

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON  
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION  
MINUTES January 28, 2025  
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)  
**Nick Gaffney** (Vice Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 3,)

**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)**

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Kristine Flythe gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. November 19, 2024**

*Nick Gaffney MOVED to approve the November 19, 2024, Minutes, as presented in the packet with amendments.*

*Seconded by Jessica Giordani.*

Page 2; Line 19; Remove ‘Lebanon Opera House’ and Add ‘AVA Gallery’. Page 2, Line 20; Remove ‘LOH’ and Add ‘AVA’.

*\*The Motion was approved (2-0-1).*

*Devin Wilkie abstained because he did not attend the meeting.*

**B. December 17, 2024**

*Nick Gaffney MOVED to approve the December 17, 2024, Minutes, as presented in the packet  
Seconded by Jessica Giordani.*

*\*The Motion was approved (3-0).*

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. FULL MOON FIESTA – ICE SCULPTURE**

The carved ice sculpture was a tree with snowflakes. During the event he inserted a carved owl. It was a huge success and amazing to complete during such two-hour time frame. Each year his ice sculptures have been creative and well done. He mentioned that he also does signage and fountains. There were about 230 people at the event.

Kristine also showed a mural proposal done by Gage Crowley. The high school was supposed to have a section in the tunnel, but they were unresponsive. So, the space may be available. The members looked at the drawing and discussed the size, the topic of the mural and the lettering. They asked if the artist has any other ideas. They liked the style; it has a graffiti-like appearance. The members are aware of the time limit to secure another artist.

## **B. MIRO BOARD UPDATES**

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.

The hope is that the Rec Department can focus on the arts and culture. There are several different areas within the City that help to make all the objectives happen. The members reviewed what is currently in the MIRO Board.

For example, enhance the vitality of arts and culture in the City in cooperation with the arts community in the Upper Valley. It includes energizing the arts community. There are a number of key performance indicators, (KPI) within the Action Plan that is part of the Strategic Plan. There are also indicators of the current state of things and where they are at the moment. One thing to talk about tonight is what are some of our future projects and what is the necessary budget to accomplish them and how they fit under each objective. It is thought the Commission will continue to have a budget of around \$8000.

Last month the members discussed creating an arts resource guide to put on the website, to find ways to announce and alert others to arts related information and connecting with the Chamber of Commerce and local business owners. That is also a way to increase the arts economy. Art related events bring income to the businesses in the City. Some numbers were compared between nights with events and nights without events and the increase was substantial. There is also the Arts Alliance they can work with.

One thought was to assist with getting art shows into additional areas and businesses within the community. Encouraging diversity and collaboration and history are avenues to pursue. They will continue brainstorming ideas to expand the strategic plan initiatives. They will work on generating concrete ideas that are measurable and achievable.

## **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. City Council, DEI, Heritage**

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

### **B. AVA, UVMC, LOH Update**

AVA has an interesting exhibit that takes up all three floors. It's a group show called Scaffold with a large number of artists. They recently redid the floors in the main galleries. The high school exhibit will be going up in February.

There is some uncertainty about the sidewalk poetry and the roundabout fountain.

**5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

No comments.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Billings  
Recording Secretary