



LEBANON ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
AUGUST 25, 2026 - 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE

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- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. May 26, 2026 Minutes DRAFT
 - 3. Other Business**
 - A. LebFest: Tabling with Leb Rec and Lebanon Outing Club
September 19. 11am-3pm. Colburn Park
 - B. Poetry Contest: August 28-Sept 27. Rules and entry form can be found
at <https://lebanonnh.gov/FormCenter/Recreation-Arts-and-Parks-11/2026-Lebanon-ARTWAYS-Poetry-Contest-220>
 - C. Budget Update: \$200 YTD.
 - D. Fountain Cover Art: AVA proposes to do the Umbrella Girl fountain by
Lucky's.
 - 4. Committee Reports**
 - A. Arts Organizations: LOH, AVA Gallery, NESA, UVMC, Others
City Committees: City Council, DEI, Heritage
 - 5. Open to the Public**
 - 6. Adjournment**
 - A. Next Meeting: September 22, 2026.
6:00 - 7:30 Council Chambers

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 May 26, 2026
City Hall Council Chambers & LebanonNH.gov/Live
6:00PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: (6/9) **Lucas Mendelsohn** (Vice Chair; LOH Arts Org. Rep)
 Jennifer Chambers (Arts Org. Rep)
 Claire Geno (AVA Arts Org. Rep)
 Leonard Ridilla (Citizen Rep)
 Gail Dokucu (Alt)
 Stevens Blanchard (Ward 1 Citizen Rep)

MEMBERS ABSENT: (3/9) **Nick Gaffney** (Chair; Citizen Rep Ward 3)
 Devin Wilkie (City Council, Heritage Commission)
 Honor Hingston (Alt)

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Lucas Mendolson called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Paul Coats gave the RSA 91-A announcement.

Gail Dokuju was given voting privileges for this meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 28, 2026

Claire Geno MOVED to approve the April 28, 2026, Minutes as presented in the May 26, 2026, packet.

Seconded by Jennifer Chambers.

**The Motion was approved (6-0).*

3. OTHER BUSINESS

A. PATCHWORK EVENT JUNE 28

The Commission plans to have a table at the event. There is still a bit of work to happen. They are still hoping to invite the artists from the tunnel to meet people during the event. It's a month away so it's time to get moving.

The table will have the new map. The two main changes on the map were the alteration to the accessible entry to the tunnel and adding the named Hanover Street and Court Street. The map could be ready for the next month pending any final edits.

1 The table and some type of cloth would be a good addition as there are no branded assets. There is an
2 event sign, but nothing for the table. A sign can be made for the event. There is something to stand the
3 map up so it can be easier to see. Paul will handle getting these materials with staff.

4
5 A limited print will be made for this event, and they will review the feedback regarding the map. The QR
6 code will direct people to the Lebanon Artways website.

7
8 This handout will be a half-page document, 5 X 8 inches. The final Map will be posted on SharePoint for
9 everyone to review. There is no real expense because the maps will be printed in house for this event.
10 They will make a temporary print of the map, about 24 by 36 inches, to mount on foam core to be used
11 during this event. They will print a couple hundred maps and print more during the day if they are
12 needed.

13
14 Alison Zeto, one of the artists in the tunnel, attended the meeting and asked for clarification about the
15 event. She is looking forward to the event and meeting the people who see her art in the tunnel. The
16 event is 3 to 6 PM located in the Lebanon Artways Tunnel. Tabling is primarily 3-5 PM but will be
17 available throughout the event. A dance is planned after 5 PM and with some food that is donated by
18 sponsors of the event. The details of the performance are not sorted out. The event planner is working on
19 some type of handout and advertisement. Alison has many ideas and is excited about the event. Paul will
20 connect Alison to the Patchwork event planner, as the Commission is not organizing the event. Artways
21 is just a participant in the event.

22
23 They discussed who has the capacity to create a display of previous projects that Artways has done.
24 Claire and Jennifer will try to put together information about past accomplishments of this committee.
25 They are considering having one of the poetry stamps at the table to illustrate what that project is about.
26 The members are sorting out who will be present during the event.

27 28 **B. POETRY CONTEST**

29
30 The materials that were used for the contest entry in the past will be refined. The members will still need
31 to revisit the number of words that can be in the poem. Last time the maximum number of characters in a
32 poem was 275, so estimated it is 30 characters per line. They are considering how many characters will
33 fit adequately on a stamp. It will be discussed at the next meeting. It is likely the contest will be
34 launched in Fall.

