

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON  
ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION  
MINUTES March 24, 2026  
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live  
6:00PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: (5/9)**      **Nick Gaffney** (Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 3)  
   **Lucas Mendelsohn** (Vice Chair; LOH Arts Org. Rep)  
   **Devin Wilkie** (City Council, Heritage Commission)  
   **Jennifer Chambers** (Arts Org. Rep) - online  
   **Gail Dokucu** (Alt)

**MEMBERS ABSENT: (4/9)**      **Stevens Blanchard** (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)  
   **Claire Geno** (AVA Arts Org. Rep)  
   **Leonard Ridilla** (Citizen Rep)  
   **Honor Hingston** (Alt)

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

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Nick Gaffney called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**Gail Dokucu was given voting privileges for this meeting.**

Paul Coats gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. February 24, 2026**

*Devin Wilkie MOVED to approve the February 24, 2026, Minutes as presented in the March 24, 2026, packet.*

*Seconded by Lucas Mendelson.*

*\*The Motion was unanimously approved.*

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. PATCHWORK: CONNECTING THE PIECES, JUNE 28**

Paul has been discussing the proposed project with Ellen Smith Ahern and planning the program for the special event, which is Sunday June 28, 2026. They will be planning where things are to be laid out in the tunnel and how the activities will come together. This would be one opportunity for the Arts and Culture Commission to actually be present and show the Artways presence. Members would staff the table. Paul also spoke with Allison, the pollinator mural artist who is excited about being included in the special event. She has been thinking of ways to have an event for the mural artists to meet the public. They will continue to talk to see if the ideas Allison has for celebrating the murals and meeting the artists are compatible with the program that Ellen has in mind. Paul will bridge that gap and see if the two can come together as one event. The members will continue to discuss their involvement at the next meeting.

One thought is to have a quick printed version of the Artways map at the table. If it is possible they will have a handout to distribute and share, even if it is not the final production item. They will talk with Lee and let him know they would like to have a map ready even if it is not the final production map.

They also discussed highlighting and showcasing the projects that Artways has accomplished to date. They will look at the pictures of Lebanon art, such as sculptures. NESAs also has a collection of photos of art in the community that were taken by their students. The photos can be uploaded to the SharePoint site. The members also discussed having sidewalk art or an art scavenger fun event.

## **B. BUDGET PLANNING**

Budget planning is going to be a standing agenda item. One suggestion was a vinyl table covering that says Lebanon Artways, that can be reused at events. Or a small number of branded items; Something to remind people of the arts in Lebanon, like a magnet. They could have more of a presence at the farmers market. They could have an ongoing scavenger hunt to find things in the tunnel murals and submit the answers to win a prize.

April is poetry month. The members discussed opening the poetry contest. Devin suggested modifying the existing materials to open the contest in April, run it for a couple of months, and involve the judges. They will take an inventory of the poetry stamps that are yet to be put in cement and how many more they can use.

## **C. 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY PARADE AND COOKOUT**

Paul said the 250 year celebration is being put together by a small committee. There is going to be a new parade on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. There are not going to be fireworks at night this year, so this new parade will be a new brand for the 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. The Thursday before the fourth will be a busy night in Lebanon with the farmers market and concert series. They are going to draw attention to the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration when there are many people present and also broadcast the 250<sup>th</sup> during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities.

On Saturday, the fourth, they will have the red, white and blue run in the morning which will end around 11 or 11:30. There will be a small parade course around the green in Lebanon. They are trying to recruit people and organizations to participate in the parade. They also hope to have a large scale cook out and entertainment. He asked if Arts and Culture has any desire to participate in the events. The parade will be around 11:30 to 12:00 and then there will be food and entertainment until around 2:00 pm.

The members will discuss Arts and Culture having some kind of presence there. They do not expect elaborate parades and floats. They hope the parade will have classic cars, people in uniforms, maybe a local band that will play from a wagon along the parade route. It is not about building a float. There could be some type of art making table during the afternoon or a face painting table staffed by students. The students from NESAs have done face painting at the farmers market in the past and would likely be willing to do it at this event. They will discuss options further at the next meeting.

At the next meeting the members would like to map out all the events that are going on in Lebanon, so they can make a determination of potential events Arts and Culture will want to join. There are many events, so making a list of future potential opportunities is a good idea. They can brainstorm events so not to be over committed.

