

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES December 17, 2024
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (5/7) **Jessica Giordani** (Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 2)
 Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission & DEI Rep)
 Brian Cook (Arts Org. Rep-LOH)
 Nick Gaffney (Vice Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 3,)
 Claire Geno (Alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (2/7) **Ben Van Vliet** (Arts Org. Rep-UVMC)
 Stevens Blanchard (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: (1) **Kristine Flythe** (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec)
 Paul Coats (Director Recreation, Arts and Parks)

Kristine Flythe gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Claire Geno was given voting privileges for this meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES November 19, 2024

The vote on the minutes was postponed because the correct minutes were not available.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

A. MEETING FREQUENCY

In 2024 four meetings were cancelled for various reasons. The Board discussed adjusting the schedule to less meetings and adding an extra meeting when it is necessary. They looked at the busiest times of the year and made a schedule. They may need to make the meeting a different day of the month if holidays intervene. They will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 every month with the exception of April, June, and August.

B. 2025 PUBLIC ART

There are four remaining murals to be completed next year in the tunnel, the middle school piece, the interaction piece, the pollinator piece, and the major piece done by Marley down at the end. They will look for future options to add Public Art. The Commission and the City are still discussing the art for the roundabout.

C. 2025 INITIATIVES

1. Strategic Plan Updates:

Throughout January and February, please work closely with your respective boards/committees/commissions to update the strategic plan in the Miro Board 2026-2028 in RED. Finalized strategic plan updates must be submitted by March 21, 2025. Work sessions will be held in April with final approval in early May 2025.

One of the focuses of January and February 2025 will be to update the Miro Board. It is an opportunity to get Arts and Culture in the eye of businesses and a way to emphasize the arts in the community. It also increases the opportunity to make collaborative efforts between the various arts organizations within the community. They discussed the opportunities for grants for the arts from local businesses. They hope to encourage businesses to take on the role of enhancing properties with public art. One opportunity would be for the Arts Commission to increase their outreach work to let people know what options and resources are available in the community to enhance their property, such as an artist roster of people who want to provide public art. It was suggested they could elaborate the list of all the public art in the Lebanon area to help others become aware of what is being done in the community to provide public art. The Art Alliance could be helpful in sending that message. The members discussed how they could assist businesses or others in finding ways to increase public art and provide expertise to help a business accomplish a public art piece.

Andrew Bernard, the interim executive director for AVA Gallery, will be invited to attend one of the future meetings. AVA continues to search for the new Executive Director.

The local artist who created the ice sculpture of a Christmas tree did a beautiful job. It included an LED light that changed colors. While it was fun to create gingerbread cookie houses, they did not expect to be using graham crackers. The company provided a small credit, \$500, to be used in the future. The images on their website showed actual gingerbread houses, and what they provided was clearly not the event that was expected.

2. Budget Preparations:

Initial Capital budget discussions will commence in March, with detailed reviews scheduled across multiple City Council sessions in April and May. This will be a collaborative effort to ensure that all departments and committees align with the city's overall goals and financial forecasts for 2025.

3. Submission of Proposals:

All strategic objective status updates and any new or modifications proposed to the action items or strategic objectives must be submitted by March 21, 2025 to allow ample time for review and adjustments before final approval sessions later in the year.

All proposed operating budgets are due by July 25, 2025.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. City Council, DEI, Heritage

No specific updates, but there is a budget coming on.

B. AVA, UVMC, LOH Update

January 11 is the Full Moon Festival. There will be free ski passes available for everyone for that event. Lessons will still cost, and some events like races will have a fee, but public free skiing will be available to everyone at no charge.

The final piece of the LOH renovation, the exterior lighting, is slightly delayed. It will be paid for by a capital campaign and installation will wait until warmer weather in the Spring.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

No comments.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary