

Livingston Parish Library Art Exhibit Policy

I. Purpose

Livingston Parish Library offers gallery spaces and displays for the exhibition of artwork, crafts, and collections of unique, interesting or historically significant items. All exhibits are free and open to the public.

The Library encourages exhibitions of painting, photography, sculpture, crafts, and other items for civic, cultural, educational and recreational purposes. Exhibit spaces are made available on an equitable basis to individuals or groups with respect to artworks that best meet the standards for acceptance.

The Library provides space free-of-charge to exhibitors regardless of their beliefs or affiliations, provided the content is within the broad standards of community acceptability. In planning their displays, exhibitors should be aware that the space is accessible to all members of the public with no attempt to restrict access on the basis of age. All sides of an issue deserve equal representation over time, although not necessarily within any single display.

II. Selection Criteria

As is the case with collection development, the Library (as represented by the Library Director or their designee), will exercise judgment as to current usefulness or interest, authority, and competence of presentation, importance as a record of the times, relevance to the collection, and standards of quality in terms of content and format. Exhibits should reflect the library's role as an educational and cultural institution presenting a balanced program of exhibits in all suitable media. Artists must make their works available for review, whether through online sources, copies or prints. Items of high value or extreme delicacy are generally not selected.

The Library reserves the right to refuse or remove any material judged unsuitable or to rescind exhibition if this policy is violated. Exhibits of a pornographic, polemic, or discriminatory nature will be refused. If elements of a display are judged inappropriate by the Board of Trustees or the Library Director, the sponsoring individual or organization will be required to remove those elements immediately.

Display area(s) may also be used for materials from the library's collection or to publicize library services, collections, or services. Library use of displays and gallery areas takes precedence over other uses. The Library reserves the right, without notice, to cancel the use of the display area by exhibits.

Display spaces may not be used for entrepreneurial or commercial purposes, for the solicitation of business, for profit, or for fundraising. Religious proselytizing and partisan political recruitment are similarly prohibited; educational exhibits on these subjects is allowed.

In hosting and/or presenting exhibits, the Library does not imply endorsement of the beliefs or viewpoints of their subject matter.

III. Applications for Use

The Library Director, as designee of the Library Board of Trustees, has authority for approving the use of exhibit space. The Library Director may assign Branch Managers as his/her designees. Application for exhibit space is made to the Library Director or designee. Acceptability of an exhibit is at the discretion of the Library Director whose decisions may be appealed to the Library Board of Trustees. In exercising such discretion, considerations will include artistic merit, degree of general public interest in the subject matter and medium/media of an exhibit, importance of the exhibit as a record or reflection of the times or of the community, and degree to which the exhibit will be responsive to and consistent with the Library's Mission Statement and Policies. Application for use can be made by contacting the Library Director or designee, who will first determine if the exhibit space is available when the artist wishes to exhibit.

IV. Period of Display

Exhibits are scheduled for one month. Works of art should remain on display throughout the exhibit period. Display set up and removal dates need to be coordinated with the branch displaying the art.

V. Responsibility for Use

Insurance: The Library is not responsible for the theft or damage to items on exhibit, nor does it provide insurance to protect them. Items are placed in the library at the owner's risk. The library cannot assume liability for lost, stolen, or damaged works of art. Owners are asked to check their own insurance policies as regards theft or damage. Exhibitors must sign the liability waiver prior to displaying their art.

Arrangement: The Library reserves the right to determine how all exhibits are arranged.

Publicity: Any publicity, signage or written material provided by the artist to accompany an exhibit must be approved by the Library Director or his/her designee. Once approved, it will then be displayed with the exhibit.