



PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 5:30 PM
The Bonnie Osler Meeting Room
Regular Meeting
REVISED
AGENDA

	Page
A. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL & ANNOUNCEMENTS:	
B. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES:</u>	
B.1. 2026 03 25 Public Art Committee Meeting Minutes	3 - 5
C. PRESENTATION	
1. Discussion & Review of Coastal Arts Presentation CAD Strategic Economic Alliance Presentation	7 - 12
D. <u>OLD BUSINESS:</u>	
D.1. Discussion and possible action on 2026 Mural.	
D.2. Recap and continued discussion on the 2026 Public Art Committee Bus Tour.	
D.3. Continued discussion and possible action regarding the 2026 public art installation. PAC 250 Historical Figure Information Sculpture W Nate 2026	13 - 18
D.4. Continued discussion and possible action regarding the 2027 public art installation and contract.	
E. <u>NEW BUSINESS:</u>	
E.1. Discussion and possible action regarding Public Art Committee Workshop.	
E.2. Discussion and possible action regarding proposing a community bulletin board on Second Street.	
F. <u>PUBLIC COMMENT:</u>	
G. <u>ADJOURNMENT:</u>	

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82937800766?pwd=bEBbZzHAUqXSU2JwgQ4jGp1vaDsqVZ.1>

Join via audio:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Webinar ID: 829 3780 0766

Passcode: 796691

*Pursuant to 29 Del. C. § 10004(e)(3) this Agenda is subject to change; including addition or deletion of items or Executive Sessions. Agenda items may not be considered in sequence and therefore, should not be relied upon by any member of the public. To request special accommodations for persons with disabilities please contact the City Hall office at (302) 645-7777, at least 72 hours in advance of a meeting.
The City of Lewes strives to make our public meetings widely available through Zoom and YouTube broadcasts. While the City is committed to continuing this access, pursuant to 29 Del. Code, §10006A, technological failure does not affect the validity of these meetings, nor the validity of any action taken in these meetings.*

The Bonnie Osler Meeting Room is located at 101 Adams Avenue, Lewes DE

Agenda Posted: 4/21/2026 Posted By: BJ

****REVISED - Revision to language for item E.1 and added item E.2** 4/22/2026**

**City of Lewes
PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 25, 2026
MINUTES**

The **Public Art Committee** met on **Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at the Bonnie Osler Meeting Room**, in accordance with proper notification, with the following members present: Chairperson Heidi Lowe, and Committee Members Barry Dunkin, Denise Emery, Susan Heller, and Marianne Zweig. Ex-officio, Councilmember Trina-Brown Hicks and Parks and Marina Administrator Giulia Kirsch were also present.

- A CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL & ANNOUNCEMENTS:** *Chairperson Heidi Lowe called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM on March 25, 2026.*

Parks & Marina Supervisor Giulia Kirsch announced the upcoming Arbor Day celebration on April 24th at Stango Park at 10 AM and noted that the city is still seeking two poll workers for the May 9th election. She also informed the committee that City Hall will be closed on Friday, April 3rd for the Easter holiday.

Chair Lowe mentioned the upcoming bus tour scheduled for April 16th (correcting herself from initially saying May 16th).

Councilmember Trina Brown-Hicks provided several announcements, including early notice about Juneteenth on June 27th, requesting all commissions and committees to participate with tables or tents. Councilmember Brown-Hicks also announced the May 30th unveiling of the Johnnie Walker Beach interpretive sign at 10 AM, followed by a Blue Moon and Jazz musical event at the American Legion from 5-10 PM.

Chairperson Lowe and Councilmember Brown-Hicks discussed the possibility of creating an interactive art activity for Juneteenth, where people could paint an outline and take photos. Brown-Hicks suggested bringing Public Art Committee t-shirts to the event.

- B AGENDA REVIEW** *No discussion.*

- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Chairperson Lowe asked if there were any issues with the minutes from the previous meeting. No issues were identified by committee members.*

Motion: *Committee Member Susan Heller made a motion to approve the February 25, 2026 Public Art Committee Meeting Minutes. Committee Member Barry Dunkin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

- D. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Update, continued discussion and possible action regarding the 2026 installation.

Committee Member Dunkin provided an update on his presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission. He explained that he showed the commission the image and website for the proposed installation, described the dimensions and installation method using metal tubes, and provided details about the project. The Parks and Recreation Commission approved the concept and indicated they would work with Mark Shue to determine the exact location.