35 36 **C. LEB FEST**

37
38 This is another tabling opportunity. It will be September 19, 2026, in Colburn Park. Registration is
39 already open through the Business Alliance. They have a great list of potential art related activities that
40 the commission could provide. They will sort it out at the next meeting. It would be a good idea to
41 register at this time and Paul will take care of it.

42 43 **D. TUNNEL MURALS**

44
45 The NE School of Arts has identified an art mentor, Sharon Bender, for their stretch of the back parking
46 lot wall and for the young student who proposed the columns mural. The concept for the wall is for a
47 vignettes of events that take place in Lebanon, such as the farmers market. The students will do the
48 painting under the supervision of the mentor. Jennifer is working on raising funds and hopes to raise
49 about \$6000 for these two murals. The school will donate \$2000 in-kind. Zekel, the grade school
50 applicant is ready to go, does not have a mentor in mind, and is anxious for this to move forward.

51
52 Separate from that project, they received another application from a muralist, Kess Reed. She creates
53 doodle art using one-line art, usually one color. Her murals usually reflect neighborhood, cities and
54 locations that mean home. She talks to local residents to get ideas, which makes these murals special.
55 She has a history of doing this work in other communities. She is interested in knowing if the

Commission wants to pursue her ideas for a mural. There is only a small space, except down by the bridge, which would not be available for a few years. The members discussed other places in the City where murals could be installed.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ARTS ORGANIZATION UPDATES

- **LOH**

This is the end of the season and school year performances and events are ongoing. They have a couple of big events still coming this season but are thinking about June 12, PRIDE and NEXUS. They are just starting to announce the awesome artists that are on the docket during NEXUS.

- **AVA GALLERY**

So many fun things are coming this summer. They are participating in NH Give again this year, June 9-10. It is an awesome day to bring light to all the nonprofits in NH. They are starting a new evening series focused on creative economy. This will be their first PRIDE exhibition, concluding with a big reception and celebration. There is a new young artist meet up that is getting going. New exhibitions and summer camps are coming up.

- **NE SCHOOL OF ARTS**

Jennifer said the Lebanon Ballet School closed, and they plan to take over that studio space. They are looking to keep that space alive, and it opens up more opportunities for classroom spaces.

- **UVMC**

They just completed their Sing and Play weekend, which was a huge success. There were some amazing moments. Upcoming information sessions like technique tune up, will be ongoing. They are also doing the traditional music fest between July and August.

- **OTHERS**

Shout out to Stevens, for all the promotion he is doing on the River 93.9. He is also helping to promote and partner with the Front Porch music series which is beginning July 2.

B. CITY COMMITTEES

- **CITY COUNCIL**

No updates.

- **DEI**

No updates.

- **HERITAGE**

No updates.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

No additional attendees.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A. Next Meeting: August 25, at 6:00 PM.

The Vice Chair Adjourned the meeting at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Billings

Recording Secretary

CALLING ALL POETS



**Want to leave a
lasting impression in
Lebanon community?**



Mold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Mold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.
Langston Hughes



**Submit your poem to
the Lebanon
ArtWays poetry
contest.**

**The TOP poems will
be STAMPED into a
sidewalk in the
community.**

Submit by Sept 27

**[Click here for guidelines and to
submit your poem](#)**

Billy Bettner 233 characters	Enfield, NH	River & Stone Always moving, current flows Past the boulder's old repose Never slowing, carve and hone Dances River 'round her Stone Forest grown from base to peak Rising tide for Moon to seek Landslide, flood, yet worry-free Mountain falling for the Sea
Michelle Davis 127 characters	West Lebanon, NH	Midwinter's Eve By Michelle Belinda Davis Snowflakes Spiral from the sky A ballet For those passing by And leave behind Tree boughs of white To echo heaven's Soft starlight
Raeka Mikecz 198 characters	Lebanon, NH	Fly little broken bird Although your wings grow heavy Did you hear that voice I heard? Its saying that you're ready Fly little broken bird Spread your wings Listen to these final words: You can do anything
Raeka Mikecz 111 characters	Lebanon, NH	Friendship is a singing bird A hope, a dream A gentle word Friendship is a seed you sow Care for it And it will grow

Item	Recurs?	Est cost
Sidewalk p	annual	\$2,100
Public art	as-needed	\$200
Ice sculptur	annual	\$1,000
Tunnel colt	one time	\$2,500
Tunnel alcc	one time	\$1,000
Tunnel art	one time	\$1,000