



LEBANON ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MARCH 23, 2021 - 6:30 PM
REMOTE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE

1. Call to Order

- A. Review of meeting procedures and NH RSA 91-A "Right-to-Know" requirements.

2. Approval of Minutes

- A. February 23, 2021

3. Other Business

- A. Welcome to Lebanon Training (K.Flythe)
- B. Funding Request - Lebanon Opera House (J.Clifford)
- C. Ped-Bike committee ideas (B.Van Vliet)
- D. Planning and Goals for 2021 updates
- Has anyone shared new logo use in social/printed media?
 - West Lebanon Revitalization efforts updates for Arts & Culture to know?
 - Public Art Policy progress
- E. Sidewalk Poetry Project/Rainworks/Branding Unveiling (B.Dunn)
- Plan of action (timeline)
- F. Tunnel Project Updates (J.Giordani)
- G. Fundraising (D.Wilkie)
- H. Coalition Building (N.Gaffney)
- I. Art to Transform Safford Street Underpass (J.Clifford)

4. Committee Reports

5. Open to the Public

6. Adjournment

The order of agenda items is subject to change.

Due to the current situation with the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City of Lebanon is offering its meetings via Microsoft Teams. Members of the public are encouraged to attend 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 Microsoft Teams software or by phone. Please visit LebanonNH.gov/Live for full details.

THE AGENDA, IN ITS ENTIRETY IS AVAILABLE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT LEBANONNH.GOV

1 DRAFT

2 CITY OF LEBANON
3 ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
4 MINUTES, February 23, 2021
5 REMOTE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
6 LebanonNH.gov/Live
7 6:30PM
8

9 MEMBERS PRESENT (7/10): Jessica Giordani (Chair; Citizen Rep. Ward 3)
10 Bill Dunn (EDC Rep.)
11 Devin Wilkie (Citizen Rep., Ward 2)
12 Rebecca Foster (Citizen Rep., Ward 1)
13 Nick Gaffney (Arts Org. Rep.-AVA Gallery)
14 Karen Zook (City Council Rep.)
15 Ben Van Vliet (Arts Org. Rep.-UVMC)
16

17 MEMBERS ABSENT: (3/10) Sherry Fiore (Alt.)
18 Joe Clifford (Vice Chair; Arts Org. Rep.-LOH)
19 Mimi Hains (Heritage Commission Rep.)
20

21
22 STAFF PRESENT: (2/2) Kristine Flythe (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec),
23 Paul Coats (Director, Leb. Rec.)
24

25 -----
26
27 1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Giordani called the meeting to order at 6:33pm
28

29 A. Review of meeting procedures and NH RSA 91-A "Right-to-Know" requirements.
30
31

32 2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** January 26, 2021
33

34 Chair Giordani opened review and discussion of the January 26, 2021 meeting. Taking
35 any corrections or discussion.
36

37 Mr. Dunn if we correct Page 6 – Line 35 strike "I am part of" and strike "and that" – The
38 sentence will read The West Revitalization is a subcommittee of the Economic
39 Development Commission.
40

41 Mr. Van Vliet Page 5 – Line 23 "space between maybe."
42

43 Hearing no further corrections Chair Giordani opened for a Motion to approve the minutes
44 as corrected. ***MOTION to Approve and Accept the minutes for the January 26, 2021***
45 ***was made by Mr. Dunn to approve the January 26, 2021 minutes as presented.***
46 ***Seconded by Mr. Gaffney.***
47

48 Chair Giordani hearing no discussion moved to a roll call vote.
49

50 ***Roll Call Vote: Members voting in favor included: Mr. Wilkie, Mr. Van Vliet, Ms.***
51 ***Foster, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Dunn, Chair Giordani.***
52

53 ****The Motion was approved (6/0) and recorded by Mrs. Flythe.***
54
55

3. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Working Groups & Committees – Right-to-know clarification.

Ms. Flythe shared that she and Mr. Coats reviewed RSA's interpretation of Right-to-Know and found clarification on working groups. The term "public body" is any group regardless of size from the commission and that small group is a "public body" and can also have a quorum even if the group size is 3. Which we would then need to do what we do for the larger commission meeting, and post an agenda, record, take minutes, etc.... etc.... Which was not the direction I believe we wanted to go in as it is more work for everyone. The idea that was tossed around, and we even chatted with David Brooks and that one person takes on a task and knows those folks that are interested in that task, and then reports back to the larger commission. So, we are not having to do what we already do once a month.