Chairperson Lowe expressed enthusiasm about having everything in place for the installation. Ms. Kirsch will prepare a contract, and the installation is scheduled for May 13th-15th. Chair Lowe confirmed she has arranged accommodations for the artist and that he has agreed to give a talk, likely on May 13th so he can leave on the 14th if desired. She requested Ms. Kirsch check both the 13th and 14th for room availability

and other meetings.

The committee discussed the installation timeline and rain date considerations, ultimately agreeing that having flexibility between the 13th and 14th would be beneficial. Chair Lowe noted that the installation shouldn't be particularly complex.

2. Continued discussion and possible action on the Spring 2026 Public Art Bus Tour & Lecture Series.

The bus tour scheduled for April 16th has five spots remaining, with 18 people currently signed up. The committee discussed that they have effectively broken even and will have some funds remaining after covering tips and other expenses.

Committee Member Marianne Zweig reported success with personal outreach, estimating she sold at least five seats through direct contact and distribution of flyers at HOA meetings and through their listserv. She noted that people were generally satisfied with the price when told about the two tours, food, and bus transportation included.

Ms. Kirsch mentioned receiving only one complaint about the non-refundable policy and timing of RSVP requirements. The committee discussed the challenge of balancing advance booking requirements with customer flexibility, acknowledging that bus reservations require early commitments.

Committee members suggested alternatives for people who cannot attend, such as transferring tickets to neighbors or treating them as gifts. The committee agreed that extending deadlines and allowing refunds would be problematic for planning purposes.

Chair Lowe promoted an upcoming Amy Sherald exhibition titled "American Sublime" at the Baltimore Museum of Art on April 1st, describing it as "drop dead gorgeous" and noting that the Art League is organizing a bus trip for \$85 per person.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and possible action on goals for upcoming years.

Chair Lowe initiated a comprehensive discussion about the committee's future direction, noting that Mayor Marasco has requested the committee develop a strategic plan and consider expansion. She acknowledged that while they have been focused on affordable temporary installations, growth would require additional manpower, planning, and funding.

The committee discussed their current capacity, with Chair Lowe noting they can realistically handle one temporary installation per year, possibly two, plus one event. She emphasized this represents their current maximum given financial and personnel constraints.

Committee members explored various ideas for expansion and increased visibility. Committee Member Zweig suggested workshops led by visiting artists and emphasized the need for better public awareness of the committee's identity and work. She advocated for increased visibility through participation in other committees and art groups.

Committee Member Heller inquired about the structure of proposed workshops, seeking clarification between internal strategic planning sessions and public engagement

workshops. The committee discussed the potential for public workshops to gather community input about desired art projects and programming.

Committee Member Dunkin emphasized the need for strategic planning and brainstorming sessions to develop concrete goals rather than continuing monthly discussions without action. He suggested bringing in local artists to lead or participate in planning meetings.

The committee extensively discussed Delaware Freedom of Information Act requirements for public meetings. Committee Member Heller researched potential exceptions that might allow private strategic planning sessions, while acknowledging the strict public meeting requirements. Ms. Kirsch committed to consulting with the city solicitor about possibilities for internal planning sessions within legal boundaries.

The discussion revealed concern between the need for effective planning and public transparency requirements. Committee members explored alternatives such as meeting in groups of three (below quorum requirements) or having multi-hour public sessions with different components.

Committee Member Emery supported the idea of public workshops to gather community input about desired art projects and programming, noting this would provide valuable guidance for future planning.

The committee discussed expanding their current approach, which successfully produces temporary installations and events, while considering the challenges of taking on larger permanent projects or multiple initiatives simultaneously. They acknowledged needing to determine what type of growth aligns with their mission and capacity.

Various suggestions emerged for increasing public engagement, including participating in community events like Juneteenth, the farmers market, and seasonal celebrations. Committee members discussed the need for eye-catching displays and activities to draw public attention rather than simple information tables.

The committee agreed to continue thinking about strategic planning approaches and will address these questions after completing the current installation project. They acknowledged the need to balance ambitious goals with realistic assessment of their resources and capabilities.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT: *Chair Lowe opened the floor for public comment.*

Councilmember Brown-Hicks announced a conversation with Jeffrey Rosen about The Pursuit of Liberty event scheduled for Saturday, March 28th at 4 PM at Lewes Elementary School. She noted that additional announcements would be released in the newspaper.

