

Made possible by generous support from the Elmina B. Sewell Foundation, the project began as one artist's seed idea in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy of October 25, 2023. In the intervening time, it has grown into a multifaceted collaboration between artists, healing professionals, and community organizations.

In addition to a core team of three artists (Traci Molloy of Brooklyn, NY, Jen McDermott, Portland resident and faculty at Bates College, and Justin Moriarty of Auburn), two organizations (Portland's Bridge to Belong and LA Arts), and two local community organizers (Equity Coordinator James Ford and Liaison Virginia Dearani), the project never could have come to fruition without the contributions of a long list of key community participants or the great many survivors, families, and members of the wider Lewiston-Auburn communities who attended one of several art therapy-based training or workshops to reflect, strengthen connections, and envision their hope for the future.

Each phase of the project—preparation, artmaking, and public sharing—has embodied the power of solidarity and creativity to open spaces for the healing process to unfold in its own highly individual and nonlinear ways. By weaving individual stories into a shared narrative and embodying those many elements in a structural work of community art, the project bears witness to the participants' complex journeys in the aftermath of collective trauma.

Forget ME Not will be on exhibition at LA Arts, 168 Lisbon St. in Lewiston, through January 17th, 2026. The public is invited to attend an opening reception at the gallery on Friday, November 7th from 6-9 PM. For more information, see www.laarts.org/gallery/forget-me-not.

LA Arts, the arts agency for the cities of Lewiston and Auburn Maine, has pursued a mission to engage and inspire a vibrant community through arts and culture since 1973. The agency works with governments, businesses, schools, and local arts and cultural organizations to create opportunities for community members across the generations to experience, learn, and participate in the arts. LA Arts organizes arts programs and initiatives, supports the work of local artists and arts organizations, and highlights the essential role the arts play in shaping an economically vital, socially integrated, and forward-looking future for its community. Learn more at www.laarts.org.

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