

LONDON PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICY

Title: Art Exhibits
Policy Type: Operational
Policy No.: O-CP-10

Effective Date: June 12, 2019

Review Date: January, 2023

PURPOSE:

London Public Library (“LPL”/“the Library”) provides access to a wide range of expressions of creativity, knowledge, intellectual activity and thought in a welcoming and accessible environment. One way in which the Library does this is by providing temporary space to artists for the display of their work. The purpose of this policy is to establish the conditions by which the Library provides space for art exhibits.

SCOPE:

This policy governs the conditions for temporary art exhibit space in the Library from individuals, community organizations, community groups, schools, etc.

Ownership of the art will remain with the artist(s) or other owner(s) of the art.

This policy does not apply to works of art owned by LPL which are governed by the Library’s *Public Art Policy* and gifts of art which are governed by the Library’s *Fund Development - Gift Acceptance Policy*. It does not apply to exhibits associated with Library co-sponsored events or programs and community displays which are governed by the *Meeting Space Use Policy*.

DEFINITIONS:

Art means original works of art, primarily visual art creations, which may have a multi-media component, whether fixed or freestanding (including but not limited to paintings, pottery, textile works, stained glass, sculptures, photographs), intended to be accessible to the general public in public exhibit space in the Library.

Art exhibit means a temporary art exhibit, contracted between the artist and the Library for a specific period of time, in public space designated by the Library, and not sponsored by the Library in any way.

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Artist means a new or established artist or group of artists who have created and wish to display and/or sell their original work(s) of art.

Exhibit space means a space designated by the Library where art is intended to be displayed. Exhibit space may include but not be limited to walls, open space, display cases or cabinets provided by the Library.

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is LPL policy to provide space for art exhibits to enable Library visitors to participate in the creative life of their community and to present community artists with a public venue for exhibiting their works locally. Exhibitions enhance the LPL's public space and demonstrate the Library's role as a cultural institution.

The Library provides space for art exhibits that are:

- Responsive to the diverse interests of the community;
- Compatible with LPL's purpose and values;
- Suitable to be viewed by the public of all ages, considering the public nature of the Library as a community space;
- Demonstrate respect for both freedom of expression and human dignity;
- Not in contravention of federal or provincial laws and regulations, or municipal by-laws;
- Respectful of the safety of public and Employees; and
- Not primarily intended to be advertisements or solicitations for recruitment, business, political campaigning or fund-raising.

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Application

The Library welcomes applications from individuals and community organizations wishing to display artwork. Preference will be given to exhibitors who live or work in the City of London.

Exhibit space is subject to availability and taking into account the Library's own programming and display needs.

The Library strives to create a welcoming environment for visitors of diverse ages and backgrounds. The Library reserves the right to determine the suitability of any proposed exhibit for display on its premises. The Library reserves the right to refuse any proposed art exhibit or any part of an exhibit.

The Library reserves the right to limit the number of exhibits per artist or group per year.

Fees

The Library does not charge fees for the use of exhibition space for the exhibition of art.

Exhibitors wishing to host an opening event will be required to rent meeting space for the event.

The Library will not act as a liaison between artists and the public in terms of selling exhibited art. The Library will not take part in any exchange which results in money or commissions to agents handling an artist's work.

Publicity and Promotion

Promotion of the art exhibit is the responsibility of the artist(s).

From time to time, the Library may post, on its website and bulletin boards limited information about an art exhibit subject to the availability of space.

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The Library does not prepare advertising, in any form, for art exhibits. The Library does not provide free space in Library print publications for information about art exhibits.

Artists may utilize portable display furniture to advertise the art exhibit in the Library, within proximity of the exhibit space, on the first day of the art exhibit, subject to prior approval by the Library. The furniture shall be removed in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the artists and the Library.

Space Access & Security

Art must be ready to be displayed. The artist is responsible for the installation of the exhibit and shall abide by the specific installation requirements of the Library.

Art exhibits may not always be available for viewing by the public during Library operating hours. Some art exhibit space is located within meeting room space or in spaces that from time to time will be used for other purposes.

Art exhibit space is unsupervised. Security for art works cannot be guaranteed. All exhibiting artists are required to sign a waiver of claim against damage prior to the art exhibit being displayed.

Challenged Exhibits

The Library is aware that in providing exhibits that represent a wide range of ideas, creative thought, information and viewpoints, some works in the exhibition may be considered objectionable by some people.

Any person(s) from the community, who wishes to express concern about or recommend the removal of a particular art exhibit, may submit written comments to the Manager, Customer Services and Branch Operations who will review the matter and make a decision.

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The person(s) may request a reconsideration of the decision and may request that the matter be referred to the office of the CEO & Chief Librarian (CEO). The final decision concerning the removal of the art exhibits, or a part thereof, rests with the CEO.

Decisions made about a challenged art exhibit will be communicated to the originators of the request as well as the artist, following completion of the Library's review.

Accountability

Accountability for the Art Exhibits Policy is vested in the office of the CEO as delegated by the Library Board through the *CEO-Linkage Policy*.

INQUIRIES:

Manager, Customer Services & Operations

KEYWORDS:

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Fund Development – Gift Acceptance Policy

Meeting Space Use Policy

Monetary Charges Policy and Fee Schedule

Public Art Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL:

Approved: Art Exhibits and Displays Policy (April 3, 2006)

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Revised: Art Exhibit Policy (January 23, 2012)

Reviewed: June 12, 2019