

LEWISTON PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:00 pm
Lewiston City Hall, Third Floor Conference Room
Meeting Minutes – FINAL

Committee members in attendance: Darby Ray; James Lysen; Courtney Schlachter; Gerald Walsh; and Scott Harriman, Council Liaison.

Committee members absent: Deanna Ehrhardt, Chairperson (excused)

Others present: Kathryn Ruth, Community Development Manager

1) Call Meeting to Order:

In the absence of the Chairperson, Ms. Ray called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2) Approve Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2026

Mr. Walsh moved and Ms. Schlachter seconded the motion to approve the committee meeting minutes of July 13, 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:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 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 very positive and low-cost projects for the community. All projects had contracts and payments were processed for the last fiscal year.

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, also includes the Bus Station and the Hannaford Bus Stop to be addressed. Mr. Walsh reported on this project. While it is behind schedule, it is moving along in a positive fashion. The final design is available for one location. The formal review needs to be put together. There has been back and forth with the parties about details and scheduling. Some of the design work has a fun design. There is a waterfront design that is playful.

b. The Lewiston Farmers' Market Mural is moving along well with a lot of comments being

expressed. The artist is working solo on the formal proposal. There have been a lot of business comments resulting in design changes. The Maine Mill is involved. The Final design will be done soon and then the colors can be ordered. The project is not on the calendar yet. Mr. Walsh is estimating the project will take place the first week in September, however, it could be a bit later. He needs to press on this one. Colder weather is coming.

c. The Zebra Project Maintenance requires a lift so originally, it was anticipated that it could be coordinated with another L/A project, however, this has not come to fruition. Information will be going out on social media to alert people to the project. Everyone at the meeting thought people would be very interested in this project as it was the beginning of 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 piece indefinitely, it will add some years to its life. Some color will be added as needed.

d. Nameplates for the 5 sculptures project moved forward with the \$200 bill for drilling issued. Both Deputy PW Director Bates and Ms. Ruth continued to work on this project. Everything had been installed, however, one of the plaques needed to be moved to the correct location. This likely means that there is a plaque in that particular location that also needs to be moved. 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 were invited to Wicked Illustrations to paint the art. The art will then be installed after the receipt of a completed building owner's permission slip.

2. Marcotte Park – Jude's Place – in-studio work started on this project which will take place after the downtown art project is underway. It is likely to be later in August 2026.

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

For the 4 art projects approved from the Call for Artists, a new agreement needs to be drafted as she has been given a Small Project construction type agreement for use. She will combine terms in the PAC regular type of agreement that are needed as it is artwork with the new Small Project agreement that the Department will now be using. Ms. Ruth noted that she is handling more work than usual from other positions as there are some vacancies and movement in the Department. She noted that she will get to this as soon as she can.

5) Discuss the removal of Public Art – Nailed It – from 143 Pine Street as Public Works has been notified that the property has been sold. While the property has been sold, Public Works is still mowing it. The Chairperson followed up on this with the owner to determine details and if the artwork can stay on site for a while as a new location is needed. Several locations were discussed such as Simard Payne Park, Kennedy Park and other areas. Ms. Ruth brought a list of city owned vacant lots to the meeting that was passed around for review. Ms. Ray had contacted the artist after the last meeting who would like to be involved in the process. A permanent location is needed as well as a plan for funding and/or locating contractor/s who would volunteer their services to help out.

- 6) Discuss the need for a Maintenance Plan for the City's Public Art to include when to upkeep and when to decommission. Ms. Schlachter reviewed the information she had located due to her research. She reviewed a number of websites for best practices and will need to clarify an approach that would work for Lewiston. This would include talking to the artists and continuing to review other cities' approaches. She will provide a copy of her research to Ms. Ruth so that this summary can be included in the meeting minutes.

Projects that have been mentioned that need a maintenance plan and work are the following: (a) some of the older sculptures such as Women's Suffrage which has been subject to wear; (b) Walking Trees which needs power washing; and (c) the Flags which are starting to come apart. There was a discussion about the Walking Tree Structure as it appears there is spotting and flaking. It is definitely time to perform maintenance on this piece of art.

- 7) Discussion on the last published list of Public Art financed through the City as well as private art. L/A Arts has this list and had an intern update the electrical boxes with photos from re-visiting the sites. While most boxes got a paint update, a few had changes so a new photo was needed. The new Alley murals need to be added. L/A Arts needs to determine how to label the art as the map is very crowded in locations. There was a lengthy discussion about updating the map and the plan which can be used to promote Public Art in the City. This is a work in progress and will need some time due to the amount of public art in the city.

- 8) Other business, if any, to come before the Committee:
There was no further business.

- 9) Next Meeting:
The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm at City Hall in the First Floor Administrative Conference Room (2nd Monday of the month):

- 10) Motion to adjourn:
Ms. Schlachter moved and Mr. Lysen seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was (5-0). Motion passed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Minutes submitted by:
Kathryn Ruth, Secretary Pro-Tem