



Art Exhibition Policy

Purpose

In keeping with its mission to improve the quality of life and meet the cultural interests of the entire Hamden community, the Library recognizes that art has the power to enhance the quality of life of a community; it inspires citizens, contributes to civic pride and enlivens public places. The library is a unique and innovative venue for showcasing works of art. Art exhibitions encourage artists to engage in public life and moves people to see the world through a new and changing lens.

As a public service, the Library may make limited space available within library buildings to display artworks completed by members of the community. Defined as rotating and/or temporary exhibitions, displays of art pieces from the community members may be made available in a designated space at the discretion of library staff in accordance with local guidelines and space allowances. The Branch Manager at each library location has the responsibility for designating space for display and for scheduling exhibitions.

All artists or exhibitors invited to show at any Hamden Public Library will complete an application to display. The Library is not liable for damage or theft to any piece of art.

The Library does not endorse nor take a position on any of the views presented in displayed artwork, and may refuse any pieces deemed inappropriate for an exhibition.

Consideration and Criteria

In general, art tracking systems and display cases are the most appropriate spaces for showcasing artwork done by members of the community. Other spaces may be used at the discretion of staff.

Larger pieces of art, two-dimensional work, and/or three dimensional work will be considered. If exhibition of an art piece poses a public safety issue, the Library reserves the right to choose the appropriate location for such an exhibit.

Priority will be given to local artists or to artists who have a tie to Hamden, CT.

The Library does not accept responsibility for ensuring that all points of view are represented in any single display. Granting of permission to display materials does not imply Library endorsement of content or points of view.

All artwork accepted for display must meet existing local, state, and federal laws on obscenity, copyright, libel, and defamation of character or invasion of privacy. Artwork will not be displayed that, in the opinion of the Library administration, is deemed to be patently offensive to the community as a whole.

All exhibits, whether generated by library staff or the public, will be considered in terms of the standards listed below. Not all exhibits will meet all standards. Responsibility for the selection of exhibits rests with the Library Director and Associate Director.

Standards:

- subject, technique and style are suitable for intended audience;
- quality of exhibition design, implementation, artistic merit, and originality;
- appropriateness to special events, anniversaries, holidays, etc.;
- historical or regional relevance;
- relation to other events or exhibits in the community;
- ease of installation;
- representation of an influential movement, genre, trend or national culture.

Responsibility of the Artist

To be considered for a Library exhibition, artists must submit the following as an application:

- A sample of their work
- Biography
- Artist Statement
- Title and date of pieces to be displayed
- Medium

Artists must agree that work included in a display may be photographed and included in public news media for publicity purposes.

Artists must be willing to have their work displayed alongside the work of other artists included in an exhibit.

Artists may not attach any hardware or other item(s) to the Library walls or display areas.

Any publicity materials created by the artist to promote a display must be submitted to the Library administration for approval before being released.

Artists must be present and actively involved in the installation and take down of their exhibit. Library staff is not permitted to handle art unless supervised by the artist.

Artists may host an art reception in conjunction with the Library. The reception is open to the public as well as to the guest list of the artist. Publicity of the reception is the artist's responsibility and any associated materials must be approved by library administration. No alcoholic beverages may be served.

No pricing of the art is permitted. Sales of art must take place between the artist and the buyer.

Artists are responsible for picking up their own work within a week of an exhibition's conclusion.

Art work may not be stored at the library beyond a week.

Responsibility of the Library

The Library will inform the artist of the duration of the display prior to its beginning.

The Library will keep contact information for the artist on hand to provide to individuals interested in purchasing artwork.

The Library will notify the artist of any known damage or theft to the exhibit. However, the Library is not responsible for the safety or condition of the exhibition.

The Library will provide suitable space for an approved exhibition.