

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES September 23, 2025
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (3/5) **Nick Gaffney** (Vice Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 3,)
 Claire Geno (Arts Org. AVA)
 Lucas Mendelsohn (LOH Arts Org.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (2/5) **Stevens Blanchard** (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)
 Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission & DEI Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: (1) **Kristine Flythe** (Program Coordinator, Leb. Rec)

Kristine Flythe gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Nick Gaffney called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 22, 2025

Lucas Mendelsohn MOVED to approve the July 22, 2025, Minutes, as presented in the September 23, 2025, packet.

Second by Claire Geno.

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

3. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Chair and Vice Chair

Nick Gaffney was nominated to become Chair.
The members accepted him as Chair.

Lucas Mendelsohn was nominated to become Vice Chair.
The members accepted him as Vice Chair.

B. Council Updates

The City Council document was presented to the members of the Commission in the agenda packet. There have been some changes to the charge of the Commission in the City Council document. Membership of the Commission has changed to potentially 3 citizen representatives, 3 representatives from arts organizations, and a member of City Council, for a total of 7 members. There are potentially 3 alternates who only have to be residents of Lebanon. The new wording allows more flexibility in selecting members.

A quorum consists of the majority of the active members. The intent is to stagger members as they join so memberships are in year 1, 2, or 3 thus all members do not leave at the same time.

The charge of the Commission has not changed. They are still promoting arts and cultural activities throughout the City, cultivating relationships, supporting development, and public private partnerships. The requirement for monthly meetings has been changed. Meetings will be scheduled to meet the needs of the commission and the flow of the work.

The members are always actively recruiting other members. They believe there is one new potential member going through the interview process with the City Clerk. The Economic Development Commission was attended by Nick Gaffney where he shared the work of the Arts Commission and hoped to generate interest in having one of their members join the arts commission.

C. AVA – Request for support to restore/repaint fountain covers \$250

AVA currently has the fountain covers for the fountain in Colburn Park. The new covers are much smaller and lighter weight than the previous covers. Both sides of the covers have been primed, and they have a program for middle school students that will paint the fountain covers. Hopefully they will start painting the covers this week. AVA would like some additional funds for the painting supplies, and \$350 is closer in line with the actual costs. It is a community project with area students doing the work.

Lucas Mendelsohn MOVED to approve the budget of \$350 for AVA for supplies for the fountain covers.

Second by Claire Geno.

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

The members discussed that they want to be aware of the need to use the remaining funds in their budget by the end of the year. There is \$6000 remaining in the budget. The expense for the Ice Sculpture will be requested from the budget. December 6th is the weekend of Tis the Season.

The next meeting is October 28 and the next meeting after that is November 18. That will give the members time to work on opportunities to help fund efforts by the end of the year.

The last summer market is this week. They will be looking at winter indoor markets for November and December.

The members talked about contributing to a Halloween celebration if an opportunity arises and set aside funds for a Halloween event. The commission is willing to spend up to \$2000 of their budget for upcoming events in the upcoming months. The goal is to find opportunities that do not require continued support. This year they did not have a poetry contest, so they do not have that expense this year.

D. Membership Recruitment

Members are optimistic that they have people who are willing to join the Commission, and the current members are actively recruiting. Many people attended the Leb Fest and there are many people at Leb Fest who they could reach out to regarding joining the Commission. The members are impressed with the enthusiasm of Morgan Brophy to expand the arts in the community.

E. Poetry Stamping

Poetry stamping is in process. When Public Works are ready to do the stamping, they will notify the members. There is so much construction going on that things are slightly delayed. The DPW has the

priority list of the 8 molds to be put in. They will go in areas where DPW is making repairs and improvements, which are mostly in West Lebanon this year. Things are in progress.

F. Tunnel Art

Pieces are being worked on, and some are half finished. Some power washing will be needed before the artists can complete their work. One mural needs to be completed because the art is not completed as proposed, so some additional work needs to be done according to the contract proposal. The artists agreed to finish the mural according to the proposal. Some of the murals are finished and the school mural needs to be installed. The windows of the school bus in the school mural will be interactive and the students in the windows will interchange over the years to reflect the current student body.

The original idea for the roundabout was going to be done during the bridge repair. Right now, the bridge repair appears to be under funded by the State. So, there is no update on when or if the roundabout will be completed.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Arts Organization Updates: LOH, AVA, UVMC, and others present

There is an opening exhibition at AVA this week on Friday in the Linda Roes Gallery showing work of AVA staff. The art will be up for about a month. There is some very interesting work in the gallery. There will be another exhibition coming on October 10, 2025.

The LOH season is getting into gear. There are shows every week until late December and there are more to come. The LOH is now fully staffed. The new Playbill is being distributed this weekend.

Leb Fest was just completed. Family Fun Fest will be on Halloween this year in the 4:00-6:00 PM time frame at Colburn Park. There is no school for K-8 on Halloween. Mr. Aaron will do his Halloween show at 4:00 PM. There will be trunk candy. The Fire and Police will come out as well. Pizza or something else will be a great addition to the event.

This year they did 2 outdoor movies, the first two Fridays in September. It started to get too cold to continue the outdoor movies and earlier in the year it is too light for movies. This year the movies were great and they had the best ever attendance. The movies were Lilo and Stitch and then Wicked.

B. City Council, DEI, Heritage (D. Wilkie)

None tonight.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

No comments.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Nick Gaffney Adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Billings
Recording Secretary