

LEWISTON PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
Monday, July 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; Courtney Schlachter; Gerald Walsh; and Scott Harriman, Council Liaison.

Committee members absent: James Lysen

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 June 08, 2026

Note: The meeting minutes were approved later in the meeting when a quorum was present.

Ms. Ray moved and Mr. Harriman seconded the motion to approve the committee meeting minutes of June 08, 2026. The vote was (5-0). Motion passed.

3) Update on projects funded through the FY26 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) Budget which remain to be finished during the next few months:

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| a. Window Wrap projects to be designed by local artists | \$ 7,500 |
| b. Lewiston Farmers' Market Association (LFMA) Mural | \$12,000 |
| c. Community initiatives | \$ 2,202 |
| Zebra Project Maintenance | |
| d. Nameplates for 5 sculptures for all costs (design, site visit, drawings, materials and installation) plus \$200 for drilling | \$11,697 |
| e. Street Art and Mitigation of Graffiti in the Downton: | \$ 9,302 |
| 1. Downtown Street Art Project: \$4,302 | |
| 2. Marcotte Park – Jude's Place: \$5,000 | |

Members shared their updates on the projects which were completed or in progress. These are all great projects for the community. All projects have contracts and payments processed. Below are brief notes on the projects:

a. For the Window Wrap projects to be designed by local artists organized and administered by L/A Arts, the Bus Station and the Hannaford Bus Stop will be addressed.

b. The Lewiston Farmers' Market Mural is moving along well.

c. The Zebra Project Maintenance requires a lift so it will be coordinated with another L/A project to save on the cost for the rental. While all art projects are important, this one is especially of importance to save as it was the piece that started the Public Art movement

in Lewiston. Serafim Yssolo, the artist who painted the building at Lionel Potvin Park, will be completing this work later this Summer/early Fall. While this maintenance is not restoration and will not save the art pieces indefinitely, it will add some years to its life.

d. Nameplates for the 5 sculptures has moved forward with the \$200 bill for drilling issued. Both Deputy PW Director Bates and Ms. Ruth continue to contact the company for this project to be completed. This is the culmination of a project that began several years ago.

e. The Street Art and Mitigation of Graffiti in the Downtown consists of two projects and both were awarded to Wicked Illustrations.

1. Downtown Street Art Project – has been advertised with a request for recommendations for locations to mitigate graffiti with butterflies and flowers. Residents and interested parties are invited to Wicked Illustrations to paint the art.

2. Marcotte Park – Jude's Place – work has started on this project which will take place after the downtown art project is underway.

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

For the 4 art projects approved from the Call for Artists, the agreement needs to be drafted and approved. The usual agreement would not be utilized in its entirety. Ms. Ruth had planned to utilize the proposals as part of the agreement. She has been advised of a new type of agreement that the Acting Director wants to use but has not seen yet.

5) Discuss authorizing materials to be placed on the walking surface to cover up graffiti in Marcotte Park. This item was discussed as part of the update on FY26 projects resulting in the following recommendation, approved by consensus of the members: it was recommended that when the artists paint over the graffiti with butterflies and interactive art on the ground surface that a test area take place first to see how well the material works. It is anticipated this will work, but as it is new, an area should be tested out.

6) Discuss the removal of Public Art – Nailed It – from 143 Pine Street as Public Works has been notified that the property has been sold. This item was the focus of the meeting as the Committee members thoroughly discussed the artwork. While the property has been sold, Public Works is still mowing it. It would be quite costly to bring in a crane to move this once, let alone to the Public Works facility for storage and then move it again to its new home which most members and the Community Development Manager thought should be permanent. A number of lots in the downtown were suggested for review. It was agreed that a list of the lots that Public Works maintains in the Tree Streets should be acquired. Simard Payne Park was also named as a nice location although it is a bit of a distance from the Tree Streets. Kennedy Park can also be explored due to the extensive use of the site and its proximity. Ms. Ray volunteered to contact the artist to see if he wished to be involved. Councilor Longchamps should be contacted to see if the sculpture can stay in place for a while given the fact we need a permanent location and do not have funds budgeted for removal of a large art piece. Ms. Ruth noted one of the strategies utilized up north due to tight budgets is that contractors would volunteer their skills and equipment donating these resources to the town for park projects and in turn the town would publicly thank them and publicize their contributions as well as provide a letter for federal tax purposes. Committee members will mull over if the City knows any companies that could be approached.

- 7) Discuss the need for a Maintenance Plan for the City's Public Art to include when to upkeep and when to decommission. A discussion occurred regarding the need to set up maintenance plans especially for some of the older sculptures such as Women's Suffrage which has been subject to wear; Walking Trees which need power washing; the Flags which are starting to come apart and it is not even 5 years. Committee members thought that as the paint is coming off that primer was likely not utilized and perhaps the Committee should let it fade away. Having an annual inspection and research conducted is very important for the Maintenance Plan.
- 8) Determine the last published list of Public Art financed through the City and how to update it to promote Public Art in the City. L/A Arts has the map of public art, as well as other pieces, on its website and is determining how best to proceed. The map was last updated in 2022-2023. With the Utility Boxes, it added 40 locations which are included and with the recent work, may need to be updated. The Committee members discussed prior partners who could again be contacted – the Chamber of Commerce and Bates Legacy Project as well as having the Communications Department do a story once the project is organized. Gerald would like to have a paper map of the streets and put stickers on it for the location of artwork. The Tree Streets Youth Center was noted as a possible location for displaying a copy of the map as the group would like to have more visual arts.
- 9) Other business, if any, to come before the Committee:
There was a reminder about the L/A Art Walk scheduled to take place on July 31.
There was no further business.
- 10) Next Meeting:
The next meeting will be held on August 10, 2026, at 6:00 pm at City Hall in the First Floor Administrative Conference Room (2nd Monday of the month):
- 11) Motion to adjourn:
The Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:58 pm.

Minutes submitted by:
Kathryn Ruth, Secretary Pro-Tem