Chair Giordani right in addition to our regular meeting. That makes sense.

Mr. Coats now the difference in the work that happens there, this is an option and we are not dictating anything here and it is open for discussion. The idea would be for instance if the working group of the tunnel group instead of 3 people that are assigned, which then becomes a public body, it would be 1 person say Mr. Gaffney and I'll be in charge and Mr. Gaffney can pull in anyone from the commission or the public and as long as it doesn't pull in for quorum of 5 people. You'll have less than 5, you can do a lot of discussion and you can't actually vote on anything, and anything you want the arts commission as a whole to vote on you will bring back to the group at the monthly meeting and in these committees you'll just do work.

Chair Giordani I think that feels right. It makes sense. Nobody is looking to duplicate mini versions multiple times a month for us to be productive to get anything done. If anyone has any further thoughts, please share. I think this is a smart solution to a complication we didn't expect.

Mr. Gaffney If we had them the way we had planned to have them would we have to invite the public to those meetings potentially. Mr. Coats and Ms. Flythe nodded yes to Mr. Gaffney's question.

Chair Giordani also answered yes to Mr. Gaffney's question.

Mr. Wilkie in a task force I did in another summer this worked well and everyone was involved in some capacity and this would be a good solution for us to move forward to get the work done.

Ms. Zook makes good sense.

Chair Giordani let's revisit the groups we did in January. Coalition for the Arts Organizations point person Mr. Gaffney. Sidewalk Poetry Project point person Mr. Dunn. Fundraising point person Mr. Wilkie. Branding point person Mr. Van Vliet. Tunnel Chair Giordani.

B. Ped-Bike Committee Ideas for tunnel opening

Rebecca Owens reached out to Arts & Culture - The idea is for Ped-Bike to partner with A&C to create a classic/beautiful **commemorative design** that goes on fliers/announcements for the tunnel event, and to possibly sell related event-branded items as joint A&C/Ped-Bike fundraiser for an MRG extension and/or MRG-NRT maintenance? Could be a collector item(s). Ideas include handkerchiefs, dog bandanas, t-shirts, neck gaiters, reflective this-and-that, towels, socks, reflective stickers, bumper stickers.

Mr. Van Vliet sounds like a great branding opportunity. The question is where the art comes from. We are going to be in this position where when the city sees a graphic design around the corner and can be a great opportunity if we can leverage it, we would have to create the capacity.

JG – I think that's fair.

PC – However this tunnel grand opening is one of our major events to put together and some level we will need to budget and that could be for musicians to play,

1 graphic artwork to commemorate the event. Plus, theoretically if we are selling
2 things before it's considered fundraising dollars it could be towards the cost of
3 making said items. I say that at this state of it all don't let the budget be a limiting
4 factor.

5 Mr. Van Vliet what is our budget.

6 Ms. Flythe shared \$5,000 same as previous year.

7 Mr. Van Vliet generally it's a good idea and as branding & outreach I can start
8 working on that. Again, this would be coordinated with the tunnel event we are
9 planning. Did we establish a time for that?

10 Mr. Coats we can plan for July. Soft opening in June and GRAND opening in July
11 and we can think not in this meeting but in another or if it will be done in conjunction
12 with 4th of July.

13 Ms. Foster, we have a new brand, you have a new brand, and how do we maximize
14 the brands and something that makes sense to sell.

15 Mr. Van Vliet yes, I think the effort will go into simplifying. Of the list which would be
16 the few to go with. If there is art how does it factor in.

17 Ms. Zook we should identify a small pool of artists to call on to make art. Even if we
18 know of a group of 2-3 people it would be great, we could call upon them. Let's
19 make it a goal to make a list to have a list of folks on who to go to and also support a
20 local creative economy such as our screen printers are having a hard time – t-shirts
21 would be great.

22 Mr. Wilkie to echo Ms. Fosters point is a good one, that while we have all the new
23 branding going on, we shouldn't try to create brand new branding but closely related
24 to already existing creative work. Second this collection of protentional artists could
25 be held in outreach or coalition building and designate someone from either of those
26 tasks to be the keeper of the list and share that with that person.

27 Mr. Dunn we have to call attention to the new branding, plus the experience of the
28 tunnel, and its bringing art to the location, and that there is movement with parks
29 and rec and connecting of the 2 pathways, something simple with the t-shirt and
30 screen printing works well with this, and showcase the arts ways logo, tunnel project
31 – more than passing through.

32 Mr. Coats – I was just looking at the word mark and looking of how to incorporate the
33 tunnel and the more than passing through.

34 Chair Giordani – I like the idea of having something that people can wear on t-shirts
35 or whatever and we are looking at the tunnel as not just a hole to walk through. It's
36 going to become an iconic fixture of the city and accessible to everyone always. We
37 have an opportunity to everyone to feel a connection to this space.

38 Mr. Van Vliet fusing of the recreation & arts space.

39 Ms. Zook, I served on Bike-Ped for a little while. They don't have an identified logo
40 and we won't need to combine all three logos.

41 Mr. Van Vliet it will be Arts & Culture and Recreation as well as bikes somehow.

42 Ms. Zook and this is a conversation they have been having for a bit. These reflectors
43 for pedestrians and cyclists and as they have had this idea for a while. The idea that
44 pins, different shapes, or have one with the Artways logo would not be something I'd
45 be opposed to.

46 Chair Giordani as the tunnel point person and I'll reach out to Rebecca and see what
47 she is envisioning and bring information to the March meeting.

48
49 C. Arts & Planning Social Call – by the American Planning Association topic of “Beyond
50 Murals: How do we plan and create like Black Lives Matter?”

51 Ms. Flythe it is knowing your community and not just putting up murals. How can more
52 be done including art policy an incorporating into building/consideration. There is a
53 deeper level than just putting art up but being intentional and knowing your community
54 and the impact and difference it could make. It connects to what Chair Giordani has
55 shared in building those relationships with other coalitions and knowing the

community.

Mr. Dunn there may be an opportunity in the poetry talk I'll table my comments till then. Mr. Wilkie, we talk about this in the book publishing world. It's being intentional about our outreach, looking for inspiration and opportunities. There are blind spots in positions of power. If we are making sure we include on the list of artists, any other groups that we are not representing, including people of color I think that would go a long way toward achieving those goals.

Chair Giordani it is an important point and I think the Arts Commission are in a unique position to be intentional in our outreach to the community.

D. Interest expressed from a Non-Resident to join Arts & Culture Commission

Chair Giordani I believe there was an e-mail from another member from a different town expressing interest.

Ms. Zook, we have space if affiliated with an arts organization. There are members that don't live in town so being affiliated with an arts organization would need to establish a connection.

Mr. Van Vliet is this person looking to do more than just sitting in on the meeting. Because the public can sit in on any meeting.

Mr. Coats yes, I can fill in some of these blanks. My initial response is not currently affiliated with an arts organization and wants to be. She has ideas on how arts can help revitalize the community. She was interested in Lebanon. She wants to convert the old fire house becomes an art museum, or a place where arts & culture gathers for public space, display, poetry readings, and so on and how to further the work. She wants to see arts & culture thrive. She doesn't have those affiliations or residency and we could invite her to attend as a public member.

Ms. Foster, we had another lady that would attend Katrina was doing statistics. Not a member of the commission but did make comment.

Chair Giordani – This person can dial in and join in.

Ms. Foster we even had the boy's scouts join.

Mr. Coats point of order question (should I explain) – Would she need to be acknowledged and called upon?

Ms. Zook what we did with Katrina was able to participate and just not vote. If we had many we would have to revisit or hold to a 3-minute public comment.

Chair Giordani we are supportive in this commission and do what we need to be correct in structure, but also a more open environment and would want her to be able to contribute and as long as she understands the vision of the commission we are receptive to all the creative energy and we will take.

Mr. Wilkie as we grow but opening seats for non-residents and be an arts center in the upper valley but a discussion to have and use Lebanon as a Recreation center.

Ms. Foster any person would have to go through the city council.

Ms. Zook the designation of these seats is the council.

Chair Giordani when we are there we can reach out to council.

Mr. Coats will connect with the Non-Resident interested in participating in our March meeting.

E. Planning & Goals for 2021 Updates:

Chair Giordani Logo sharing opportunities.

Ms. Flythe e-mailed junction but have not heard from them.

Chair Giordani shared Arts & Culture were on the front cover of the Lebanon times for the Graffiti Park.

Chair Giordani formal press release/announcement of Lebanon ArtsWays Branding.

Mr. Van Vliet has anything been done for it?

Ms. Flythe, I know you created it would you like for it to go out more formally into the universe.

1 Mr. Dunn when we get to the poetry project we will share more.

2
3 Chair Giordani Public Art Policy if any updates please share. None

4
5 Chair Giordani West Lebanon Revitalization efforts and art will go with the sidewalk
6 poetry project.

7
8 Chair Giordani Special events/collaboration still practice social distancing – July as an
9 open period. We are planning 4th of July celebration, and we will still have COVID
10 precautions and that is plan and it's coming down to the vaccine distribution and based
11 on the schedule/projections and a benchmark we want to reach before we are fully
12 open and have those protections in place. If things are delayed, we may delay the
13 opening date even more. However, we are making plans as we can move ahead.

14
15 Chair Giordani we just stay nimble, remain hopeful and be flexible.

16
17 F. Tunnel working group - (J. Giordani)

18
19 G. Sidewalk Poetry Project (B.D) –

20 Mr. Dunn, Ms. Zook, and Ms. Foster met for 30 minutes. Ms. Zook shared that St.
21 Louis has a project where they imprinted poetry into the sidewalks and now over 10
22 years, they have 1000 pieces of poetry embossed into the sidewalks. Rather than
23 using writing from published poets its citizens are writing the poetry and folks submit
24 and the commission and votes on which poetry gets stamped. It becomes an
25 enthusiast community opportunity and that is what the end goal is. We have the
26 opportunity in West. Lebanon. to create the same thing. Once we determine what
27 sidewalks are being dug up, getting public works on board, and the community on
28 board to make poetry. Once we create it will be a permanent visual aspect. What can
29 we do now? St. Paul has the chalk option as a non-permanent solution and invite the
30 public to do things in parking lots, at the tunnel, during events and a non-permanent
31 option. Mass poetry in Boston, and a non-permanent solution. They use Rain Works
32 – hydrophobic spray, and you make stencils, and spray this aerosol and when it rains
33 it pops out. You put this at bus stops, and it can be anything with cardboard stencils
34 with poetry, and our logo, and at the music center, and it works better with concrete
35 versus asphalt. Now we have 2 fire depts one in Leb. and West Leb. and using big
36 stencil in front of one saying UV Music center 2 doors down to promote the arts,
37 promote poetry, we can get the community jazzed about it and getting the buy in for
38 the permanent embossing a side walk and generate the enthusiasm for a non-perm
39 solution. We can promote arts organizations, rec opportunities, scavenger hunt, and
40 we could do some social justice messaging, and someone to design 2 colors. When
41 doing the branding for Lebanon Artways it would work well for this. We could use this
42 as an opportunity to use this for the logo, or April is national poetry month and the logo
43 along with it. We want this to be community source, and maybe we as the commission
44 act as the spray artist and secretly plant 10 secretly and launch in the valley news and
45 build awareness that way. Tonight, for the permission to buy a book. However, we
46 are excited, and we can build enthusiasm and let's have a conversation on how to
47 make it work.

48 Ms. Foster St. Paul has a consulting group as folks are wanting to do this as they have
49 so many towns that want to do this including Key West. She will get back to us on how
50 they do this and the process for the long term and we can have a plan for public works
51 and not a trip hazard.

52 Mr. Dunn and the closest Rainworks is Methuen, MA and then PA. It's invisible to our
53 community and a chance for us to pop.

Mr. Van Vliet, I think this is an idea has a lot of legs. The idea as a game and put the logo in different places and have a prize and if it's timed for in the spring for people to get outside then you tap into the let's get outside and walk around energy.

Ms. Zook, I started to get the idea that everything is planned a weekend and then hope it rains and wait for the response.

Ms. Foster would we combine the chalk and rain works.

Mr. Dunn, I think there are lots of opportunity and bring our enthusiasm and concept back and give permission to do this. The Rainworks itself can last 3-4 months and does work on vertical surfaces.

Ms. Foster have the libraries be involved with poetry.

Ms. Zook and I spoke with one of the librarians and they would be all in to pick poetry, make poetry and paint stencils.

