



LEBANON ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 24, 2026 - 6:00 PM
MEETING ROOM #1, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE

-
- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. January 27, 2026 Minutes
 - 3. Other Business**
 - A. Patchwork: Connecting the Pieces, June 28th event - Ellen Ahern
 - B. Planning budget related projects for the year
 - C. 250th Celebration: New ad hoc committee
 - D. Leb ArtWay Map: Lee
 - 4. Committee Reports**
 - A. Arts Organization Updates: LOH, AVA Gallery, NE School of Arts, UVMC, others
 - B. City Committees: City Council, DEI, Heritage
 - 5. Open to the Public**
 - 6. Adjournment**
 - A. Next Meeting: March 24, 2026. 6:00 pm. Meeting Room 1

The order of agenda items is subject to change.

Meetings are open for in-person and remote attendance. Members of the public who wish to attend remotely may do so by going to [LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://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 City's virtual platform or by phone. Please note: Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupt virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and needs additional accommodation, please contact the ADA coordinator at City Hall by calling 603-448-4220 at least 72 hours in advance so that the City can make any necessary arrangements.

DRAFT

**CITY OF LEBANON
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES January 27, 2026
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:30PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (6/8) **Nick Gaffney** (Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 3,)
 Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission)
 Claire Geno (AVA Arts Org. Rep)
 Jennifer Chambers (Arts Org. Rep) **Online**
 Leonard Ridilla
 Honor Hingston (alt) **Online**

MEMBERS ABSENT: (2/8) **Lucas Mendelsohn** (Vice Chair; LOH Arts Org. Rep)
 Stevens Blanchard (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: (1) **Paul Coats** (Director Recreation, Arts and Parks)

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

2
3 Chair Nick Gaffney called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

4
5 Paul Coats gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

6
7 Gail Dokucu is attending as a guest and is hoping to join the Commission.

8
9 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

10
11 **A. December 9, 2025**

12
13 *Devin Wilkie MOVED to approve the December 9, 2025, Minutes as presented in the January 27, 2026*
14 *packet.*

15
16 *Seconded by Claire Geno.*

17
18 **The Motion was approved (5-0).*

19
20 **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

21
22 **A. BUDGET**

23
24 • **Priorities for 2026**

25
26 The 2026 budget is \$8000, roughly \$4000 for art and \$4000 for projects or events. There may be costs in
27 the future for the sidewalk poems, if they are stamped in areas where no sidewalk work is being done.
28 Some poems were stamped by DPW in 2025, but one will be stamped again as it did not turn out right.
29 As yet, not all the stamps have been used, so there are poems that still need to go in concrete. Some
30 sidewalks are being done in asphalt, so the commission may have to take additional steps and invest to get
31 the poems stamped in concrete. If there is sidewalk work already being done by DPW, they do not need
32 to cover any additional expenses.

1 Part of the 2025 budget was used for buying art supplies, to fund an artist for the festival on Storrs Hill,
2 support of events in the holiday celebration, and to purchase the picnic tables for that project. Around
3 June the members will try to look at the budget and plan ahead where they want to spend money.
4

5 Public art is a major focus of this commission. They will continue to look for locations where art can be
6 displayed and then work on recruiting artists. The Tunnel has attracted many artists that are showing
7 interest in creating public art. The Commission is thinking of developing a list of artists who are
8 interested in creating public art. There has been a lot of social media and conversations about the work
9 the Commission has been doing, and the tunnel is becoming a draw. The Commission is talking about
10 developing a map of public art in Lebanon. They could create maps and add some virtual digital
11 information. The students at NESAs could be involved in getting the map started and will work with
12 Leonard to move the project along. They hope to create an inexpensive map.
13

14 The members discussed having an event in June to bring the arts to Lebanon. Lucas is not present but is
15 working on that event.
16

17 The members are going to determine what projects DPW has planned and how many poems are waiting
18 to be used. They need that information before deciding if they will have a poetry contest this year.
19

20 There are scholarships in the community for athletics and other ventures, but there are no scholarships for
21 art students. Ms. Chambers would like to pursue the idea of developing an art scholarship.
22

23 • **Planning: How to plan expenses proactively throughout the year**
24

25 This will continue to be discussed.
26

27 **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
28

29 **A. ARTS ORGANIZATION UPDATES**
30

31 • **LOH**

32 No one was present. Rocky Horror Picture Show is this weekend and there is a full slate of programs
33 coming up. They are offering a free show for the Grateful Dead.
34

35 • **AVA**

36 The opening reception for the high school student exhibition is 2/27 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. It is one of
37 the most inspirational evenings to watch these young artists. More exhibitions are currently hung and will
38 be taken down on 2/14. Summer camps are under discussion. There is a lot of space at AVA, and they
39 would like to make it available to other organizations that need some space for public gatherings and they
40 would like groups to have an opportunity to find a home at AVA. Art labs are expanding to include
41 teenagers with disabilities. NESAs is offering an elective class at AVA, and it is popular amongst students.
42

43 AVA is part of the Rotary and Dan Nash from the Economic Vitality Committee would like to come to
44 this meeting.
45

46 • **UVMC**

47 No one was present.
48

49 • **OTHERS**

50 NESAs has many upcoming events such as camps and special evenings and formal dinners. NESAs has
51 been growing in student registrations.
52

53 The Business Events group is looking to create a brochure or document that lists all the events that are
54 happening in the community. It will collect all that information in one place. It will be more than just
55 arts events. In a few months there will be a regional calendar of events.

