

LEWISTON PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
Monday, May 11, 2026, at 6:00 pm
Lewiston City Hall, First Floor Administrative Conference Room
Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

Committee members in attendance: Deanna Ehrhardt, Chairperson; Courtney Schlachter; Scott Harriman, Council Liaison; and James Lysen.

Committee members absent: Darby Ray (excused); and Gerald Walsh (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 April 13, 2026

Ms. Schlachter moved and Mr. Lysen seconded the motion to approve the committee meeting minutes of April 13, 2026. Mr. Harriman noted that he had not attended the meeting so he thought he should abstain. The vote was (3-0-1 abstain).

3) Budget Funding Available as of May 11, 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. Phase II had been anticipated to be the Bus Stops; however, approval had not been received from the Transit Authority due to work anticipated on some of the Bus Stops. If not resolved shortly, both Window Wrap for locations and Bus Stops will be listed. Mr. Walsh has put a lot of time into this project so far.

- c. Lewiston Farmers Market Association (LFMA) Mural (added \$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. Mr. Walsh is developing this project and will report on it at the next meeting of the Committee.

- d. Alley Art Murals in the downtown \$ 2,470
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. Ms. Schlachter has several artists interested in the project which is now scheduled for May 23 with any additional time on May 24. The proposal from the Color Wizard was very interesting. There was a discussion about the fairy tale characters and animals that were proposed. The Committee members did not see any issues with the attractive fairy tale frog that was proposed for the alley.
- 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 were in contact with a number of organizations about their annual events and other activities. These projects will take place in May and June. So far, the Committee has the following events: Maine Inside Out 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. The invoice has been processed.
The second project is to support Tree Street Youth. 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. Mr. Walsh is following up on this.
The third project is rehab of the Zebra which looks quite tired. This was listed at \$2,202 as this was the amount available. Mr. Walsh had noted at the last meeting that he was going to follow up on this project.
- f. Nameplates for 5 sculptures to include design, site visit, drawings and installation. \$11,697
Four to be mounted to granite blocks 20" Wide X 22" High X 14"; One mounted to brick façade. The signs will be 18" wide X 10" high. This project was bid out and 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 depict the sculptures for informational purposes for our residents and visitors. The purchase order was issued, one of the two invoices was processed with the check to be held until the meeting takes place on May 13. Ms. Ray will attend the meeting. Ms. Ruth will work on moving this project forward and submit all the paperwork.
- g. Street Art and Mitigation of Graffiti \$9,302
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.
A number of artists were contacted with a deadline of May 31 for proposals for consideration at the June meeting. Mr. Walsh had noted at the last meeting that he was going to look for locations.

- 5) Budget for FY27 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)
Ms. Ruth discussed the upcoming budget schedule and changes from the original schedule, TIF funding availability for the upcoming year and challenges that may be ahead. Grant funding is not yet available from the federal and state government due to the change in priorities at the federal level. Ms. Ruth will look for possible funding sources once she finishes some of the larger projects underway in the Department.
- 6) Discuss the need for a Maintenance Plan for the City's Public Art to include when to upkeep and when to decommission. To also include a discussion of the Zebra Mural and City of US Mural. This will be discussed when Mr. Walsh is present.
- 7) Other business, if any, to come before the Committee:
There was no further business.
- 8) Next Meeting:
The next meeting will be held on June 08, 2026, at 6:00 pm at City Hall in the First Floor Administrative Conference Room (2nd Monday of the month):
- 9) Motion to adjourn:
Mr. Lysen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Ehrhardt. All voted in favor. The motion passed (4–0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Minutes submitted by:
Kathryn Ruth, Secretary Pro-Tem