

DRAFT

**CITY OF LEBANON  
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION  
MINUTES May 27, 2025  
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live  
6:30PM**

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

**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 6:31 PM.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. March 25, 2025**

*Devin Wilkie MOVED to approve the March 25, 2025, Minutes, as presented in the May 27, 2025 packet with amendments.*

Page 3, line 28: Remove ‘They are also hoping to include a multiculture event during Nexus’ and Add ‘They have included a multiculture event in the past.’ Page 2 line 34: Correct spelling of name.

*Second by Claire Geno.*

*\*The Motion was approved (5-0).*

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Tunnel Art Update**

One of the members of the pollinator project is willing to expand that mural. But the artist believes expanding the mural requires more money and more time. It eventually would take a lift. She gave Kristine an estimate to do the work for time and materials of \$10,000. They could expand the mural and do it in pieces, over time, for a smaller fee for a piece. The size of the pollinator mural is not larger than other murals.

It was suggested that the commission make an offer based on what funds are available and see if the artist wants to do the work. Perhaps she is able to do the space under the existing mural for a smaller fee, and

they can offer the space to the right and to the left of the pollinator mural to other artists. There is a limited amount of space within the tunnel, and other artists are interested in showing their work. Payment to artists needs to be consistent and the requested payment would far exceed what has been given to other artists. Other artists have filled similar sized spaces with time and materials for \$2500.

The high school has come back with a new proposal for a mural, showing many faces. They may use the wall along Village Pizza and Ledyard. The new project would be a wheat paste mural on the wall with protective finish. The intent is to use faces from the community, with their permission.

Other artists are waiting for good weather to start and complete their murals. It may be late summer or Fall before all the murals are finished.

The Middle School is working on their mural. It is a picture of a school bus that will have panels that can be replaced as the teacher gets new classes.

### **B. Sculpture Proposal**

The artist is unable to attend the meeting tonight. Devon Blanchard would like to install a sculpture on the Mall. He already discussed the proposal with Public Works, and DPW was supportive. But that was before the Commission had reviewed the proposal or given their approval. The artists would like to include a memorial on a plaque and the Commission may not agree with what the plaque should say. The sculpture would be about 3 feet high. They discussed the light bulb on the front of the sculpture and if it reflected a Christian meaning. It had a feeling of a holiday meaning, yet it would be in the space throughout the year. The members like the idea of a sculpture and are hoping for a more universal artistic concept. Once it is turned into a memorial, it is thought memorials should be in other locations. Also, it is a subtle advertisement. If the sculpture is more of an art piece, it would be more appropriate. One idea is to have a sculpture that reflects some of his lighting skills, such as a solar sculpture. One of the great things about good sculpture is it provides a good view from all directions. When there is a proposal such as this, the Commission does a review and makes a recommendation to the City Manager and the City Manager's office is where the approval is finally made.

## **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. City Council, DEI, Heritage (D. Wilkie)**

### **B. Arts Organization Updates: LOH, AVA, UVMC, and others present**

Nick said the taste and traditions festival is coming up June 14<sup>th</sup>.

All of the poetry stamps have been brought to the admin office, and they will start the work to get all 12 stamped across the community where the paving projects are occurring. The members would still like to photograph the installations.

AVA has a new Executive Director starting next week. He will be invited to the July meeting. He lives in West Moreland, NH.

The work on Nexus is moving along. It will be August 8-10, 2025. Both stages will be in the Park this year. Buskers will still be on the Mall.

UVMC had a great turn out for the Sing and Play. There are 6 artists currently showing at the AVA gallery. AVA is having their annual Yart sale this weekend. On Saturday people buy and Sunday it is a giveaway.

The State Council of Artists are looking for people to send support to State Representatives to keep the Council functioning within the State.

**5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

No comments.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Giordani Adjourned the meeting at 7:23 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Billings  
Recording Secretary