1
2 The new Recreational Coordinator has been selected, and the Staff are continuing to bring the person on
3 as a City employee. The new hire will be working on how to celebrate the 250 years of the birth of the
4 nation and how it can be celebrated in Lebanon. Hopefully it will involve many other organizations other
5 than this Commission.

6
7 **B. CITY COMMITTEES**

8
9 **• City Council**

10
11 No updates.

12
13 **• DEI**

14
15 No updates.

16
17 **• Heritage**

18
19 No updates.

20
21 **5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

22
23 No one from the public was present.

24
25 **6. ADJOURNMENT**

26
27 **A. Next Meeting: February 24, 2026, at 6:00 PM.**

28
29 *Nick Gaffney Adjourned the meeting at 7:24 PM.*

30
31 Respectfully submitted,
32 Linda Billings
33 Recording Secretary

PatchWork: Connecting the Pieces

PatchWork celebrates intergenerational creativity with a diverse array of participants and partners, including AVA Gallery, LISTEN Community Services, Northern Lights Quilt Guild, rePlay Arts and Mascoma Bank. Through an 8-month series of quilting bees in which folks of all ages share meals, stories, skills and resources, PatchWork is challenging norms of belonging and representation in both art and in our communities. The culminating celebration weaves together murals, food, locally crafted quilts, performances and a family-friendly dance party in Lebanon's vibrant, accessible rail trail tunnel.

Organized by local dance maker, Ellen Smith Ahern, the PatchWork project is part of a larger performance work, in which artists in California are simultaneously engaged in quilt making processes with their communities. Their quilts will also be displayed in Lebanon at the PatchWork celebration, inviting the Upper Valley into our collective process and cross-country dialogue. These quilts will then tour nationally as part of Smith Ahern's performances, meaning that our Lebanon quilt will ultimately travel all the way to California audiences. Once touring has finished, the 20+ local PatchWork participants will decide together where their quilt lives next, creating a full circle of making and sharing.





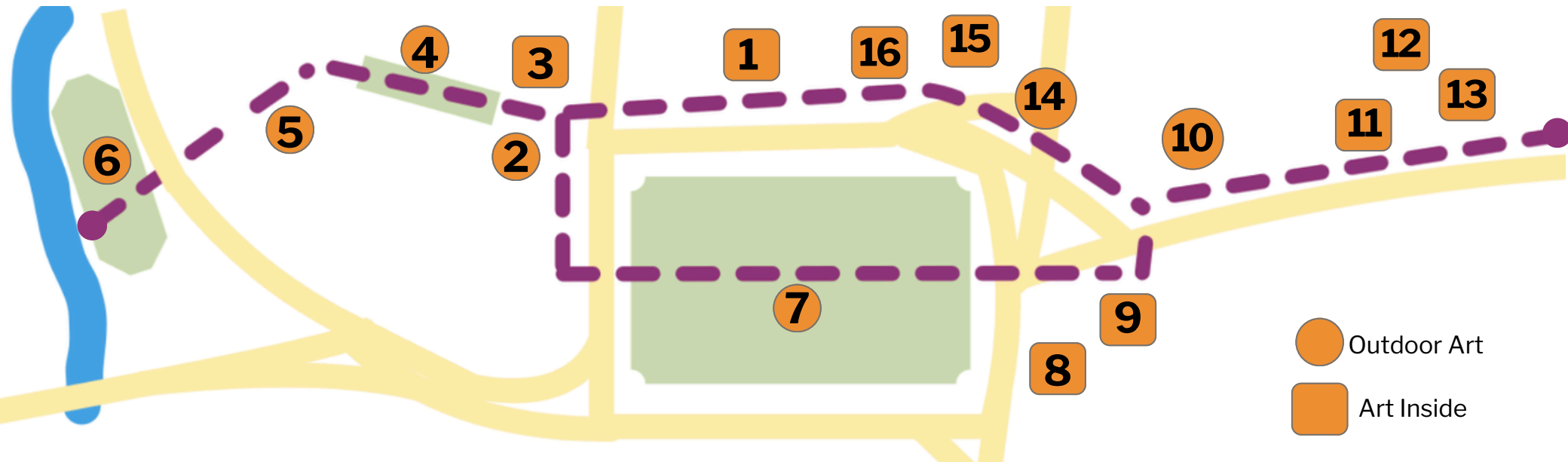
● Free ● Self Guided ● Please Take One ●



Art Walk Map 2026 Edition

Experience the art of Lebanon ! Explore Downtown Lebanon at your pace! Use this map as a guide to follow your way! No need to follow the numbers or even cover it all in one day! Enjoy!

Provided by the Lebanon Arts & Culture Commission



- Outdoor Art
- Art Inside

1. Lebanon City Hall
2. Turtles & Dolphins Fountain
3. Three Tomatoes Trattoria
4. Mall Gardens & Sculptures
5. The Tunnel Past Harmony Park, take the stairs down
6. Pocket Park Garden by the River
7. Colburn Park 's Central Fountain & Bandstand
8. Lebanon Post Office
9. Lebanon Public Library
10. Campbell-Carter Home
11. AVA Gallery & AVA Center
12. AVA Sculptural Building
13. Kira's Garden
14. Umbrella Girl Fountain
15. Lucky's Coffee Garage
16. Soldier's Memorial Building

Learn More About Lebanon Artways!

