

Lewiston Art Festival: Annual event this weekend on Center Street



Inset: Laurissa Widrick and the 2024 Lewiston Art Festival design. • Lewiston Council on the Arts Executive Director Maria Fortuna Dean is shown with Art Festival sponsors, the Town of Lewiston Council, Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh, and the Village of Lewiston Board of Trustees. (Photos by Chelsea Modern Images) • This year's Chalk Walk sponsors include CJ Urlaub of Mount St. Mary's Hospital, LCA board member Cindy Sanchez, the Rev. Catherine Rieley-Goddard of First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston, Kyle Heath and Chiwiike Owunwanne of KeyBank, LCA volunteer Kristen Raimondi, and Girl Scout Troop 70228.

SHOWCASE OF SPLENDOR: Lewiston Art Festival returns to Center Street

One of Western New York's preeminent cultural events, the Lewiston Art Festival, returns to Center Street in Lewiston this weekend.

Explore the works of acclaimed and emerging artists at the annual fine arts gathering. Organized by the Lewiston Council on the Arts, this event is highly popular with locals and tourists alike. In fact, the art festival is one of the biggest and most iconic in the region. For over half a century, the LCA has partnered with artists from throughout the region and beyond to showcase these creators' latest and best works.

The Art Festival takes place on the second full weekend in August and features more than 175 exceptional artists and fine crafters. With more than 20,000 original works to discover, patrons are sure to find something they love, whether that be paintings, sculptures, ceramics, photography, jewelry, mixed media, or some other artform. Meet the artists and discuss their work one-on-one.

Furthermore, plenty of food vendors and entertainers are on site, ensuring the art festival is fun for everyone.

Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. There is no fee to attend, and free street parking is available around Center Street.

- Some of the event's signature offerings include:
- Indigenous Market – a celebration of traditional and contemporary Native American arts and crafts.
 - "College Alley" – featuring student work.
 - ArtZone – with hands-on activities for kids of all ages!
 - Chalk Walk – a fan-favorite, this friendly team competition is for ages 6 to 60-plus.

Featured artist

The 2024 Lewiston Art Festival featured artist is Laurissa Widrick.

Widrick said she finds "endless inspiration" in nature. The Watertown native attended Houghton College and studied graphic design, photography and digital art – but it is old-school printmaking that speaks most deeply to her.

"For me, the process of printmaking is like a meditation," said Widrick, who moved to Buffalo in 2018.

Each artwork starts with a paper sketch, which is then transferred to a linoleum block. Widrick then carves out the reverse image – all the parts that aren't black. She mixes the paint colors on glass and, with a brayer, rolls a thin layer of ink on the block. Finally, she lays paper over a linoleum block and presses to make the print.

"It is so satisfying to watch it slowly form through each step," Widrick said.

Lewiston Council on the Arts Executive Director Maria Fortuna Dean said, "We are excited to introduce this talented young artist to the whole Western New York community. Laura's piece for the 2024 Art Festival, 'To Have,' calls to mind both Mother Nature and our duty of stewardship of the earth and all its abundant gifts."

'Right here in Lewiston'

Since 1966, The Lewiston Art Festival has attracted visitors and art lovers from across Western New York and Southern Ontario, as well as international visitors from Niagara Falls. For two days, the picturesque and historic Village of Lewiston welcomes more than myriad exceptional artists and fine crafters.

Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Pauly said, "The Lewiston

The Lewiston Art Festival!

August 10 & 11, 2024

"To Have" linocut by Laurissa Widrick

Over 20,000 original artworks!
Featuring: Indigenous Experience - A celebration of traditional and contemporary Native American art and crafts, music, dance and history
Chalkwalk - Friendly team competition for ages 6 to 60+
College Alley - Discover student artists
Live Entertainment and Food & Drink Vendors

Lewiston Council on the Arts

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Niagara Falls State Park

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Lewiston Academy Park

To Four Mile Creek State Park

To Niagara Falls Lockport Route

To Niagara Falls Lockport Route

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Mark Stryker, Detroit Free Press

Non traditional, family-friendly service
11:30 AM Sunday, August 25
 First Presbyterian Church
 505 Cayuga Street
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 Questions: Contact (716) 545-7012