Chair Giordani this is very excited and thrilled. This will be great with Lebanon and maybe inspire other towns too.

Ms. Zook what's the cost?

Mr. Dunn we can go through the company and use a little goes a long way. However just needing a few bottles and it takes 2 coats. Need concrete, have your stencil, secure your stencil, block the wind, wait 5 minutes, and 45 minutes later it's hydrophobic. If you have anyone at the bus stop you've created a mural spot. There are lots of ways to play on this and brings the visual fun, creativity to bring to Lebanon, social matters, and could be a guide to Lebanon ArtWays. This WAY to AVA gallery, this WAY to UV Music Center. I look at these opportunities as a great public-private partnership. Maybe it would be cool if someone could sponsor this. There are the 2 option bottles for 2 oz or 16 oz. It could \$10 per art piece.

Ms. Zook could we do 10 of the smaller bottles, and a few larger bottles to break out into 10 small bottles. In the meantime, see what we could do with the fundraising group.

Mr. Coats staff will order enough supplies to get us started.

Mr. Dunn and take a few minutes after the meeting and check out the video and understand the concept and process. There is a map as well and I would be if 10 pop up in Lebanon that Rainworks would take note of that and some additional publicity.

Chair Giordani – Exiting project

Ms. Zook I'll be happy to collect boxes from Omer & Bobs for stencil supplies.

Mr. Coats asked Mr. Gaffney could you take a photo to stencil to make this open to another artwork? Like how we transfer a photo to a cake design or something to metal.

Mr. Gaffney there are ways to do it if its simple artwork, and AVA has artwork, and possibly some stencils I'll look into it.

Chair Giordani – Thank you for the work that you all have done. This give us a on the horizon project to look forward to.

H. Fundraising (D. Wilkie) no updates.

I. Branding & Outreach (B. Van Vliet) no updates.

J. Coalition Building amongst Art Organizations (N. Gaffney) no updates.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No open discussion from the public.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

**A MOTION by Mr. Van Vliet to Adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by Mr. Wilkie.**

Chair Giordani move to vote.

Roll Call Vote: Members voting in favor to adjourn Mr. Van Vliet, Ms. Foster, Mr. Gaffney, Mr. Wilkie, Ms. Zook, Mr. Dunn, Chair Giordani.

***The Motion was approved (7/0) and recorded by Mrs. Flythe.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristine Flythe
Program Coordinator
Recreation & Parks Department

Fellow members of the Lebanon Arts & Culture Commission:

I'd like to share an idea with you to see if the Commission might be excited about getting in on the ground level of this proposed "summer reawaking" festival.

Although LOH has successfully pivoted to online programming, our return to live in-person events is still many months away. I'm hoping our touring and rental opportunities resume this fall but, for now, I'm putting on my entrepreneur hat and looking to build a weekend-long outdoor festival in August. It's clear to me that, come summer, our community will be ready to shake off the pandemic dust with an eagerness to reunite with friends and neighbors—at least in an outdoor setting.

My vision for this festival is taking the form of a block party encompassing the entire Colburn Park square, extending to the pedestrian mall and the revitalized rail trail tunnel. Live performances programmed throughout downtown—including in and around the new tunnel—along with sidewalk sales, outdoor galleries, visual arts demonstrations, a library book sale, *al fresco* dining—restaurants and food trucks. Flashes of creativity and community at every turn.

Ideally, we'd load in the stage/lighting/sound on Thursday, August 12 and present live events Friday—Sunday, August 13—15. The schedule could include an eclectic mix of music, dance, and theater from LOH community arts partners including Revels North, City Center Ballet, Upper Valley Music Center, and Raqs Salaam Dance Theater. In addition, we can tap the talents of Lebanon's student-artists and—COVID travel restrictions permitting—book headlining touring artists from throughout the region.

During a recent convening of our community arts partners (the groups mentioned above plus an additional eight) the idea of a First Night-style outdoor festival surfaced without prompting. That Zoom call took on an entirely new energy at the mention of this topic; there's a strong desire among those creating art in this community to collaborate and celebrate one another's work, especially in an outdoor and accessible manner.

This is an important leadership opportunity; a chance to demonstrate the impact of the arts on our local economy. A chance to put money into the hands of artists and technicians, drive foot traffic to businesses, build community connections, and enhance quality of life. A chance to say: the arts are back!

