



Annual Report | 2021

Dear friends of LA Arts:

I'm writing to thank all who have supported our work this year, to give you our Annual Report on the strides we've made and our plans going forward, and to ask individuals to respond to our Annual Appeal for donations to that work. On behalf of everyone on the LA Arts board and staff, let me affirm that your partnership and participation are bringing the arts alive in Lewiston and Auburn.

Jim Parakilas
Board Chair, LA Arts

The Arts Help Reopen Our Community!

In June, LA Arts began bringing the arts back out into the open, giving our citizens experiences of joy and beauty to share with each other.

- Art Walk LA returned to Lisbon Street on the final Fridays of June through September. Also, encouraged by the great video contributions regional artists and performers made to our *Virtual Art Walk LA* last year, we will produce a new winter 2022 virtual art walk series. So now you can look forward to Art Walk LA experiences in every season of the year!
- We reopened the LA Arts Gallery at 221 Lisbon Street, Lewiston in July with a Bates Dance Festival interactive video experience called *Performance | Portrait*. This fall we have hosted two exciting emerging artists' exhibitions: *Tom Jessen: Play* and Renee Bouchard's *Allegory of Prudence*, both with special opportunities for students and adults to interact with the artists.
- In the Simard-Payne amphitheatre and Kennedy Park, we presented three *Concerts in the Parks* (a fourth was rained out) this summer, featuring original music by many of the best area bands, as well as a Franco-American Fiddlers' Rendezvous. For these free events, our enthusiastic and grateful audiences can thank financial supporters including the City of Lewiston, the Maine Arts Commission, and the New England Foundation for the Arts.*

*LA Arts is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, an initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major funding from the federal CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The arts connect.



2021:
Artwalk LA
returned!

2021:
LA Arts
Gallery
Events

2021:
Concerts
In the
Park

The arts inspire.



LA Arts Board of Directors

Chair: James Parakilas | **Vice-Chair:** Darby Ray | **Secretary:** Elaine Gammon | Mary Callahan
Mark Lee | William Low | Susann Pelletier | Allie Smith | Gary Stallsworth | Elijah True
Haley Warden | Gerald Walsh. **Office and Communications Manager:** Alison Gibbs.





2022:
More
Public
Art

2022:
More
Gallery
Shows

2022:
New
Arts
Space

The arts engage.

Arts as a Vehicle for Social Change, a Conduit of Joy, and a Means of Self-expression

As part of its commitment to bringing opportunities for arts-making and arts experiences especially to those who have the greatest challenges in finding those opportunities, LA Arts worked on a number of initiatives this year:



Ledgers, fox sculptures by Andy Rosen, Mill Street in Lewiston.

- With support from the Onion Foundation, we hired Elizabeth Haffey as a community organizer to help us make meaningful connections within the L-A immigrant communities. She is making LA Arts a gathering place for arts-minded young people of those communities and is soliciting ideas for a gallery exhibition and a public art project in the downtown Lewiston immigrant business neighborhood.
- At this exciting moment when the two cities are creating new high school arts facilities, LA Arts is making new connections with local arts students and their teachers at all levels, regularly featuring their work in downtown exhibitions and connecting them with our featured artists, both in our gallery and in their classrooms. We'll soon restart our Open Mic program for students too.
- Before the pandemic we began a community galleries program that brought art into our cities' residential facilities for residents to experience and brought artists to them to guide them in art-making. We can't wait to resume this program when health conditions permit.
- In order to extend our citizens' opportunities for hearing and seeing live performances and films of all kinds and to develop their own artistic impulses in workshops, collectives, and rehearsals, we are seeking a new facility for our work. We expect to have an announcement about that for you soon.

Turning Our Cities Into Works of Art

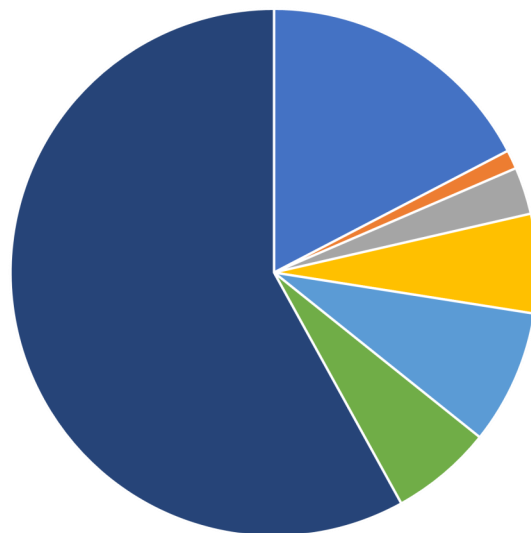
LA Arts has helped to lead the charge to bring new public art to our community, collaborating with our municipal governments, state and federal arts agencies, and local businesses and business groups. Here are a few examples that we have had a hand in creating:

- *Bud Form*, sculpture by Hugh Lassen, by Longley Bridge in Auburn
- *Ledgers*, fox sculptures by Andy Rosen, Mill Street in Lewiston
- *The Fish*, sculpture by Thomas Berger, Anniversary Park in Auburn
- *Persevere and Progress*, mural by Susan Harkins celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage in the United States, Dufresne Plaza in Lewiston
- Riverwalk Storyboards, 16 display cases along the Auburn River Walk, where LA Arts has helped to curate walking exhibitions of poetry, art, and local history.

More public art is in the works, some as part of the Growing Our Tree Streets program in Lewiston, some on the initiative of local businesses and nonprofits. Local arts activist and LA Arts friend Beckie Conrad is working with the two city governments to create new protocols for commissioning, executing, and maintaining public art works, and LA Arts worked with Bates College students to create a new, growing digital public art map along with walking, biking, and driving tours. Look for the "L/A Public Map + Tours" under Visual Arts on the LA Arts website and then go explore!

LA Arts 2020-2021 Revenue Sources

- City of Lewiston
- Corporate Donations
- City of Auburn
- Individual Donations
- Maine Arts Commission
- Endowment Donations
- Private Grants



Good Neighbors for the Arts

We have a wealth of remarkable arts and culture organizations in Lewiston and Auburn and an impressive community of professionals and amateurs in all fields of the arts. LA Arts is dedicated to supporting and promoting all these organizations at monthly Arts and Culture LA meetings and by hosting an active community calendar of arts and culture events on our website: laarts.org/calendar.

Like all arts and culture organizations in this community, we are sustained by our good neighbors: the appreciative publics for our events, exhibitions, and programs; the generous people who contribute their time and energy to our work; the community-spirited individuals and businesses who sponsor our operations and programs; the loyal foundations that have supported us again and again; and the people in the city councils and many departments of our city governments who make all our projects possible.

Every time you spread the word that LA Arts is doing good for the spirit of our cities and the people who live here, you are helping us do that good. Every time your institution or organization joins with us in an artistic project, you are showing the community how the arts can strengthen it and how together, we can lift up the Twin Cities.

The pie chart shows you the sources of our funding this past year. Please help us move forward with a donation to our annual campaign this fall.

Support Our Community Arts Programs!

Donate online at laarts.org/support or mail your donation to LA Arts at P.O. Box 3753, Auburn, ME 04212.

Thank You, LA Arts Sponsors!

Champions: Acadia Insurance | Austin Associates | Bates College | Baxter Brewing
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Maine Arts Commission | New England Foundation for the Arts | Onion Foundation | Sun Journal.

Advocates: Community Credit Union | Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce | Leary & Detroy | Rainbow Bicycle | Rinck Advertising | State Farm—Lisa Laliberte.

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