



**LEBANON ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
JUNE 27, 2023 - 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE**

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- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. 3-28-23 Minutes
 - 3. Other Business**
 - A. Tunnel Art - Call to Artists
 - B. Future Poetry Contest
 - C. Fountain Covers
 - D. MIRO Board
 - 4. Committee Reports**
 - 5. Open to the Public**
 - 6. Adjournment**

The order of agenda items is subject to change.

Meetings are open for in-person and remote attendance. Members of the public that wish to attend remotely may do so by going to LebanonNH.gov/Live where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the City's virtual platform or by phone. Please note: Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupts virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

DRAFT

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES March 28, 2023
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (7/8)

Jessica Giordani (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 2)
Nick Gaffney -Vice Chair - **Remote**
Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.-UVMC)
Devin Wilkie (Heritage Commission Rep.)
Bill Dunn (EDC Rep.)
Brian Cook (Rep.-LOH)
Linda Copp (Alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (1/8)

Karen Zook

STAFF PRESENT: (2/2)

Kristine Flythe (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec.)-Remote
Paul Coats (Director, Leb. Rec.)-Remote

1
2 **1. CALL TO ORDER** Acting Chair Gaffney called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

3
4 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES January 23, 2022**

5
6 **Linda Copp and Nick Gaffney were given voting privileges for this meeting.**

7
8 ***Devin Wilkie MOVED to approve the January 23, 2022, minutes with amendments.***
9 ***Seconded by Bill Dunn.***

10
11 Amendments: Page 1, Members Present; correct organization represented. Page 3, Line 32; Remove 'EDC,
12 Council Rep, DEI,'.

13
14 **Jessica Giordani, Nick Gaffney, Ben Van Vliet, Devin Wilkie, Bill Dunn, Brian Cook, and Linda**
15 **Copp all voting yea.**

16 ****The Motion was unanimously approved (7/0).***

17
18 **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

19
20 **A. TUNNEL MASTER PLAN UPDATED & MIRO BOARD**

21
22 There is no update at this time. It will be discussed at the next meeting. Paul Coates suggested that Staff
23 meet with Nick Gaffney on the Tunnel Master Plan as Staff have already done substantial work that can
24 be coordinated.

25
26 Paul Coates discussed the Lebanon Strategic Plan. There is an electronic document that is like a White
27 Board called the Miro Board. It can be used by Arts and Culture Members to provide input to the City to
28 make suggestions for strategic goals over the next three years. He showed some high-level goals and
29 strategies that were compiled that reflect actionable items with key performance indicators. A variety of
30 commissions and boards across the City have a goal that reflects art considerations. Strategic Objective
31 4.3 for the City is to enhance the vitality of the arts and culture within the Upper Valley community. It
32 includes energizing the arts economy as well as opportunities for public art. This directly relates to the

1 Charter for this Commission. There are many suggestions that relate to Arts and Culture that come from
2 other Boards and Commissions within the City.

3
4 Paul gave examples of items that are most pertinent to Arts and Culture. The document is available on
5 the City Manager's website. Paul will provide members with the link to access the Miro Board. He is
6 asking members to provide input and suggestions that can be used to generate the City Budget. Members
7 can either add tags to the document or their suggestions can be emailed to Kristine or Paul, and they will
8 consolidate those ideas.

9 10 **B. BIKE/PED UPDATES**

11
12 This project pertains to the crosswalk project, where crosswalks can be highlighted in other ways than just
13 white paint. The goal is to increase visibility and add color or design. DPW will be moving forward with
14 some test sites. The initial work will be colors that are currently available and will not have particular
15 designs. Public Works Staff will do the preliminary testing of painting with colors to test their
16 capabilities. Hopefully, there will be possibilities in the future to introduce more design features that
17 highlight the crosswalk that do not distract drivers.

18 19 **C. VACANT SEATS**

20
21 Wards 1 and 3 are open seats. Some recruitment has been done but at this time no one has been available.
22 The members discussed if a Board Member can represent more than one Board. It is helpful that a
23 member can bring ideas from more than one board or commission, but each member still has only one
24 vote. Susan Johnson will be asked if she is interested in being part of the Board. Some members are
25 willing to shift what organizations they represent, such as Devin representing City Council and finding
26 another representative from the Heritage Commission. There are three seats that represent local arts
27 organizations. Linda Copp is willing to represent the Ballet School as a representative of the community
28 arts. Nick Gaffney is willing to move to Ward 3 representative. There is still a need to recruit a Ward 1
29 member and alternate members.

30 31 **D. GOALS AND NEXT STEPS**

32
33 *Reconnecting to the Purpose and Connecting to Arts Organizations.*

34
35 One suggestion is to connect to the Anniversaries of local arts organizations and connect to the Valley
36 News. Currently Valley News is offering full page ads for half price during the month of April. This
37 year is the 50th Anniversary of the Ava Gallery and their big silent auction party will be April 28. Bill
38 Dunn is organizing and donating an ad for that event. He is willing to do the same thing for Arts and
39 Culture. He suggested using the Lebanon Artways logo to take up a large portion of the ad to make it
40 highly visible and then showcasing other arts organizations and events. This could include the Ava
41 Gallery and other local arts organizations, using their logos and a brief statement. Bill will help with the
42 donation for the ad and to have Arts and Culture promote the ad. Kristine will work on the content and
43 design. Bill Dunn will connect her with the Valley News Representative.

