

LEWISTON PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
Monday, June 08, 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; Courtney Schlachter; James Lysen; Gerald Walsh; and Scott Harriman, Council Liaison.

Committee members absent: None

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 May 11, 2026

Ms. Ray moved and Mr. Lysen seconded the motion to approve the committee meeting minutes of May 11, 2026. The vote was (6-0). Motion passed.

3) Budget Funding Available as of June 08, 2026

Ms. Ruth noted that the budget was on schedule with all funds encumbered and contracts being drafted, reviewed by the artists or agencies and signed for the remaining projects approved by the City Council for FY26 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). She noted that there are a few projects left which the Committee will be deciding upon tonight revolving around the Street Art Budget Category approved at the City Council's April 7, 2026 meeting.

4) Update on projects approved by the City Council:

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| a. L/A Arts Welcome Immigrants Mural | \$10,000 |
| b. Window Wrap projects to be designed by local artists | \$ 7,500 |
| c. Lewiston Farmers' Market Association (LFMA) Mural | \$12,000 |
| d. Alley Art in the Downtown | \$ 2,470 |
| e. Community initiatives | \$ 7,202 |

Smaller projects include activities with schools, youth groups, community organizations and grassroot efforts. Opportunities to partner for performances, events, exhibitions and projects.

For 2025-2026 the projects are:

Maine Inside/Outside (ROIL) Yearly Sponsorship

Tree Street Yearly Sponsorship

Zebra Project Revitalization – to consist of maintenance

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| f. Nameplates for 5 sculptures for all costs (design, site visit, drawings, materials and installation) | \$11,697 |
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| g. Street Art and Mitigation of Graffiti to involve community in recommending areas that need enhancement along streets and public areas | \$ 9,302 |
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Members shared their updates on the projects which were completed or in progress, which were all wonderful public art projects. For those projects which do not yet have contacts or have copies of contract drafts to review, they will be addressed as soon as possible with the intention of being completed by June 30, 2026.

Ms. Ray questioned the Nameplate project. Ms. Ruth noted that there have been multiple requests for this project to move forward which now centers around the issuance of the last invoice, an additional cost that the company needs in order to proceed forward as discussed at the meeting in the park months ago. Ms. Ruth will continue to pursue this. This is the culmination of a project that began several years ago.

The remaining projects are in the Community Initiatives and the Street Art and Mitigation of Graffiti:

The Zebra: Mr. Walsh noted that L/A Arts was going to take care of the Zebra, which will have maintenance to extend its life. The Committee does not have enough funding to commission a restoration, however, it can prolong the life of the Zebra. Ms. Schlachter shared the opinion of the artist which was centered on how public art should not last forever. The artist did not intend for his piece, the Zebra, to be restored. The Committee as a whole did think that as this was one of the first pieces to begin the Public Art Movement in the City of Lewiston, that it should receive maintenance to extend its life. Mr. Walsh explained that with this understanding, L/A Arts will hire a local artist who is familiar with the Zebra Mural to apply a protective sealant, partially enhance some of the faded colors and prevent deterioration. As the amount of funding is limited, L/A Arts will not charge a fee to manage the project, but rather will purchase the supplies and provide the remaining funds to the artist. Serafim Yssolo, the artist who painted the building at Lionel Potvin Park, is interested in performing this work. The total budget is \$2,202. This project was addressed at the last meeting but with the limited funds available could not be detailed out at that time.

Street Art and Mitigation of Graffiti: This budget line was approved for \$9,302 and intended 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 the deadline of May 31 for proposals for consideration at the June meeting. There were two proposals submitted. After a short discussion, the projects were discussed to include \$4,302 for Wings of Change by Wicked Illustrations and \$5,000 for Marcotte Park, specifically Jude's Place to be completed by Wicked Illustrations. The scope of the projects was discussed. Ms. Ruth will follow up with Melanie Therrien about these street art projects which sound very productive in bringing in public involvement and even includes a painting day for the public.

Ms. Darcy moved and Mr. Lysen second a motion to approve two projects from the Street Art Budget Category of \$4,302 for Wings of Change and \$5,000 for Marcotte Park – Jude's Place to address graffiti in multiple location. The vote was (6-0). Motion passed.

5) Budget for FY27 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)

Ms. Ruth advised that the approval of the projects proposed for the FY27 Budget allocation requiring Council approval under the Administrative Code was scheduled for the second meeting in June on June 16, 2026. Mr. Walsh has a prior commitment that evening. Ms. Ehrhardt and Ms. Schlachter expressed interest in attending. Ms. Ruth noted that given the budget constraints that there may be questions.

6) Discuss the need for a Maintenance Plan for the City's Public Art to include when to upkeep and when to decommission. As the time for adjournment of the meeting was upon the Committee, this item was not discussed and will remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

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 July 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 (6–0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Kathryn Ruth, Secretary Pro-Tem