Necessarily, all planning will be done with an air of caution and adherence to existing COVID restrictions from the CDC and NH HHS. This is why I love the block party idea—we can spread beyond the confines of one location and practice outdoor social distancing as directed.

I'm anticipating the City of Lebanon will be major collaborators on this project, with most of their support in the form of in-kind access to public services, assistance with zoning or ordinance issues, and marketing. LOH will provide the bulk of the brainpower, marketing, and logistical support. I'm also planning for the opera house and First Congregational Church to serve as rain locations.

Preliminary estimates for this block party blowout—including rental and labor for stage set-up/lighting/sound, artist fees (including stipends for local arts orgs), stage labor (audio and sound technicians), marketing, hospitality, travel, documentation, and the all-important porta-potty rentals—are pegged at \$50K. Planning for the festival will begin in earnest this month once I've hit the 50% mark in pledges before committing to the tech production company and any headlining artists.

I'm anticipating lots of visibility for sponsors (see suggested levels below my signature) and, if we are successful, foresee that a large-scale festival of this kind could become an annual signature event for the City of Lebanon.

Please let me know if I can provide additional information.

Joe Clifford
Executive Director
Lebanon Opera House
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[lebanonoperahouse.org/donate/
jclifford@lebanonoperahouse.org](http://lebanonoperahouse.org/donate/jclifford@lebanonoperahouse.org)



++++

Using the model of LOH's various programming pillars—national touring artists, regional acts, Upper Valley-based arts partners including Revels North and City Center Ballet, and K-12 students—here's how sponsorship levels will pan out:

Headliners = \$10K
Opening Acts = \$5K
Home-Grown Talents = \$2,500
Youth Artists = \$1,000

Art to Transform Safford Street

Underpass

Yes, you know where it is.



Susan B. Apel

Mar 18



The Safford Street Underpass may not at first ring any bells, geographic *or* artistic, unless you live in South Royalton VT. It's a craggy old railroad underpass with scuffed and faded remnants of an old mural; it sits across the street and a bit toward the town green when viewed from the Royalton Library steps. **But even if you're not a town resident, chances are you've driven**

through the underpass—on your way to and from SoRo’s culinary mecca, The Worthy Burger.

Artists Elizabeth Billings, Evie Lovett, and Andrea Wasserman aim to provide some “visual poetry” to the town with a new public art project at the Safford Street underpass. The final design is still being honed, but from the artists’ presentation to the Royalton Planning Commission, we know more than a little. After establishing a smooth concrete surface that spans the underpass and wraps around its entrances, the artists’ vision is to pay homage to the region’s natural beauty.

The installation will be in two parts, one on each side of the underpass. One will feature the land and the other the White River. The frieze depicting the land will contain representations of trees, some composed of words. The other side will show a meandering river. It’s a colorful design, and the artists plan to use some reflective materials and mirrors.

But my prose is a poor substitute that cannot do justice to the proposed installation. [Click here](#) and then click on “Safford 2” for a video of the artists’ presentation of some of their former public art creations and more to the point, their preliminary designs for Safford Street. There is also a Facebook page, [SoRo Underpass Art](#), for a quick peek and for more information.

According to Nell Gwin, the design committee . . . “will continue to meet with them [the artists] through the design process which will come to a close by the end of August 2021. At that time we hope to be prepared with funding to continue on to the implementation phase.”

Such a beautiful and worthy addition to the charm that is SoRo.

(Photo, top, of the Safford Street Underpass by Susan B. Apel. It is clearly the “before” shot. Stay tuned to Artful for the “after” shot later this summer or fall.)

Welcome! You’re reading **Artful**, a blog about arts and culture in the Upper Valley, and **I hope you’ll subscribe** and then **share** this with your friends and on your social media.

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And in case you are wondering . . . Susan B. Apel shuttered a lifelong career as a law professor to continue an interest (since kindergarten) in writing. Her freelance business, *The Next Word*, includes literary and feature writing; her work has appeared in a variety of lit mags and other publications including *Art New England*, *The Woven Tale Press*, *The Arts Fuse*, and *Persimmon Tree*. She connects with her neighbors through *Artful*, [her blog about arts and culture in the Upper Valley](#). She's in love with the written word.



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