are in contact with a number of organizations about their annual events and other activities. These projects are coming up in May and June.

- 5) Update on Projects for the Re-allocation of funds from the Bridge Lighting Project that did not take place (\$24,999):

Most of the meeting was dedicated to discussing all of the projects that need to take place that the Committee is aware of as well as items that members would like to see. It was decided by consensus that the Committee will concentrate on those items that need to be jumpstarted due to circumstances beyond their control as well as those items that need to be completed to meet requirements and enhance areas of the community.

After extensive discussion and consideration, Ms. Ray made a motion to approve the three projects, seconded by Mr. Lysen. All voted in favor. The motion passed (4-0).

The following are the projects approved for presentation to the City Council pursuant to the Code of Ordinances:

A. Nameplates for 5 sculptures to include design, site visit, drawings and installation. Four to be mounted to granite blocks 20" Wide X 22" High X 14"; One to be mounted to brick façade. The signs will be 18" wide X 10" high. This project was bid out. The project also appears to be part of the match for the 2017 Choice Planning Grant. Not only should it be completed as it was part of a match, but it is also needed to accurately depict the sculptures for informational purposes for our residents and visitors. The lowest bid was \$11,696.29.

Re-allocate \$11,697

B. Lewiston Farmers Market Mural Project to fully fund the previously approved project of \$8,000 by adding \$4,000. To support as many projects as possible, the Committee has divided up funding among a number of projects, providing some of the funding for multiple projects. All projects have moved forward except the Farmers Market Mural due to a number of issues and developments beyond their control. \$4,000 would ensure their project is completed in a timely manner.

Re-allocate \$4,000

C. Street Art and Mitigation of Graffiti to involve the community in recommending areas that need enhancement along streets and to address graffiti beyond what Public Works can spray paint over. This would shine a positive light on areas of the community where alleys or areas of streets have negative activities taking place such as spray painting, trash and/or vandalism. Projects would require owner approval with the street art designs approved by the Committee.
Re-allocate \$9,302

- 6) Update on the Committee's FY27 Budget Submittal for FY27 for the period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027: Ms. Ruth advised that the budget was submitted along with the applications of the art projects chosen by the Committee from the Call for Artists. The budget approved by the Committee is \$58,000 when the Community Initiatives and Maintenance Category were added to the 4 Artist proposals chosen. The budget workshop presentation was scheduled for March 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm. She noted that it would be great if one of the Committee members could attend.

- 7) Other business, if any, to come before the Committee:

Community Initiatives: The Committee discussed the need to define the Community Initiatives in more detail. Ms. Ruth had provided a sample budget for this category based upon past projects that the Committee had been involved with or had noted would be good for Public Art. The Committee made a revision based upon past history and knowledge. The estimates for this category are:

Tree Streets Youth End of the School Year Performance in June 2026:	\$3,000
Maine Inside Out / Public Theatre Performance	\$2,000
Update the Zebra Sculpture	\$2,200

Committee members thought it would be great if they could provide funding for one or more artists with live paintings taking place to be on the street during the LA Arts Walk.

It was noted that as Public Art is outdoors, it takes place in late Spring and Summer and then stops. The Winter months are spent planning and putting projects together. We need to be ready to go forward with these projects as soon as the weather improves.

Other projects discussed that are needed when time and funding allow include:

(1) Updating the Lewiston Art Walk Map, (2) Developing a maintenance schedule and (3) Updating the inventory of Public Art in a format that is easily accessed for history, research, artists, promotion and provision of information to the public. It would also be used for insurance purposes.

- 8) Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on April 13, 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 6:52 pm.

Minutes submitted by:
Kathryn Ruth, Secretary Pro-Tem