44
45 *Tunnel Master Plan*

46 This project will get traction next few Weeks.

47
48 *Banner Installation.*

49 Most of the banners are installed and are visually appreciated. The rest will be put up on the Mall soon.
50 They are ahead of the game for the next round with all the learning curves during this first project. The
51 life cycle of these banners is not known yet. Kristine purchased banners with air holes to make them less
52 vulnerable to the wind and they are waiting to see how long the banners will last. They have been doing
53 some tentative planning for the next round.

54
55 *Flowers*

1 The flowers have been sent to the New England Schools of Arts. It is anticipated that NESA will
2 continue to be involved with future collaborations.

3
4 *Sidewalk Poetry.*

5 They intend to keep the Sidewalk Poetry as an annual project and the next contest will be organized to get
6 the poems ready for the sidewalks. Just thinking out loud, Ward 1 has the Kilton Library, and they did
7 have suggestions about the sidewalk poetry. Maybe someone connected with the library or that network
8 zone, or a resident or patron is interested in being part of the Arts Commission.

9
10 *Fountain Covers.*

11 Ava will hopefully assist with new paintings for the covers. It is thought the covers will come down in
12 May before the first Market and Paul will check on the date because they need to decide where the covers
13 will be stored. Perhaps Ava will take one fountain cover to work on at a time and then ask for the others
14 to be brought over as they are worked on. Storage has been a bit of an issue in the past.

15
16 *Rain Works.*

17 It is time to start thinking about possible installations. Refreshing what has already been done would be a
18 good idea. Some of the stickers are fading away. There are some stickers that have not been put out yet.
19 Concrete sidewalks are better than pavement. If there are locations where there is water, such as water
20 fountains, it would be easier to splash water on the stickers to see them instead of waiting until it rains.

21
22 *Cultivating relationships across cultural organizations.*

23 Staff have a list of organizations in the community that was created several years ago. Other
24 organizations and businesses that have an interest in the arts can be added to the list. Kristine reminded
25 everyone that each of the commission members are connected to the community and the Upper Valley. If
26 every Board member reached out to 5 organizations, it broadens the connections across the community to
27 create awareness of A & C and Lebanon Artways. The members discussed if the businesses or
28 organizations have to be located in Lebanon. It is thought that organizations and businesses need to have
29 some presence or connection to the Lebanon area. It can be live, work, play or some kind of presence in
30 the Lebanon area to be engaged with the community. Residency is less essential. The list will be
31 attached to next month's agenda.

32
33 *RoundABOUTs*

34 Lebanon Planning and DPW are planning roundabouts in prominent places that are suitable for permanent
35 art installations. Roundabouts are being planned for prominent area. The first one that is planned is for
36 the junction of High Street, Mascoma Street and Mechanic Street which invites 2 opportunities for public
37 art installations. One is a 30-foot area in the Center. It could be plants or it could include some kind of
38 artwork, sculpture or water fountain. The Rec Department is actively involved with making
39 recommendations that will go in that area. There is a second area adjacent to the roundabout coming out
40 of the tunnel and across the bridge and behind Goss Logan there is some space and designated open area,
41 especially for pedestrians. The City is fairly far down the path of coming up with a theme and an idea
42 that represents the history of that area. There could be a budget and ideas for themes to recruit artists. It
43 would not come out of the A & C budget.

44
45 The City Manager is a huge fan of the work that Arts and Culture is doing. He is focusing on major
46 projects that are coming before the Planning Dept and suggests requiring that a portion of the fees for
47 each project be dedicated to providing art. The proposal is not to increase the fees, but to dedicate a
48 portion of the already proposed fees to be directed to Artworks. It could be something the developer
49 proposes to do or the money could be directed to the A & C to work with.

50
51 There is also a second proposed roundabout at Slayton Hill and Mechanic Street.

52
53 **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

54
55 **None**

1
2 **5. NEW BUSINESS**
3

4 May 20th Upper Valley Music Sing and Play Festival is May 20th. Hopefully, the busking tent will be
5 located at Lucky's again this year. There will also be a show at the Opera House on the 21st.
6

7 Nexus at the Lebanon Opera House is Aust 11, 12, 13. They are also launching a new event called
8 Hootenanny June 10 at River Park, a collection of artists. Both are free.
9

10 Ava Gallery Silent Auction is open for bids between April 14 and 28th. A party for final bids is the 28th.
11

12 Alice in Wonderland Ballet is May 5, 6 and 7th. There will be a light show in addition to the ballet.
13

14 The Spencer Street Project has hit a roadblock, it was the proposed 90-unit housing project. The
15 development had to be cleaned up from contamination. Interest rates are higher and material costs have
16 increased, so the developer stepped away because the contract dates could not be met. There may be other
17 opportunities for another developer.
18

19 The Juneteenth Celebration is coming in June. They are working with Hartford who will be doing a similar
20 event around the same time. There potentially is a documentary film Monday June 19th.
21

22 Upper Valley Business Alliance has put out their awards. DB Lights and Joe Clifford from the Opera
23 House have been nominated. Everyone is encouraged to vote.
24

25 **6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
26

27 None.
28

29 **7. ADJOURNMENT**
30

31 *Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.*
32

33 Respectfully submitted,
34 Linda Billings
35 Recording Secretary