The Commission's mission statement and primary goals of the committee are spelled out on the City web site. It is in the list of boards and commissions under Your Government. There is an overview of this commission and charges for the commission. They are not obliged to have a presence at every event. Rather they are also able to support other organizations and other people and artists who are making arts and culture events in the community. They can also determine which events may have the most audiences they want to engage.

#### **D. PUBLIC ART REQUEST**

Any requests for public art display are submitted on a form asking if the event can occur. The first request is to determine if it is something that should be seen in the City. And second, if the Arts and Culture want to support the effort. Lucas presented two applications. Both of these events have been happening in previous years. It is an opportunity for people to engage with the arts during events they will be having.

Lebanon Opera House: Pride Event & Nexus Music and Arts Festival — Public Chalk Materials: Non-permanent sidewalk chalk (can be removed with water) — all content will be monitored by staff and volunteers to ensure art remains appropriate for public space

It will take place on the public pathways around downtown and the park. In the past, the chalk has not been removed but wears away with the weather. Financial support is not requested by the LOH and the events are free to the public.

Pride: 06/12/2026

Nexus: August 7, 2026-August 9, 2026 (the duration of the festival)

**Lucas abstained from the vote.**

**Devin moved to approve the public chalk artwork for Pride and the Nexus.**

**Seconded by Gail.**

*\*The Motion was approved (4-0-1).*

#### **E. PUBLIC ART MAP: SUBMIT FEEDBACK TO LEE**

Members are asked to please submit feedback to Lee as soon as possible and prior to April 20<sup>th</sup> to be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **F. SHAREPOINT SITE - DEVIN**

The site has been activated. It is not used for discussion or decision. It should not be anything that is confidential. It is suitable for a depository for artwork photos, or keeping track of potential projects to support. It is active and everyone should check on their ability to log into it. Perry Eaton can help everyone log in; it requires two-factor authentication.

### **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A. ARTS ORGANIZATION UPDATES**

- **LOH**

LOH is busy with lots of events. Artists in residence are the first full week of April, the 7th-9th and some concerts are free to the public. There are many amazing events coming up and they are at a variety of price points. They are working hard toward Pride and Nexus and hopefully people will get out and get more arts in their lives.

- **AVA GALLERY**

The High School art exhibit is up through this weekend. There will be a reading by author Adam Blue, promoting his new book. There is an opening on April 10<sup>th</sup> for four new artists. They are preparing for classes and camps. They are newly painted walls done in interesting ways. The painting should be completed by the end of this week, in the library and restroom, so stop by and see it.

- **NE SCHOOL OF ARTS**

The school is extremely busy getting ready for the big benefit concert on April 11<sup>th</sup>. They just put up banners for Follow Your Art, at the Opera House, a concert with artists from all over New England including their own students. Putting up banners in Hanover is a good way to advertise as long as there is not a fee for an event. It is a way to get into the Hanover market as well. They are talking about the picnic table project, so that is getting underway. Their students just did a Mosaics for Peace project, to be displayed in Washington DC. They are busy with admissions.

- **UVMC**

The Faculty Showcase was at the beginning of this month to generate funds for tuition assistance. They have a concert coming up on April 18, about fiddling and baking bread. People at UVMC are excited. June tends to be their singing play, mostly students and Suzuki. They launched the tune up classes, for people who want to get into playing music. It's for people to tune up, get a one-off trial lesson or check out their instrument, to see if they want to engage with music again. It is great for lifelong music education.

- **OTHERS**

The Rec Department is sponsoring the porch music series events with LOH. The series will be launched soon, and they are getting ready for Thursdays in the park for children. They will be announcing that soon. This year there will be more camp events with vendors and artists, happening right on site during the camps.

In the tunnel, Emily Battle's 3D art installation is completed.

A young person was asking about doing an art mural on one of the spires. She needs to submit a proposal. They are intrigued about this proposal from a middle schooler.

## **B. CITY COMMITTEES**

- **CITY COUNCIL**

No updates.

- **DEI**

No updates.

- **HERITAGE**

No updates.

## **5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

No one from the public was present.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

**A. Next Meeting: April 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM.**

**B. There will also be a meeting in May, and they will talk about how the remaining meetings will be organized this year.**

*Nick Gaffney Adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Billings  
Recording Secretary