G ADJOURNMENT: Motion: *Committee Member Emery made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Dunkin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.*

Minutes submitted by: Jeffery Coover, Administrative Support Specialist

Minutes generated by HeyGov.ai

Transcripts available by request

The Coastal Arts District

A Strategic Economic Alliance between Lewes and Milton



Foundational Elements



Open Discussion



Next Steps

The Executive Summary



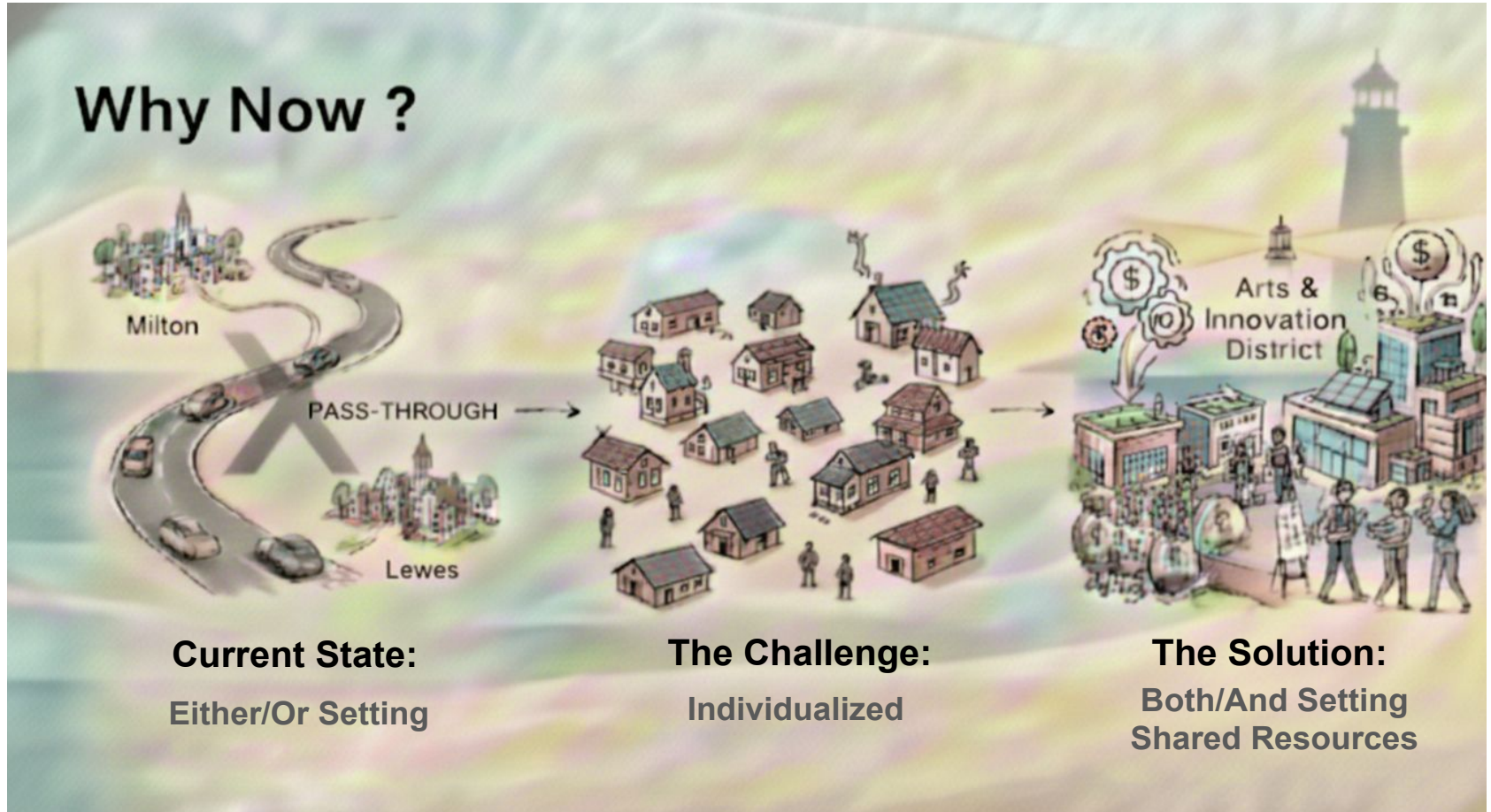
The Vision: Formalizing the 12-mile stretch between Lewes and Milton as Delaware's premier Arts & Innovation District.



