

LEWISTON PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
Monday, April 13, 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; Courtney Schlachter; and James Lysen.

Committee members absent: Scott Harriman, Council Liaison (excused)

Others present: Kathryn Ruth, Community Development Manager; Joseph Philippon

1) Call Meeting to Order:

Chairperson Ehrhardt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2) Approve Meeting Minutes for March 09, 2026

Ms. Ray moved and Mr. Lysen seconded the motion to approve the committee meeting minutes of March 09, 2026. All voted in favor. The motion passed (5-0).

3) Available Budget Funding as of April 13, 2026

Ms. Ruth noted that the budget was on schedule with all funds encumbered including the \$24,999 re-allocated from the bridge lighting project to three projects which took place at the Council's April 7, 2026 meeting.

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

This project 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

This project is in development given the number of property owners who have changed their minds after stating considerable interest. There is a long list of properties reviewed. Ms. Ruth asked if we could have the list so that staff can figure out locations of properties that might be helpful for this project. It is a lot of work to run down these items, and staff can help but do not want to duplicate efforts. PAC knows this project is effective so it would be good if Phase II can move forward prior to the end of the fiscal year.

- c. Lewiston Farmers Market Association (LFMA) Mural (added the \$4,000) \$12,000

An additional request was 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 that several projects could be assisted. The request for \$4,000 was approved at the Council Meeting on April 7, 2026 and will be helpful in propelling this project forward to help clean up the area by the parks that are being re-developed.

- d. Alley Art Murals in the downtown (projected for May 2026) \$ 2,000
Ms. Schlachter had talked with her landlord, Richard Avery, and he was interested in having murals painted on his building at the corner of Lisbon and Ash Streets. The goal is to add color and life to an alley spot that has high visibility to motorists and pedestrians on Ash St. between Park and Lisbon Streets. The date she is looking at is May 16-17 with the rain date being May 23-24. Submissions would be due on May 4. There would be 6-9 wall murals to be painted on the alley-facing brick wall of 140 Lisbon St.

- 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. So far, the Committee has the following events: Ms. Ray contacted Maine Inside Out. The organization will be hosting the community's Juneteenth celebration on June 11, 2026 at the Public Theatre. This is live theatre and will be a new performance involving a documentary and include conversation with the public. The cost for this year's sponsorship is \$3,000. The Committee has been pleased to sponsor a performance each year for the public. Ms. Ruth will contact the organization to obtain an invoice.
The second project was reviewed by Ms. Walsh. Tree Street Youth is breaking ground across the street from their new facility. The group felt that having the march would conflict with their project. The group will still celebrate their youth and has proposed a sponsorship of \$2,000 for this event. At this point, it is a discussion. It was recommended that Mr. Walsh follow up on this as the Committee is interested in supporting Tree Street Youth again this year but needs a written proposal for review and consideration.
The third project is rehab of the Zebra which looks quite tired. This was estimated at \$2,202. Mr. Walsh will follow up with the artist's proposal in writing. This is not the original artist, but another artist who volunteered previously to help out and has materials from the project. Mr. Walsh will also check to see whether the paint is still useable.

Mr. Lysen moved and Ms. Darby seconded the motion to authorize a sponsorship from the Community Initiatives budget for Maine Inside Out's performance in the amount of \$3,000. All voted in favor. The motion passed (5-0).

5) Update on Projects approved for the re-allocation of the \$24,999:

The following are the projects approved by the City Council upon recommendation of the Committee:

- 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. \$11,697
Ms. Ruth will work on moving this project forward and submit the first invoice for payment.

B. Lewiston Farmers Market Mural Project to fully fund the previously approved project of \$8,000 by adding \$4,000. Reported and added the funds above in #4. \$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. Ms. Ruth noted that we need locations where the Committee thinks that this will be an enhancement and will improve deteriorated alleys/street corners. \$9,302
The Committee members will look around the City for areas and think of artists that might be interested. Ms. Ruth will make some inquiries with artists.

- 6) Discuss the Acting Director's request to approve the (ILY) Gardens project, a budget of \$29,900 to be added to the committee's budget request of \$58,000 submitted on January 15, 2026. This developed into a lengthy discussion given that the Committee had already approved their budget recommendation to the City and submitted the request by the deadline in January 2026. Various approaches were discussed. The Committee was adamant that this Project should not be included in the PAC budget proposal. In addition to the fact that the Committee tried to submit a conservative yet comprehensive budget in light of the difficult budget year, this large amount being added increases their budget by \$29,900 added onto the \$6,000 increase the Committee requested to address maintenance and inventory issues. This would be a 69% increase. In the end, Committee members were clear that it was not to be depicted to be in the PAC budget, but if the Department wants to use TIF funding for it, that is the Department's prerogative. Ms. Ruth will revise the budget that she received for Public art to divide up the expenses under the Department's TIF funds for various projects leaving the PAC budget as is.
- 7) Discuss the request to recommend an action regarding the art located on the former William Glover property on Pine Street named "Nailed It" installed in 2022 as commissioned by the City as part of the HUD Grant. The property is being sold in June 2026 and the art needs to be moved. The Committee members and Ms. Ruth discussed this request. Mr. Walsh had provided the Glover contract which shows the property the art is located on is 143 Pine Street and not 159 Pine Street which the City plans to sell. At one time, it was believed that 159 Pine was one of the lots being considered for the "Nailed It" art piece, however, it was placed on 143 Pine Street. Ms. Ruth had verified this through the property records as 143 Pine is not owned by the City. Mr. Walsh has a nice display in a document on his computer that shows the properties that are part of the art for the CHOICE grant and 143 Pine Street is clearly listed. He will forward this document to Ms. Ruth who will add it to the inventory collection she is compiling.
- 8) Discuss the need for a Maintenance Plan for the City's Public Art to include when to upkeep and when to decommission. To include a discussion of the Zebra Mural and the City of US Mural. Mr. Walsh discussed this item. Everyone believes it is important but will need some thought and work once all the projects are under way. Meanwhile, the Zebra Mural needs work and will be included under Community Initiatives as we have an artist who is part of the community will donate her time but will need some resources such as rental of a power wash, etc.
- 9) Other business, if any, to come before the Committee:
Ms. Ruth advised she was asked by the Deputy Planning Director today if there are any funds available for traffic calming on Lisbon Street before Chestnut Street in the location

where Ms. Therrien and her artists painted the temporary public art last year. Ms. Ruth passed around the sample design Ms. Therrien had proposed and noted that Ms. Therrien did the work for free last time but would like to be paid this time. She noted that the Deputy had estimated a budget of \$6,000 or less. Mr. Philippon noted that the art painted on the roadway was not traffic calming. Committee members wished to pass on this. They really like Ms. Therrien's work and felt that if this work was done that Ms. Therrien should be paid. No one on the Committee feels comfortable spending funds on something that is temporary. Some members relayed getting concerns over the temporary public art last year.

10) Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on May 11, 2026, at 6:00 pm at City Hall in the First Floor Administrative Conference Room (2nd Monday of the month):

11) Motion to adjourn:

Mr. Lysen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Ray. All voted in favor. The motion passed (5–0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Kathryn Ruth, Secretary Pro-Tem