The Value Prop: By linking Lewes' established "Historic & Maritime" brand with Milton's "Performing Arts & Maker" energy, we create a 365-day tourism engine that outlasts the summer beach season.



Why Now ?



Current State:
Either/Or Setting

The Challenge:
Individualized

The Solution:
Both/And Setting
Shared Resources

Five Structural Pillars of the Corridor

When multiple municipalities collaborate, the initiative rests on five structural pillars:



1. Governance & Unified Leadership



2. Infrastructure & Branding “Stickiness”



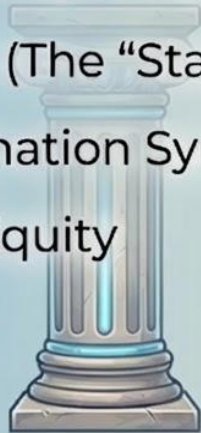
3. Economic Reciprocity (The “Stay and Play” Pillar)



4. Programming Coordination Synergy



5. Community “Maker” Equity



District Success & Growth

What does success look like?



A thriving, year-round cultural scene.



Increased visitor numbers, state and federal funding.



A strong, recognized district brand identity.



Enhanced community engagement and pride.

What does growth look like?



Expansion of arts and innovation programming.



Attraction of new creative businesses and talent.



Infrastructure improvement & geographic expansion



Long-term financial stability for the district.



A photograph of a lighthouse on a cliff at sunset. The lighthouse is white with a red band and a black top. The sky is a vibrant orange and red, and the ocean is visible in the background. A dirt path leads up to the lighthouse. The text "Next Steps" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters.

Next Steps



Cato Lewis 1756-1833
Shipbuilder in Lewes

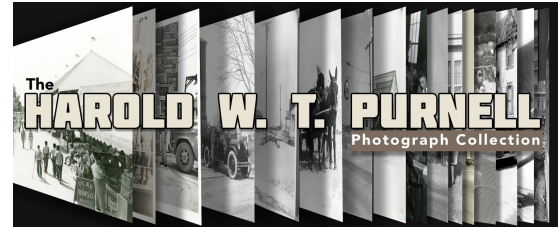


*Image taken from film made for the
Lewes Historical Society

Sarah Fisher Ames 1817-1901
Sculptor born in Lewes



Harold WT Purnell 1896-1965
Photographer and Historian in Sussex country



*Silhouette based on Harold's son and model
for camera during 1930s-50s

Lydia Chichester duPont 1907-1958
Philanthropist founded Children's Beach House



Elsie Wingo 1921-2014
First African American Nurse at Beebe Hospital



*Silhouette based on Beebe nurse uniform during 1960s

Betsy Rawls 1928-2023
Professional Golfer with a beach house in
Lewes for 20 years



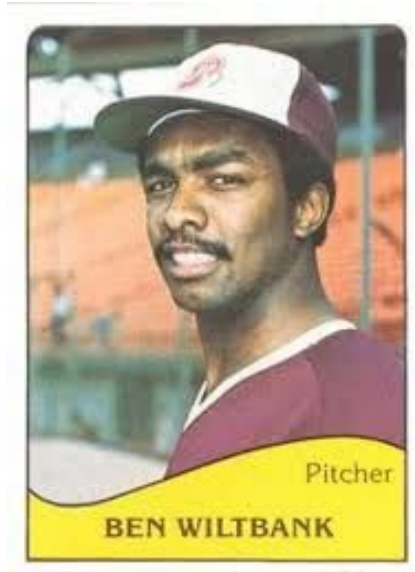
Theodore Freeman 1930-1963
Astronaut grew up in Lewes



Ronald "Beau" Gooch 1955-2020
First African American Police Chief in Lewes



Benjamin Wiltbank 1956-2021
Pro Baseball Player/Coach
graduated Cape Henlopen





Budget

- Labor/Install
 - 9 Figure - $\$200 \times 9 = \1800
 - Install $\$1500$
- Materials:
 - Aluminum Sheets 4x8x1/2 - $\$850 \times 6 = \5100
 - 2x2in Aluminum Frame - $\$650$

\$9050.00

Materials: Silver Aluminum

Size per figure: Lifesize, roughly 2ft wide by 5-6ft tall

Total Base Size: 8-10x4ft